

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: African American Religions & Spirituality

TERM: Fall 2026-2027

PROFESSOR: AnneMarie Mingo

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 15
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an academic study of religions believed, expressed, and experienced by African Americans. In this course, students will utilize secondary historical and contemporary sources of African American religious experiences of people to chart the history of religions in the African American community. Together we will examine a system of sacred symbols that have been passed down for centuries by African peoples. The course will focus on themes of faith, freedom, uplift, resistance, love, and hope.

This course is an approved elective for the Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Define and describe a general understanding of African American religions and spirituality,
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of how socio-cultural contexts and conditions both shaped and were shaped by African American religious tradition, thought, and practice,
- 3) Identify key moments, movements, institutions, and figures within African American religion, and interpret the Church's various contexts as the location of God's mission, and
- 4) Demonstrate growth in self-understanding within community through effectively communication in oral, written, and visual forms about critical historical and contemporary contributions of traditional and non-traditional African American religious and spiritual experiences.

PREREQUISITES: CH 120

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Cheryl Gilkes, *If It Wasn't for the Women: Black Women's Experience and Womanist Culture in Church and Community* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001); 978-1570753435; \$24.49

Larry G. Murphy (ed.), *Down by the Riverside: Readings in African American Religion* (New York, NY: New York University Press, 2000); 978-0814755815; \$35.00

Albert J. Raboteau, *Slave Religion: "The Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2004); 978-0195174120; \$21.33

Additional chapters and articles will be available electronically.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- Four reflection papers
- African American religious and spiritual history public theology document
- Local Religious/Spiritual event attendance and paper
- Final project – 30-minute podcast episode with script or an online article (academic or denominational) linking historical and contemporary African American religious and spiritual practices.

ATTENDANCE: Required.