

**BCS5500: Introduction to Black Church Studies (MC)**  
**ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

October 2-3; November 6-7; December 4-5, 2020  
Fridays 6:00p.m. -9:00p.m.; Saturdays 8:00a.m.- 4:00p.m.

*This course format consistently meets the same quality, assessment, learning outcomes and requirements of the traditional semester course format.*

**12 Hours of Attending Seminars will also be required or the course which meets standard of 37.5 instructional hours for the entire course**

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**I. Course Description**

This course will examine the enduring institution and changing dynamics of the Black Church from its inception in America to present. It will look at its changing history, theology, interpretation of the Bible, and praxis. The course will examine the importance of the Black Church in the life of the community and its people.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

As a result of this course, the student will receive be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Black Church's interpretive strategies of the Bible.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical distinctions of the Black Church.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the theological distinctions of the Black Church
4. Explicate how Black Church Studies helps to transform the Black Church's engagement in social justice issues.
5. Explicate how Black Church Studies can help reshape the contemporary vision of the Black Church.

*This course format consistently meets the same quality, assessment, learning outcomes, and requirements of the traditional face-to-face semester offering of this course. For fall 2020, the sessions for this class may be offered 100% face-to-face in a physical classroom (with remote access for pre-scheduled students) 100% face-to-face virtually using technologies such as Zoom or Collaborate, as a combination of face-to-face sessions and digital activities/lectures (virtually or in-person), or as a combination of any of these elements. In the event of extended disruptions of normal classroom activities due to the pandemic, the format for this course may be modified to utilize 100% face-to-face virtual/digital classroom sessions.*

**III. Course Requirements**

**A. Textbook(s)**

Floyd-Thomas, Stacey, et al. *Black Church Studies: An Introduction*. Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2007. [13-978-0-687-33256-6]

Pinn, Anthony. *Understanding and Transforming the black church*. Wipf and Stock, Eugene, OR, 2010. [13-978-155635-301-7]

### **B. Attendance**

According to the student handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected unless the professor has been notified in advance. Any student missing the equivalent of six class hours will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade or withdraw from the class; this is at the discretion of the professor.

### **C. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning**

#### **1. Class reports and participation**

Student will present three oral group presentations on selected readings. . Group divisions, readings and due dates will be determined the first session. Reports will be oral and written; each group will be required to prepare a one-two page written report of their presentation.

#### **2. Research project-**

All students will present and oral and written research project on some aspect of the understanding of and transforming of the black church. Details of the project options will be discussed in the first session (Double-spaced, 12-15 pages.)

### **D. Calculation of Grade and Connection of Learning Outcomes**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Percent of Final Grade</b>
1. Class reports and presentations	1.2.3.4.5	50%
2. Research reports	1.2.3.4.5	50%

### **IV. Course Schedule**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Lecture/Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1	October 2-3, 2020	Understanding the black church Pinn, Part I (chs 1-3) Floyd-Thomas, Intro & ch. 1	1
2		Cont'd	1
3	November 6-7, 2020	Transforming the black	1

		church Pinn,Part II (chs. 4-5) Floyd-Thomas chs. 2-3	
4	November 6-7, 2020	Cont'd	1
5	December 4-5, 2020	Transforming the black church Pinn, chs. 5-6 Floyd-Thomas chs 4-8	1,2
6	December 4-5, 2020	Cont'd	1,2,3

#### Hybrid Additional Hours (12)

In order to complete the additional 12 hours in this hybrid course lectures at the following institutions related to the course are acceptable for attending. The necessary forms and details will be distributed on the first day of class.

Cleveland State University

John Carroll University (Dr. Martino Moore)

McCreary Center (Dr. William H. Myers)

Oberlin College (Dr. A. G. Miller)

University of Akron (Dr. Zach Williams)

If students are unable to complete the additional hours through the lecture alternatives, Saturday, September 27, 2014 (8am-4pm) may be reserved to help facilitate it.

#### V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

There are an enormous collection of books, films and original collections of African American leaders in a variety of places. See the King collection in Atlanta, the Thurman papers at Boston University and the many sessions on male and female leaders at the American Academy of Religion. See also the collection of books, video lectures on Black Church at the McCreary Center.

#### VI. Seminary Guidelines

##### A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy

Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary's core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one's own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will use one's own capabilities to achieve one's fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this

conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the *Student Handbook*.

### **B. Ashland Multiliteracy Center for Writing, Speaking, And Digital Communication**

The Ashland Multiliteracy Center can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters and doctoral qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person.

**To schedule an appointment**, visit [Ashland Multiliteracy Center](#) and select “Online and Graduate” from the schedule menu.

### **C. Accessibility Resources and Accommodations**

It is Ashland University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Center at [419-289-5904](tel:419-289-5904), or send an email to [dservices@ashland.edu](mailto:dservices@ashland.edu). The Student Accessibility Center office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations and to meet your learning needs.

### **D. ATS Grading Scale**

Grade	Quality	Percent	Description
A	4.0	97-100	Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.
A-	3.7	92-96	
B+	3.3	89-91	
B	3.0	86-88	Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.
B-	2.7	83-85	
C+	2.3	80-82	
C	2.0	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	1.7	74-76	
D+	1.3	71-73	
D	1.0	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	0.7	65-67	
F	0.0	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

## **VII. Selected Bibliography or References**

**See bibliography in required texts.**