

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Seminar 1: **Black Church Studies 1**
Instructor: **Scott C. Williamson**, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Schlegel Hall 306
Phone: (502) 894-2284/ (swilliamson@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

Black Church Studies 1 is the first course in the Certificate Program. It provides an introduction to the field of Black Church Studies. Questions include, what is Black Church Studies? What does it mean to study the Black Church as a tradition instead of as an institution? Black Church Studies 1 also provides students with a comprehensive structural approach to Black Church Studies. Questions include what does it mean that Black Church Studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary academic enterprise? What are the disciplines that inform Black Church Studies? Lastly, Seminar 1 will focus on African American Christian Social Ethics. Questions include how do belief and behavior cohere to promote liberation and to sustain community amidst the social circumstances unique to the Black Community?

Seminar Objectives:

- To introduce the student to the field of Black Church Studies.
- To provide the student with a comprehensive structural approach to Black Church Studies.
- To familiarize the student with approaches to ethics in the Black Church.

Seminar Textbook:

Required Reading

Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Carol B. Duncan, Stephen G. Ray, Jr., and Nancy Lynne Westfield, *Black Church Studies: An Introduction* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

Supplemental Reading (on reserve in the library)

Mumia Abu-Jamal, Speech at Antioch University's Graduation Ceremony (April, 29, 2000).

C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence H. Mamiya, *The Black Church in the African American Experience* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1990), chapter 1.

Jeff Sharlet, "Taking Black Studies Back to the Streets." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, v.46, n37, pA18-20 May 19, 2000.

Seminar Introduction:

Given the limited time available to us in this weekend format, students are expected to read the assigned text before coming to the seminar. The goal in reading this introductory text is twofold: (1) students should become familiar with the multiple disciplines that comprise Black Church Studies, and (2) students should focus on the Introduction, chapter 4, and chapter 5 of the text.

Seminar Assignments:

- Read the assigned text and be prepared to discuss the Introduction, and chapters 4 & 5 (Please bring your text to class).
- Attend the entire weekend seminar.
- Complete a post-seminar assignment on ethics in the Black Church.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session (6pm-8pm)

- Introductions (to each other, the seminar, and the text)
- What is Black Church Studies?
- What does it mean to study the Black Church as a tradition instead of as an institution?
- What does it mean that Black Church Studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary academic enterprise?
- What are the disciplines that inform Black Church Studies?
- Liberation as a historical theme and as a pedagogical commitment
- Mumia Abu-Jamal, Speech at Antioch University's Graduation Ceremony, April 29, 2000 (if time permits).
- "Taking Black Studies Back to the Streets," by Jeff Sharlet (if time permits).

Saturday session (10am-4pm. Lunch break 12:00-12:45. Afternoon break 2:30-2:45)

- Complete unfinished business from Friday evening.
- "Understanding Black culture and faith" (text, chapter 4).
- Paul Tillich and the dialectical model of the Black Church (Lincoln and Mamiya).
- From moral teachings, to moral wisdom, to Christian Social Ethics.
- African American Virtue Ethics (in relation to the dominant Decisionist Ethics).
- Approaches to Liberation Ethics.
- Study questions on African American Christian Social Ethics (small group exercise).
- Excursus #1: Reflection on the moral issue of Emigration in the nineteenth century.
- Excursus #2: Reflection on a contemporary moral issue in the Black Church.
- Discussion of post-seminar assignment on ethics in the Black Church.

LPTS Policy Statements

Please refer to the next page of this syllabus for a description of the policy statements that govern academic life at Louisville Seminary. Though these policies were not designed for the Certificate Program in Black Church Studies, they are a helpful indication of LPTS commitments and expectations of students. For the purposes of the Certificate Program in Black Church Studies, please follow the policy guidelines for inclusive language and academic honesty. Direct any requests for special accommodations to the director of the Black Church Studies Program, Lewis Brogdon, prior to attending the seminar. Any questions or concerns about citation should be brought to the instructor prior to completing the post-seminar assignment. Lastly, attendance is required for the entire eight-hour seminar.

Select Bibliography

- Anderson, Victor. *Beyond Ontological Blackness: An Essay on African-American Religious and Cultural Criticism*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- Brown, Teresa L. Fry. *God Don't Like Ugly: African American Women Handing on Spiritual Values*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Cannon, Katie G. *Black Womanist Ethics*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1988.
- Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Negro Church*. Atlanta: Atlanta University Press, 1903.
- Fauset, Arthur Huff. *Black Gods of the Metropolis: Negro Religious Cults of the Urban North*. Reprint, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002. First published 1944.
- Frazier, E. Franklin. *The Negro Church in America*. New York: Schocken Press, 1974.
- King, Martin Luther Jr. *Strength to Love*. Reprint, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989. First published 1963.
- Lincoln, C. Eric and Lawrence Mamiya. *The Black Church in the African American Experience*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990.
- Mays, Benjamin E. and Joseph W. Nicholson. *The Negro's Church*. New York: Russell and Russell, 1969.
- McKenzie, Vashti M. *Not Without a Struggle: Leadership Development for African American Women in Ministry*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1996.
- Murphy, Larry G. *Down by the Riverside: Readings in African American Religion*. New York: New York University Press, 2000.
- Paris, Peter J. *The Social Teaching of the Black Churches*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- Raboteau, Albert J. *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978.
- Riggs, Marcia Y. *Awake, Arise, and Act: A Womanist Call for Black Liberation*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 1994.
- Roberts, Samuel K. *African American Christian Ethics*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2001.
- Sanders, Cheryl J. *Empowerment Ethics for a Liberated People: A Path to African American Social Ethics*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.
- West, Cornel and Eddie S. Glaude Jr., editors. *African American Religious Thought: An Anthology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
- West, Traci C. *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.
- Wilmore, Gayraud S. *Black Religion and Black Radicalism*. Reprint, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1986. First published 1973.
- _____. *African American Religious Studies: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1989.

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Seminar 2: **Black Church Studies 2**
Instructor: **Debra J. Mumford**, M.Div., M.A.B.L., Ph.D.
Office: Schlegel Hall 203
Phone: 502. 992.5434/ (dmumford@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

African American preaching evolved from the experiences of enslaved Africans who chose to believe in a God of liberation – A God who loved them for who they were and who created them to be a free people. In this seminar, the unique characteristics of African American preaching such as call and response, celebration in preaching, and black hermeneutics will be explored and discussed.

Seminar Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to black hermeneutics
- Students will review the unique characteristics of black preaching such as call and response and celebration.
- Students will review rhetorical skills used in black preaching

Seminar Required Reading

Liburd, Ronald N. . "Like . . . A House Upon the Sand: African American Biblical Hermeneutics in Perspective." *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* 22, no. 1 (1994): 71 - 91. <http://tinyurl.com/n6e4f9> (login required)

Mitchell, Henry H. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.

Seminar Supplemental Reading (on reserve in the library)

Collier-Thomas, Bettye. *Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and Their Sermons, 1850-1979*. 1st ed. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1998.

LaRue, Cleophus James. *The Heart of Black Preaching*. 1st ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Seminar Introduction:

Given the limited time available to us in this weekend format, students are expected to read the assigned text before coming to the seminar. The goal in reading this introductory text is twofold: (1) students should become familiar with need for holistic preaching, and (2) students should focus on the first four chapters of the text.

Seminar Assignments:

- Read the assigned text and be prepared to discuss the first four chapters (Please bring your text to class).
- Attend the entire weekend seminar.

- Complete a post-seminar assignment on African American Preaching

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session (6pm-8pm)

- Introductions
- Holy Spirit in Preaching
- Preaching to the Whole Person

Saturday session (10am-4pm. Lunch break 12:00-12:45. Afternoon break 2:30-2:45)

- African American Hermeneutics
- Movement
- Celebration
- Preaching Genres

LPTS Policy Statements

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1. Use of Inclusive Language

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 in 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. See for further assistance,

http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

2. Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty:

All work turned in to the instructors 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 (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is 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 of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; the Student Handbook, p. 19.

3. Special Accommodations

Special Accommodations:

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester 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.

4. Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

5. Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

Select Bibliography

Blount, Brian K. *Then the Whisper Put on Flesh: New Testament Ethics in an African American Context*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Bond, L. Susan. *Contemporary African American Preaching: Diversity in Theory and Style*. St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 2003.

Brown, Teresa L. Fry. *Delivering the Sermon*. Elements of Preaching, ed. O. Wesley Allen, Jr. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008.

_____. *Weary Throats and New Songs: Black Women Proclaiming God's Word*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003.

Callahan, Allen Dwight. *The Talking Book: African Americans and the Bible*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.

Cannon, Katie G. *Teaching Preaching: Isaac Rufus Clark and Black Sacred Rhetoric*. New York: Continuum, 2002.

McMickle, Marvin Andrew. *Living Water for Thirsty Souls: Unleashing the Power of Exegetical Preaching*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2001.

- _____. *Where Have All the Prophets Gone?: Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2006.
- Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching: The Recovery of a Powerful Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991.
- Thomas, Emil, and Henry H. Mitchell. *Preaching for Black Self-Esteem*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Thomas, Frank A. *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1997.
- Wimbush, Vincent L., and Rosamond C. Rodman. *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Textures*. New York: Continuum, 2000.

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
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Seminar 3: Black Theology

Instructor: **Johnny B. Hill, Ph.D.**

Office: Schlegel Hall Room 300

Phone: (502) 992-9438/ (jhill@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

In this Seminar, students will have the opportunity to explore the origins and development of Black Theology as a theological movement emerging in the late 1960s on the backdrop of the Black Power and Black Consciousness movements. Black Theology is a theological perspective which draws on the diverse experiences of African and African American peoples, including religious experience, art, literature, music, and lived narratives. Students will engage critical voices that have shaped the movement, such as James Cone, Gayraud Wilmore, J. Deotis Roberts, Major Jones, Jacquelyn Grant, Katie Geneva Cannon and others. The Seminar will also introduce students to the ways in which Black Theology functions in the Black Church and its lingering implications for Christian witness and ministry. By reviewing key texts, videos, sermons and documentaries, students will walk away with a firm grasp on the meaning of Black Theology for today's context.

Seminar Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to the origins and core themes of Black Theology.
- Students will critically reflect on the legacy of Black Theology on the Black Church and contemporary society.
- Students will assess the ways in which Black Theology impacts the ongoing witness of the Church within a multicultural and global world.

Seminar Required Reading

Dwight Hopkins, *Introduction Black Theology of Liberation* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999)

Supplemental Readings

James H. Cone, *Black Theology and Black Power*, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books 1997.

Jacqueline Grant, *White Women's Christ and Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

J. Deotis Roberts, *Liberation and Reconciliation* (Louisville, KY: Westminster, 1971).

JoAnn Terrell, *Power in the Blood?: The Cross in the African American Experience* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998)

Howard Thurman *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Richmond (Indiana: Friends United Press 1976)

Seminar Introduction:

Given the limited time available to us in this weekend format, students are expected to read the assigned text before coming to the seminar. The goal in reading this introductory text is twofold: (1) students should become familiar with the multiple disciplines that comprise Black

Theology, and (2) students should focus on the Introduction, chapters 1 and 2 of the primary text.

Seminar Assignments:

1. Attendance, reading and class participation

While completing all reading assignments is assumed, students are required to make an informed contribution to class discussions by drawing on the readings and by being present. Participation and attendance also involves leading the class in the course readings and discussions at least once during the semester.

2. Complete post-seminar reflection paper

It is important for students to develop their own theological voice and perspective. The purpose of this assignment is for students to enter into dialogue with key thinkers that have contributed to Black theology as a distinctive theological field of thought which views the Black experience as its primary source of reflection. The dialogue papers will be not more than 3 pages (double spaced) in length. The first half of the paper will offer an exposition of the material, with the second half as your own theological response and critique. Papers can be written as an essay or a dialogue/debate between you and the thinker or topic. The final paper will be on a topic or theme of your own choosing.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session (6pm-8pm)

Part A

- Introduction- Black Theology and African-American Theology; Contextualizing the Project
- The Dynamics of Racial Oppression
- Existential Dimensions
- Social/Cultural/Economic Dimensions
- Black Consciousness and the Black Church in America

Part B

- The Dynamics of Racial Oppression
- Religious Dimensions: Christ and the Cross
- Slavery and Theology

Part C

The Modern Civil Rights Movement: The Era of Black Power

- Black Theology: Retrospect and Prospect
- The Birth of Black Theology

Saturday session (10am-4pm. Lunch break 12:00-12:45. Afternoon break 2:30-2:45)

Part D

- Black Theology Emerges
- Black Theology and Black Nationalism

Part E

- Distinguishing Womanist Theology
- The Bible and Revelation

Part F

- Black Theology and the Cross
- Black Theology and the Bible
- God in Black Theology
- Black Theology and the Black Church Today

LPTS Policy Statements

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1. Use of Inclusive Language

Inclusive Language:

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2. Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty:

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3. Special Accommodations

Special Accommodations:

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two weeks of a semester 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.

4. Citation Policy

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Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

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5. Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

Select Bibliography

Albert B. Cleage, *The Black Messiah* (New York: Sheed and Ward, 1968).

James Cone, *For My People: Black Theology and the Black Church* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1984).

James Cone, *My Soul Looks Back* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1986)

Kelly Brown Douglas, *The Black Christ* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001).

William R. Jones, *Is God a White Racist?: A Preamble to Black Theology* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1998).

J. Deotis Roberts, *A Black Political Theology* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005)

J. Deotis Roberts, *Black Theology in Dialogue* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1987).

Gayraud S. Wilmore and James H. Cone, eds. *Black Theology: A Documentary History, Vol. I and II, 1966-1979*. (Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1979).

Will Coleman, "Tribal Talk: Black Theology in Postmodern Configurations," *Theology Today* 50.1 (April 1993), pp. 68-77.

James Cone, "Martin Luther King, Jr., Black Theology-Black Church," *Theology Today* 40.4 (Jan. 1984), pp. 409-420.

C. Eric Lincoln, "Black Consciousness and the Black Church in America" *Missiology* 1.2, pp. 7-20.

Noel Leo Erskine, "Black Theology: Retrospect and Prospect," *Theology Today* 36.2 (July 1979), pp. 176-185.

James Evans, Jr., "African American Christianity and the Postmodern Condition," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 58.2 (Summer 1990), pp. 207-222.

Cheryl Sanders, "Roundtable Discussion: Christian Ethics and Theology in Womanist Perspective," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 5.2 (Fall 1989), pp. 83-91.

Timothy L. Smith, "Slavery and Theology: The Emergence of Black Christian Consciousness in Nineteenth-Century America," *Church History* 41.4 (Dec. 1972), pp. 497-512.

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Seminar 4: Professional Ethics in Ministry Practice

Instructor: **Elizabeth Johnson Walker, Th.D.**

Office: Schlegel Hall Room 204

Phone: (502) 992-9433/ (ewalker@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description

This course will address the importance of clergy ethics for effective ministry in the Church and society. What is unique about clergy ethics in relationship to other professional ethics? What are the sources and norms for clergy ethics? Issues of leadership, accountability, personal and professional boundaries, the role of the law, theology and polity in ethical decision making are among topics that will be addressed. Historical and emerging African American voices will be introduced.

Seminar Objectives

- The student will be introduced to strategies to address ethical dilemmas in various ministry settings.
- The student will have an appreciation of how theology, polity and the law guide the student to ethical decision making in various settings.
- Representative issues facing clergy participants will be analyzed and skills will be practiced.
- Students will examine and develop their ability to articulate their own ethical reasoning.

Seminar Textbooks

Required Reading:

Karen Lebacqz. *Professional Ethics: Power and Paradox*.

Supplemental Reading:

James Wind, Burck, McCann. *Clergy Ethics in a Changing Society: Mapping the Terrain*

Karen Lebacqz and Joseph Driskill. *Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide for Pastors, Chaplains and Spiritual Directors*

Seminar Introduction:

This course will provide students with an introduction to the ethical problems and issues that arise for professionals in ministry. (For example, What does it mean to be a professional? What moral qualities should professionals bring to their practice? Can one's moral judgment as a professional conflict with the interest of those whom we represent? How should the interests of the professional be balanced with the client and larger community?). Students will be introduced to moral aspects of professional practice, and will analyze concepts and issues in professional ethics. Students will examine, develop and defend their own positions on ethical issues relevant to their work in a peer setting.

Seminar Assignment

- Class participation.
- One written book review of required text.
- One written report and analysis of an interview with a minister (clergy or lay) from your denomination regarding clergy ethics and a specific ethical dilemma.
- Final Paper/Project: A case study analysis of an ethical dilemma from your ministry context/work that demonstrates your moral professional practices.

Seminar Schedule

Friday evening session

- Introductions
- Session 1: Professional ethics in ministry- an overview
- Group assignments
- Group discussion of readings

Saturday sessions

- Session 2: Case study
- Lunch
- Break
- Session 3: Group project presentations
- Evaluation of course

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The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

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5. Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

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Select Bibliography

Alastair V. Campbell. *Paid to Care: Limits of Professionalism in Pastoral Care*. SPCK Publishing, 1985.
Frederick Buechner. *Now and Then: A Memoir*. Harper One, 1991.
_____. *The Sacred Journey*. Harper One, 1991.
Delores Carpenter. *A Time for Honor: A Portrait of African American Clergywomen*. Chalice Press, 2001
Cheryl Townsend Gilkes. *If it wasn't for the women*. Orbis, 2000.

Richard M. Gula. *Ethics in Pastoral Ministry*. Abingdon, 1995.

Nolan B Harmon. *Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette*. Abingdon, 2004.

Karen Lebacqz. *Professional Ethics: Power and Paradox*. Abingdon Press, 1985.

Karen Lebacqz and Joseph Driskill. *Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide for Pastors, Chaplains and Spiritual Directors*. Abingdon Press, 2000.

Cleophus J. LaRue. *This is My Story: Testimonies and Sermons of Black Women in Ministry*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Mahan and Coles. *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose*. Jossey-Bass Press, 2002.

Vashti Murphy McKenzie. *Not Without a Struggle: Leadership Development for African American Women*. Pilgrim Press, 1996.

William F. May. *Beleagued Rulers: The Public Obligation of the Professional*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Parker Palmer. *Let your life speak*. Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Laurent A. Parks. *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World*. Beacon Press, 1997.

Pellegrino, Veatch, and Langan. *Ethics, Trust, and the Professions*. Georgetown University Press, 1991.

Martha Stortz. *Pastor Power*. Abingdon, 1993.

Walter W. West & Wiest. *Ethics in Ministry*. Fortress Press, 1989.

Pamela Cooper-White. *Shared Wisdom*. Fortress Press, 2009.

William H. Willimon. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 2002.

James Wind, Burck, McCann. *Clergy Ethics in a Changing Society: Mapping the Terrain*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1991.

Frances Wood. *Take My Yoke Upon You: The role of the Church in the Oppression Of African American Women*.

Edward C. Zaragoza. *No Longer Servants But Friends: A Theology of Ordained Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 1999.

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Seminar 5: African American Worship

Instructor: **Claudio Carvalhaes, Ph.D.**

Office: Schlegel Hall Room 202

Phone: (502) 992-9299/ (ccarvalhaes@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

This seminar connects African roots of ritual understanding and celebration to the development of African American ways of worshiping God in the United States. It offers a historical account on the ways in which African American worship was formed and how it shaped the struggles and identities of African American people in United States. This course also engages liturgical practices, movements, music (blues, jazz and hip hop), theologies, sacraments and prayers in the diversity of the African American churches.

Seminar Objectives:

- To basic elements of African ritual structures of life;
- To offer an historical overview of worship in African American churches;
- To make connections between worship, social life and the development of African American identity;
- To learn about distinct elements in African American liturgical practices.

Seminar Textbooks:

Required Reading

Costen, Melva Wilson. *African American Christian Worship*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press 2007)

Supplemental Reading (Selections on reserve in the library)

Abbingtion, James. *Readings in African American Church Music and Worship*, Gia Publications, 2002.

David, Jonathan and Holloway, Richard. *Together Let Us Sweetly Live: The Singing and Praying Bands*, University of Illinois Press, 2007.

Cone, James H. *The Spiritual and the Blues: An Interpretation*, Orbis Books, 1992.

Costen, Melva, *In Spirit and in Truth: The Music of African American Worship*, WJK, 2004.

Haldeman, Scott, *Towards Liturgies that reconcile : race and ritual among African-American and European-American Protestants*, Ashgate Pub Co, 2007.

Holder, Timothy, *The Hip Hop Prayer Book*, Church Publishing, 2006.

Hurston, Zora Neale, *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South*, Oxford University Press, USA, 2004.

Maynard-Reid, Pedrito U. *Diverse Worship, African-American, Caribbean & Hispanic Perspectives*, InterVarsity Press, 2000.

McGn, Mary A. *A Precious Fountain: Music in the Worship of an African-American Catholic Community*. Liturgical Press, 2004.

African American Lectionary: <http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/main.asp>

Seminar Introduction and Preliminary Assignments:

Given the limited time available to us in this weekend format, students are expected to read the assigned texts before coming to the seminar. In addition, students will bring a two page report, double space, of a visit to an African American community different from the student's own tradition and respond to the following questions: 1) How does this church worship God? 2) How is this worship similar and different from my own church?

Seminar Assignments:

- Read the assigned texts and bring the texts to class as well as bring the preliminary assignment.
- To visit an African American church different from the student own tradition and write a 2 page report.
- Attend the weekend seminar.
- Write a four to five page essay, double space, responding the question: "We have come this far by faith: Reflections on African American Worship."

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session (6 p.m.-8 p.m.)

- Introductions
- We all start in Africa – Introductions to African Ritual and understandings of life

Saturday session (10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lunch break noon-12:45. Afternoon break, 2:30-2:45.)

- Sharing individual worshipful journeys
- African American worship in the history of United States: Slavery and Civil Right Movement
- The formation of diverse African American Worship
- Music – Blues, Jazz, Praying Singing Bands and Hip Hop
- The way we worship: Prayers, Dance, Sermon, Baptism, Communion, and Funerals
- Worship Resources
- Relations between Black and Non Black Churches
- "We had church today" – Worship and the social life of African American People

LPTS Policy Statements

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completing the post-seminar assignment. Lastly, attendance is required for the entire eight-hour seminar.

1. Use of Inclusive Language

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 in 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. See for further assistance,

http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

2. Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty:

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3. Special Accommodations

Special Accommodations:

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4. Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

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Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

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5. Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

Select Bibliography:

(In addition to the required and supplemental reading for the seminar)

- Anne Streaty Wimberley, *Nurturing Faith and Hope: Black Worship as a Model for Christian Education* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2004).
- Copeland, M. Shawn (Ed.), *Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience*, Orbis Books, 2009.
- Hinson, Glenn, *Fire in My Bones: Transcendence and the Holy Spirit in African American Gospel*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000.
- Maultsby, Portia K. and Burnim, Mellonee V. *African American Music: An Introduction*, Routledge, 2005.
- McGann, Mary E., R.S.C.J., Marie Lumas, Eva S.S.S., and D. Harbor, Ronald D., *Let It Shine!: The Emergence of African American Catholic Worship*, Fordham University Press, 2008.
- Mitchell, Henry W., *Black Church Beginnings: The Long-Hidden Realities of the First Years*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.
- Pinn, Anthony B., *The Black Church in the Post-Civil Rights Era*, Orbis Books, 2002.
- Pitts, Walter F. *Old Ship of Zion: The Afro-Baptist Ritual in the African Diaspora* Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Raboteau, Albert J. *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans*, Oxford University Press, USA, 2001.
- Hurston, Zora Neale, *The Sanctified Church*, Marlowe & Co, 1998.
- Wimberly, Anne Streaty and Parker, Evelyn, eds. *In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church*, Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Seminar 6: Christian Education in the African American Church

Instructor: **Dianne Reistroffer**, M.Div., Ph.D.

Office: Schlegel 103

Phone Number: (502) 894-2294/ (dreistroffer@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

This seminar offers an overview of the ministry of the church as a means of and ecology for nurturing faith, Christian values, and ways of life among members of the congregation and the community. Attention will be directed to the context for teaching and learning in the African American Church, the ways persons develop and grow in faith, and the resources and approaches that facilitate teaching and learning.

Seminar Objectives:

- To introduce the student to the church's educational ministry, with emphasis on resources and perspectives from leading African American Christian educators.
- To build on the student's earlier seminar work by examining and critically reflecting upon the "curriculum of the church" and faith development in light of gender, race, class, relationships, and location.
- To invite the student to view church and society as formative for Christian discipleship (personal piety, vocational commitments, work and advocacy in the community, and social justice) and to develop a vision for transforming the lives of individuals, the congregation, and the community in her/his context of ministry.

Seminar Textbooks:

Required Reading

Lora-Ellen McKinney, *Christian Education in the African American Church: A Guide for Teaching Truth* (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2007).

Anne Streaty Wimberly, *Nurturing Faith and Hope: Black Worship as a Model for Christian Education* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2004). Chapters 1-11.

Supplemental Reading (on reserve in the library)

Maria Harris, *Fashion Me A People: Curriculum in the Church* (Louisville: WJKP, 1989). Read the chapter entitled "Church: A People with An Educational Vision."

Anne Streaty Wimberly, *Soul Stories: African American Christian Education* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994).

Anne Streaty Wimberly and Evelyn Parker, editors. *In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2002).

Seminar Introduction:

Given the limited time available to us in this weekend format, students are expected to read the assigned texts before coming to the seminar. In addition, students will be asked to write a

two- to three-page essay on their own individual faith journey by responding to several questions about their own growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. (Instructions for the pre-seminar assignment will be distributed at the end of Seminar 5.)

Seminar Assignments:

- Read the assigned texts and bring the texts to class as well as the completed preliminary assignment, “My Individual Faith Journey.”
- Attend the weekend seminar.
- Complete the post-seminar assignment, which will be a mini-congregational study of your church’s educational ecology. Instructions for the mini-congregational study will be given during the seminar.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session (6 p.m.-8 p.m.)

- Introductions
- An organizing conceptual framework for understanding the church’s educational ministry

Saturday session (10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lunch break noon-12:45. Afternoon break, 2:30-2:45.)

- Sharing individual faith journeys
- Christian education in the African American Church: distinctive resources and themes
- Understanding faith journeys and how congregations teach and form faith
- Understanding ways people learn
- Case study discussion: Reaching the Hip Hop Generation
- The post-seminar assignment: How congregational cultures teach

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1. Use of Inclusive Language

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 in 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. See for further assistance,

http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

2. Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty:

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3. Special Accommodations

Special Accommodations:

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester 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.

4. Citation Policy

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Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

5. Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

Select Bibliography:

Bruce, Barbara. *Our Spiritual Brain: Integrating Brain Research and Faith Development*.
Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

- _____. *Seven Ways of Teaching the Bible to Adults: Using Our Multiple Intelligences to Build Faith*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2000.
- _____. *Seven Ways of Teaching the Bible to Children*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- _____. *Triangular Teaching: A New Way of Teaching the Bible to Adults*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- Crockett, Joseph. *Teaching Scripture from an African-American Perspective*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1990.
- Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*. New York: HarperPerennial, 2003.
- Griggs, Donald. *Teaching Today's Teachers To Teach*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003.
- Hill, Kenneth H. *Religious Education in the African American Tradition: A Comprehensive Introduction*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2007.
- Kitwana, Bakari. *The Hip Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture*. New York: Basic Books, 2002.
- Lindner, Eileen. *Thus Far on the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy*. Louisville: Witherspoon Press, 2006.
- Stephens, Benjamin, and Ralph C. Watkins. *From Jay-Z to Jesus: Reaching and Teaching Young Adults in the Black Church*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2009.
- Tye, Karen B. *Basics of Christian Education*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.
- Watkins, Ralph C., Jason A. Barr, Jr., Jamal-Harrison Bryant, William H. Curtis, and Otis Moss III, *The Gospel Remix: Reaching the Hip Hop Generation*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2007.
- Wimberly, Anne Streaty. *Keep It Real: Working With Today's Black Youth*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

**Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Seminar 7: Black Church History 1

Instructor: **Lewis Brogdon**, M. DIV., PhD (candidate)

Office: Nelson 113

Phone Number: (502) 895-9374/ (lbrogdon@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

Black Church History 1 provides an introductory study of enslaved Africans encounter with Christianity in America from the 1600's to the 1860's. Key developments in their religious identities, practices, and early beliefs will be explored in the seminar with particular attention being given to slave religion and the origins of black churches.

Seminar Objectives:

- To introduce the student to the early religious history of enslaved Africans in America.
- To connect key historical developments or historical figures in African American religious history with the student's ministry context through discussion groups and a post-residency reflection paper.

Seminar Textbooks:

Required Reading

Henry H. Mitchell, *Black Church Beginnings: The Long-Hidden Realities of the First Years* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004).

Supplemental Reading (on reserve in the library)

Lawrence Neal Jones, *African Americans and the Christian Churches 1619-1860* (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2007).

Milton C. Sernett, ed. *African American Religious History: A Documentary Witness* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999).

Seminar Introduction

Since there will be limited in-class lecture and interaction time, the student will be required to read the text before coming to the weekend seminar. The required course text will introduce the breadth and scope of Black Church history. In addition, the course will introduce important topics of study each with assigned readings that give the students opportunities for independent reading and critical reflection. The instructor will supplement the reading with introductory and concluding in-class presentations that connect with the readings and provide time for interaction and group discussion.

Seminar Assignments:

- Read assigned text
- Attend weekend seminar
- Complete post-seminar assignment.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session

- *Introductions*
- *Enslaved Africans encounter Christianity*
- *Review of Mitchell text*

Saturday session

- *Historical overview [10-12]*
- *Lunch [12-12:45]*
- *Study Groups [12:45-1:30]*
- *First Black Churches [1:30-2:30]*
- *Break [2:30-2:45]*
- *Connecting Black Church History with the contemporary Black Church [2:45-3:45]*
- *Questions and Review of Final Assignment [3:45-4:00]*

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1. Use of Inclusive Language

Inclusive Language:

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Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

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5. Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

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Select Bibliography

Battle, Michael. *The Black Church in America: African American Christian Spirituality*. Malden MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

Berlin, Ira. *Remembering Slavery*. New York: The New Press, 1998.

DuBois, W. E. B. *The Negro Church*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2003.

Gilkes, Cheryl Townsend. *If It Wasn't for the Women: Black Women's Experience and Womanist Culture in Church and Community*. New York: Orbis Books, 2001.

Goatley, David Emmanuel. *Were You There: Godforsakenness in Slave Religion*. New York: Orbis Books, 1996.

Lincoln, C. Eric and Lawrence H. Mamiya. *The Black Church in the African American Experience*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990.

Mays, Benjamin and Joseph William Nicholson. *The Negro's Church*. New York: Negro Universities Press, 1969.

Mays, Benjamin. *The Negro's God as Reflected in His Literature*. New York: Russell and

- Russell Publishing, 1968.
- Raboteau, Albert J. *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- _____. *Slave Religion: The Invisible Institution in the Antebellum South*. New York: Oxford Press, 2004.
- Wilmore, Gayraud S. *Black Religion and Black Radicalism: An Interpretation of the Religious History of African Americans*. New York: Orbis Books, 1998.
- Woodson, Carter G. *The History of the Negro Church*. Washington: Associated Publishers, 1972.
- Yetman, Norman. *Voices From Slavery: 100 Authentic Slave Narratives*. New York: Dover Publications, 2000.

Black Church Studies Certificate Program
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Seminar 8: Black Church History 2

Instructor: **Lewis Brogdon**, M. DIV., PhD (candidate)

Office: Nelson 113

Phone Number: (502) 895-9374/ (lbrogdon@lpts.edu)

Seminar Description:

Black Church History 2 provides a study of the Black Church in the post-Civil Rights era. Key developments in their religious identities, practices, and beliefs will be explored in the seminar. Special attention will be given to the emergence of Pentecostalism, neo-Pentecostalism, and neo-Charismatic (nondenominational) black churches and its effect on the Black Church tradition.

Seminar Objectives:

- To introduce the student to important developments that influenced the Civil Rights movement and the Black Church's role in the movement.
- To introduce the student to Pentecostalism and its influence on the spiritualities, theologies, and ministries of the Black Church tradition.
- To critically engage contemporary developments in the Black Church.
- To connect key contemporary developments figures in African American religious history with the student's ministry context through discussion groups and a post-residency reflection paper.

Seminar Textbooks:

Required Reading

C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence H. Mamiya, *The Black Church in the African American Experience* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1990), chapters 8, 9, 10, and 13.

Robert M. Franklin, *Another Day's Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997), chapter 2, 3.

Supplemental Reading (on reserve in the library)

Estrela Alexander, *Black Fire: 100 Years of African American Pentecostalism* (Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 2010).

Scott Billingsley, *It's A New Day: Race and Gender in the Modern Charismatic Movement* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2008).

Jonathan L. Walton, *Watch This: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism* (New York: New York University Press, 2009).

Seminar Introduction

Since there will be limited in-class lecture and interaction time, the student will be required to read the assigned chapters before coming to the weekend seminar. The required course text will introduce the breadth and scope of Black Church history. In addition, the course will

introduce important topics of study each with assigned readings that give the students opportunities for independent reading and critical reflection. The instructor will supplement the reading with introductory and concluding in-class presentations that connect with the readings and provide time for interaction and group discussion.

Seminar Assignments:

- Read assigned text
- Attend weekend seminar
- Complete post-seminar assignment. Each student will write a 5-10 page paper on some aspect of the contemporary Black Church.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday evening session

- *Introductions*
- *An Historical Overview of the Black Church: 1900-60*
- *The Black Church and the Civil Rights Movement*
- *Post Civil Rights Black Church*

Saturday session

The rise of Pentecostalism in the African American Community

- *Pentecostalism and African spirituality*
- *The spirituality debate in the Black Church*
- *Black Church's contribution to Pentecostalism*

Lunch [12-12:45]

The rise of Pentecostalism in the African American Community

- *Black Pentecostal denominations*
- *Neo-Pentecostalism and traditional Black Churches*
- *Charismatic Movement and the rise of Neo-Charismatic (nondenominational) black churches*
- *The Prosperity Movement*
- *The New Black Church?*

Study Groups

Connecting Contemporary Black Church History

Questions and Review of Final Assignment

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Select Bibliography

- Butler, Anthea. *Women in the Church of God in Christ: Making a Sanctified World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.
- Clemmons, Ithiel. *Bishop C. H. Mason and the Roots of the Church of God in Christ*. Lanham MD: Pneuma Life Publishing, 1996.
- Daniels, David. "Doing All The Good We Can: The Political Witness of African American Holiness and Pentecostal Churches in the Post-Civil Rights Era" in R. Drew Smith, ed., *New Day Begun: African American Churches and Civic Culture in Post-Civil Rights America*. Durham North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2003. 164-82.
- DePriest, Tomika. "Economic Deliverance through the Church: Black Churches and Black Economic Development" *Black Enterprise* (February 1997).
- Harrison, Milmon F. *Righteous Riches: The Word Faith Movement in Contemporary African American Religion*. New York: Oxford Press, 2005.
- Franklin, Robert. *Crisis In the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.
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