

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Contemporary Black Church

TERM: Fall 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: R. Drew Smith

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the social role and impact of African-American faith leaders and groups from 1970 to the present, focusing on a variety of congregational, denominational, and clergy-leader involvements in civic, public policy, social movement, and social service activities.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- (1) Familiarize students with affinities and tensions between the social concerns of black religious activists and those of various public sector and community sector leaders;
- (2) Identify affinities and tensions between politically and theologically diverse black religious leadership networks;
- (3) Assist students in developing both theological and sociological frameworks for analyzing and critiquing the social involvements and public witness of the Church in general and of black churches in particular.

These course objectives align with the following program learning outcomes:

Master of Divinity:

- Learning outcome 2: Demonstrate a capacity to integrate Christian history and theology in relation to the life of the church in the world;
- Learning outcome 3: Demonstrate a capacity to exegete and interpret the Church's various contexts as locations of God's mission; and
- Learning outcome 4: Demonstrate the capacity to reflect theologically on cultural, social, and ethical issues and how they shape the life of the church.

Master of Arts:

- Learning outcome 3: Articulate a relationship between the history of Christianity, Scripture, and the mission of the Church in the world
- Learning outcome 4: Engage in theological reflection with an awareness of contemporary contexts.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Readings are drawn from various sources and posted on the MYPTS course portal

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Three (two-page) discussion papers 35%; Final paper and presentation (12 pages) 65%

ATTENDANCE: Required.