

North Park Theological Seminary
SPFM 6209: African American Spirituality (1 Credit)
Instructors: Deborah Penny & Debbie Blue
Spring Semester-J-Term, January 12 & 13, 2018

Friday, 6:00pm – 9:30pm, Saturday, 9:00am – 5:30pm

Course Description: *African American Spirituality* is an introductory course in exploring spiritual formation that has been influenced by the African and African-American culture. Participants will be encouraged to reflect upon the spirituality of the African American cultural and historical formation. This blended format course will review in class several important spiritual eras and movements, their influence on the American religious traditions and practices. Online spiritual direction and group activities. This course is offered at New Zion Covenant in Dolton, Illinois.

This is a one-hour elective course in the Area of Spiritual Formation. It addresses Program Degree outcome number four in Masters of Divinity Program.

Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a fuller understanding of the African American spirituality and its formation by being able to articulate in writing the distinctions between African American spirituality and its formation and the formation of spirituality within broader Anglo church community.
2. Identify and articulate specific movements of the Spirit throughout the history African American religious culture.
3. Uncover and intersect multi-narratives with African American Spirituality and demonstrate the ability to distinguish between these narratives.
4. Explore through the grid of God's sovereign providence the development of African American spirituality.

Requirements:

1. Required pre-class reading:
 - C. Eric Lincoln, Lawrence Mamiya, "Music and the Black Church," (chapter 12), *Black Church in the African American Experience* (Duke University Press, 1990)
 - Deirdre Mullame, ed., "Spirituals," (pp. 274-292), *Crossing the Danger Water* (Double Day Press, 1993)
 - Sherry Bryant-Johnson, Rosalie Norman-McNaney, & Therese Taylor-Stinson, eds., "Trouble Don't Last Always: Toward a Spirituality of Hope" (chapter 2), *Embodied Spirits, Stories of Spiritual Directors of Color* (Morehouse Publishing, 2014)
 - "Historical Account" chapters on the Hymn, Negro Spirituals and Black Gospel, from *Songs of Zion*, (Abington Press, 1981)
2. Required text:
 - Diana L. Hayes, *Forged in the Fiery Furnace, African American Spirituality* (Orbis Books, 2012)

3. Attendance and promptness to both class days.
4. Participation in class discussions and activities.
5. Write a 3-page integrative reflection paper (due the first day class, 2018) and a 6-10 Integrative paper. (due March 15, 2018) See rubric below for each paper.
6. Participate in one session of spiritual direction through use of technology with one of the two professors of record.

Grading is Pass/Fail

Completion of all above assignments and faithful attendance will result in a grade of **PASS**. Due to the nature of this course, you are expected to be present and prompt for both class days. Absences are strongly discouraged. You will need to drop the class if you miss either day. You may drop this course by January 6th.

Contact Information: Deborah Penny can be reached at dpenny@northpark.edu and 773.244.5259. I am on campus Mondays through Thursdays.

Integrative Reflection Paper:

It is expected to be 600-750 words double spaced and typed in 12 pt. font. By design reflection papers are not research papers.

From the pre-class readings, write a reflection paper that includes:

- 1) How the information intersects with or differs from your own experience.
- 2) Choosing a Negro spiritual, reflect on how God was understood.
- 3) Identity any new learnings.

Due at the beginning of the first class (Jan. 9).

Integrative Report Paper: This paper is expected to be at least 6 -10 pages in length, double spaced, 12 pt. font. This report will require some research using suggested readings and other material that you find helpful. This paper is due March 15, 2018.

Respond to the following questions to guide your writing:

- Describe the circumstances surrounding the development of African American Spirituality as it relates to slavery and the relationship and impact of African oral tradition on African American Spirituality.
- Discuss timeframe and coinciding events in American and/or in other places around the world during the foundational development of African American Spirituality?
- Who were or are the persons involved?
- What was or is the continued impact of African American spirituality in the American culture and abroad?
- Articulate your perspective of the presence of God in African American Spirituality.

Title IX: Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Seminary Dean of Students and Community Life ((773) 244-6222) or Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

Please refer to North Park's Safe Community site for contact information and further details.

<http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community>

Disabilities Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office (773-244-5619). Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. Please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

Academic Honesty

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University's online catalog.