“Flight Patterns”
& “Sonny’s Blues”

M. Nicole Vogler

Fall 2012
Sherman Alexie

• Born 1966 on Indian reservation near Spokane, Washington

• A few other works: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, *Reservation Blues*, *Smoke Signals*, and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
James Baldwin

- 1924-1987
- Author of “Sonny’s Blues”
- Also wrote *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *Giovanni’s Room*, *Notes of a Native Son*, and other books and essays
- Born in NYC but lived in France
James Baldwin

- On cover of *TIME* magazine May 1963
- Argued for civil rights
"It is astonishing that in a country so devoted to the individual, so many people should be afraid to speak."

"You give me this advantage," Baldwin once wrote to his white audience. "Whereas you never had to look at me — because you've sealed me away along with sin and hell and death — my life was in your hands and I had to look at you. I know more about you than you know about me."