

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: God-Talk and Public Leadership

TERM: January 2020

PROFESSOR: Derek Woodard-Lehman

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the intersection of Christian God-talk and public leadership within electoral politics, civic discourse, and social movements in US America. It does so by drawing on a range of theological, philosophical, sociological, historical, and journalistic resources in order to assess the uses and misuses of religious rhetoric in public life as they shape concrete practices of Christian discipleship and democratic citizenship with particular attention to dynamics of domination and liberation from Abolition to Black Lives Matter.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- Students will interpret Bible as Scripture in order to develop norms and principles for discipleship and citizenship
- Students will reflect on Scripture and Tradition as resources for the public witness and social ministry of the Church
- Students will articulate Christian commitments in ways that are contextually sensitive and locally accountable to multiple publics, especially their own congregational and civic communities
- Students will reflect on their vocational formation and identity with respect to their roles as a social, political, and moral leader in their congregational and civic communities
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PREREQUISITES: TH 210/Christian Theology I and CS 110/Contextual Analysis preferred

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Ta-Nehisi Coates *Between the World and Me* (Spiegel and Grau 2015) ISBN 0812993543 (**\$14.59**)

Kelly Brown Douglas *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* (Orbis 2015) ISBN 1626981094 (**\$17.40**)

Michael Gecan *Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal* (ACTA) ISBN 0879463848 (**\$5.95**)

Wesley Hogan *Many Minds, One Heart: SNCC's Dream for a New America* (UNC Press 2009) ISBN 0807859591 (**\$32.50**)

Charles Payne *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle* (University of California Press 2007) ISBN 0520251768 (**\$19.74**)

Additional readings to be distributed as PDFs via Jenzabar

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- Two short (three page) Document-Based-Question Essays (DBQ). These will undertake textual and contextual assessment of the biblical, theological, historical, and political dimensions of God-talk and public leadership in sermons and speeches.
- The third assignment will take the form of either a traditional term paper (10-12 page argument that develops and defends a thesis) or a creative project (sermon, liturgy, art, etc. and accompanying theological statement) that engages some aspect of course content.

ATTENDANCE: Required.