It is accurate to say that James Baldwin is one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. His writings passionately engage themes of race, identity, sexuality, freedom, integration, equality, and love. For many, love conjures up feelings of deep romance, flights of fancy, pristine happiness. Infused in Baldwin’s work, however, is a conception of love that “takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.” There is nothing infantile in such a construal of love. Rather, love is a site of “quest and daring and growth,” as Baldwin says. We will discuss a few works by Baldwin (essays and works of fiction) through Baldwin’s courageous love. Hence, through the lens of Baldwinian love we will address: what is Baldwin’s understanding of whiteness? How does he understand what it means to be racialized as Black? How does Baldwin understand the American democratic experiment? My hope is that we will come to appreciate how painfully relevant Baldwin’s voice functions in our contemporary moment. Works to be read include, *The Fire Next Time*, “Sonny’s Blues,” “Going to Meet the Man,” and others.

This seminar will be moderated by 2021-2022 Fox Center Senior Fellow George Yancy and will meet from **6:30-8:00pm** on the following **Thursday** evenings: **March 16, 23, 30 and April 6**, at the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, 1635 N. Decatur Rd. Participants are expected to attend all four sessions. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. Complimentary copies of the above titles will be available for a no-contact pickup at the Fox Center. Participation is limited, and reservations are required. For further information and to reserve a spot on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu.