

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 Spiritual Formation **TERM:** January **YEAR:** 2019-2020

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

PROFESSOR: Dianne Glave **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 15 UNLIMITED _____
 # AUDITORS: _____ NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course traces the historical development of African American Christian spiritual formation via study of African and European influences and analysis of current contexts. The course offers insight for those in churches and community settings seeking to understand and take part in the many expressions of African American Christian spirituality. The class offers students resources and insights to serve in African American and multi-ethnic contexts.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate historical knowledge of African American spirituality.
2. Identify the significance of key themes and figures central to understanding African American Christian spiritual formation.
3. Articulate expressions of African American Christian spiritual formation including prayers, preaching, and communal worship.
4. Apply an understanding of African American Christian spiritual formation to personal contemplation.
5. Assess African American Christian spirituality as a template for healing and justice locally and globally.
6. Move from learning to praxis in the classroom, with attention to external ministry contexts.

PREREQUISITES: None

READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Diana Hayes, *Forged in the Fiery Furnace: African American Spirituality*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2012.
 Barbara A. Holmes. *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.
 Marcia Y. Riggs. *Can I Get a Witness: Prophetic Religious Voices of African American Women, An Anthology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1997.
 James Melvin Washington. *Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans*. New York: HarperCollins, 1994.
 Writings and Speeches (online links will be provided)

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Church Visit or Streaming with a 2 page church reflection paper	10%
Class Participation: In Class and On-line	20%
Written Order of Worship, plus a short paper of 3 pages in length explaining the connections between this formation of African American spirituality and the structure and content of the service	20%
Personal Reflection Essay, 5 pages, addressing: • Personal practices of Christian spiritual formation (i.e. prayer, contemplation, or song) • Lenses for interpreting Christian spiritual formation • Applications in setting (i.e. Sunday service or a facilitated workshop)	25%
Written sermon, 5 pages, drawing on scripture and reading in African American traditions and reflecting on an African American or multicultural context	25%
Total	100%

ATTENDANCE: Required.