TH-243-3 Introduction to Black Church Studies   Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Fall 2018   Rev. Dr. Angela R. Cowser

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This course is designed to provide an overview of the central components of Black Christian experiences in America. Students will be introduced to the rich historical, theological, ethical and sociological foundations of the Black, Christian experience from an academic perspective as a foundation for a variety of ministries and public leaderships. It's moral emphasis is to help you assess yourself as a leader and to assess the leadership of black congregations so that you develop resources for collective and critical consciousness, moral commitment, and courageous engagement/organizing in whatever settings you find yourself.

The instructor will introduce a way of teaching the course that is framed by Bloom's taxonomy. That is, instead of a three-step process of reading books (remember), discussing those texts (understand), then writing papers about those texts and discussions, the taxonomy will take us through a six-step process of

- Remember [10 points]
- Understand [10 points]
- Apply [15 points]
- Analyze [20 points]
- Evaluate [20 points]
- Create [25 points]

Required Reading

- Ministry for Social Crisis: Theology and Praxis in the Black Church Tradition, Forrest E. Harris, Sr.
- The Black Church in the African American Experience, C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence Mamiya
- Black Church Studies: An Introduction, Stacy Floyd-Thomas, et al
- A Black Theology of Liberation, James H. Cone

Recommended Reading

- Blessed, Kate Bowler / prosperity gospel
- Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood, Omar McRoberts / Sociology of religion
- The Divided Mind of the Black Church, Raphael Warnock / priestly - prophetic dialectic
- Black Religion and Black Radicalism, Gayraud Wilmore ⅃
- How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon, Frank Thomas

  - Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, Prophetic Teach

Classtime

Tuesday, 9:00am – 11.50am

Schlegel 121

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Week	Date	Reading	Assignment
Week 1	September 11	Lincoln and Mamiya, C1 – C6	1-pg summary of key theoretical terms 1-page summary of key theological terms
Week 2	September 18	Lincoln and Mamiya, C7 – C10 Harris, C1 *resistance/accommodation*	
Week 3	September 25	Lincoln and Mamiya, C11-13 Harris, C2	*collect homework*
Week 4	October 2	Floyd-Thomas, et al, C1 (focus) (themes) (skim) Harris, C3	*collect homework*
Week 5	October 9	Floyd-Thomas, C2 (focus) (themes) (skim) *LGBTQ* Harris, C4 *Cone 101* *Polynesian*	*last days / racial hierarchy* *aboriginal peoples LGBTQ*
Week 6	October 23	Floyd-Thomas, C3 (focus) (themes) (skim) Cone, C1 *Harris Appendix*	*Amazing Grace present student version last days*
Week 7	October 30	Floyd-Thomas, C3 (focus) (themes) (skim) Cone, C2	*present student version*
Week 8	November 6	Floyd-Thomas, C4 (focus) (themes) (skim) Cone, C3	

Week 9	November 13	Floyd-Thomas, C5 (focus) (themes) (skim) Cone, C4	
Week 10	November 20	Floyd-Thomas, C6 (focus) (themes) (skim) Cone, C5	
Week 11	November 27	Floyd-Thomas, C7 (focus) (themes) (skim) Cone, C6-7	
Week 12	December 4		*Final Presentation*
Week 13	December 11		*Final Presentation*

Course Description

This course will provide a broad survey of the major theoretical and theological contours of the Black Church (African American) in the United States from its founding in the 17th century to the present. Students will be immersed in various strands of thinking about the role and purpose of the Black Church through the use of the social sciences, primarily sociology of religion (ethnography). The course will also be taught through the use of Bloom's Taxonomy.

[handwritten: William; resistance accommodation in the class]

Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community with respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. More information about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS website with information for current students.

Academic Honesty

All worked turned in to the professor is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources ins included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and may result in failure o the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy

Attendance Policy