

**DMB 9913: The Black Church and Black Church History: Readings in primary African American Religious History**

Doctor of Ministry in Black Church Studies Program  
Ashland Theological Seminary  
Summer Semester  
Cleveland

Class Semester is May 11 – August 27, 2020  
INTENSIVE: Monday, July 20- Friday July 24, 2020  
9am – 4pm

*Intensive Class Meeting Schedule:*

Monday: 8 a.m.-12 noon; 1-5 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8 a.m.-12 noon; 1-5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 8 a.m.-12 noon; 1-5 p.m.  
Thursday: 8 a.m.-12 noon; 1-5 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 noon; 1-5 p.m.

Adjunct Professor A.G. Miller  
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440-935-0429

**I. Course Description:**

This course will focus on the reading of primary documents in the African American religious tradition in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The texts reflect a sampling of writing that reflect what Vincent Harding has called in his book, *There is a River*, the radical stream within the African American religious tradition, there have been ebbs and tides of this tradition. Lectures, readings, presentations and discussions will focus on various topics including: the rise of independent black Protestant churches; gender relationships within African American religion; the relationship of religion and culture; nationalism vs integration; race relations in American church life; and religion and politics in black American churches.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

The student will be able to:

1. Integrate biblical, theological, and historical reflection within the practice of ministry.
2. Apply relevant practices of ministry.
3. Demonstrate social science research, assessment, and interpretation within the context of ministry.
- 4.

**III. Course Requirements**

**A. Required Textbooks and Other Readings. Include ISBN numbers.**

Allen, Richard. *The Life Experience and Gospel Labors of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen*, with an Introduction by George A. Singleton. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983. ISBN 10: 0343515865

Broughton, Virginia. *Virginia Broughton: The Life and Writings of a National Baptist Missionary*, Reprint edition, ed. Tomeiko Ashford Carter (Chattanooga: Univ of Tennessee Press; 2010) ISBN-10: 157233696X or ISBN-13: 978-1572336964

Lawson, Robert C. *The Anthropology of Jesus Christ Our Kinsman* 1924.  
ASIN: B00KO84FEU Can be purchased from Dr. W. Howard Collier,  
<https://omegapublishing.org/product/the-anthropology-of-jesus-our-kinsman-christ/>

Lee, Jarena. *Religious Experience and Journal of Mrs. Jarena Lee, giving an Account of Her Call to Preach The Gospel*. Pantianos Classics, First Published in Philadelphia 1836.  
SBN-13: 978-1545431535

Perry, Rufus. *The Cushite or the Descendants of Ham as Found in the Sacred Scriptures and in the Writings of Ancient Historians and Poets*. Springfield, MA: Willey & Co., 1893. Out of print. Available by pdf from professor.

Stewart, Maria W. *America's First Black Woman Political Writer: Essays and Speeches*. Edited and Introduced by Marilyn Richardson. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987. ISBN-10: 0253204461, ISBN-13: 978-0253204462

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Beacon Press; Reprint edition (November 30, 1996) ISBN-13: 978-0807010297

Walker, David. *Appeal to The Coloured Citizens of The World, But in Particular, and Very Expressly, to Those of The United States of America*. Ed. Sean Wilentz. New York: Hill and Wang, 1999. ISBN: 9780809015818

**B.** Attendance

According to the Student Handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected, unless the professor has been notified in advance and has approved the absence. Students should be on time and should stay through the duration of all classes. Any student missing more than six class hours will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade, audit or withdraw from the class, or be penalized otherwise at the discretion of the professor

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

1. A fifteen-page paper on an angle of the intersection of this course with your project from a biblical, theological, or historical perspective, whichever is most appropriate. It must be specific; it must demonstrate how one of these perspectives intersect and inform your project in concrete ways.

2. A ten-page review of literature paper that reviews some self-contained work (e.g., book, article, essay, chapter) from this course that intersects or informs your project work. All written work is due by the end of the semester.

3. The course will be primarily discussion based focused on primary documents and secondary readings. All students are required to read each of the assigned books and documents on Required Textbooks list and have prepared an assessment of the primary reading for the weeklong class. Each student will be required to lead prepare and lead

one or more of the discussions about the readings throughout the week-long intensive sessions. Listed below are the primary readings. In the first two weeks of class (starting May 11) each student should send the professor a paragraph or two describing your thesis project.

The professor will assign various readings to each student, who will be responsible for leading the discussions for one or more readings. Each student should contact the professor (at the numbers and email above) to have a conversation with professor about the book reading assignment by Tuesday, May 26. It would be advisable for the student contacted the professor immediately upon receipt of this syllabus to discuss the assigned readings!

By June 16, each student will send professor a draft of the assigned reading note preparations for the assigned class discussions. In preparation for leading the class discussion, you are encouraged to read secondary sources on the primary reading author or work. To assist you in this task listed are also some secondary sources as background materials. They are not required but are highly recommended to assist you in your reading and interpreting of the primary texts.

Because of the historical nature of these documents, some are not readily available in book form. They can be found in your local libraries and on the Internet. Where available, websites will be listed where these documents can be found. Some books are available through Amazon.com or through bookstores. Please check both for orders. Some of the primary and recommended books can be found in the library or ordered through library loan from your local public libraries. Also, when possible there are listed several different sources and publication for each document to assist you in finding the primary sources.

**A. Calculation of Grade and Connection with Learning Outcomes**

Assignments	Student Learning Outcomes	Percent of Final Grade
Discussion leading and class engagement	1, 3	30%
Primary Source Analysis	2	30%
Research Paper	1, 3	40%

**3 Tentative Intenative Course Schedule:**

**Monday: 9a.m.-12noon;**

Class organizations:

Introductory lecture to orient the class to the course materials; student and professor introductions and discussion of each students projects.

**Monday: 1-4p.m. Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

David Walker:

Primary Document Reading

David Walker, *Appeal to The Colored Citizens of The World, but in particular, and very expressly, to those of the United States of America*, Ed. Sean Wilentz. New York: Hill and Wang, 1999. ISBN: 9780809015818

David Walker's work can also be found @ <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/walker/walker.html>

Recommended Readings:

- Hinks, Peter P. *To Awaken My Afflicted Brethren : David Walker and The Problem of Antebellum Slave Resistance*. University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997.
- Peters, James S. *The Spirit of David Walker: The Obscure Hero*. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 2002.

**Tuesday: 9a.m.-12noon: Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Richard Allen:

Primary Document Reading

Allen, Richard. *The Life Experience and Gospel Labors of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen*, with an Introduction by George A. Singleton. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983. ISBN 10: 0343515865

Richard Allen's work can also be found @ <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/allen/menu.html>.

Recommended Readings:

- Newman, Richard. *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers*. New York University, 2008.
- Nash, Gary B. "New Light on Richard Allen: The Early Years of Freedom," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser., Vol. 46, No. 2. (Apr., 1989), pp. 332-340.
- George, Carol V. R. *Segregated Sabbaths; Richard Allen and The Emergence of Independent Black Churches 1760-1840*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1973.

**Tuesday: 1-4p.m. Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Jarena Lee:

Primary Document Reading

Lee, Jarena. *Religious Experience and Journal of Mrs. Jarena Lee, giving an Account of Her Call to Preach The Gospel*. Pantianos Classics, First Published in Philadelphia 1836. ISBN -13: 987-154431535

Jarena Lee's work can also be found in Houchins, Susan, Spiritual Narratives. (Oxford University Press, 1988).

Jarena Lee's work can also be found @ <http://www.umilta.net/jarena.html> or [http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs-t/wwm9716/@Generic\\_\\_BookView](http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs-t/wwm9716/@Generic__BookView)

Recommended Readings:

- An extremely abridged version Jarena Lee's work along with an important introduction to the works of other 19<sup>th</sup> century preaching A.M.E. women (Zilph Elaw and Julia A.J. Foote) can also be found in Andrews, William L. ed. *Sisters of The Spirit: Three Black*

*Women's Autobiographies of The Nineteenth Century*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

**Wednesday: 9a.m.-12noon: Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Maria Stewart:

Primary Document Reading

Stewart, Maria W., *Maria W. Stewart, America's First Black Woman Political Writer : Essays and Speeches*. Edited and Introduced by Marilyn Richardson. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987. ISBN-10: 0253204461, ISBN-13: 978-0253204462

Maria Stewart's work can also be found in Houchins, Susan, *Spiritual Narratives*. (Oxford University Press, 1988).

Maria Stewart's work can also be found @

[http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs/wwm9722/@Generic\\_BookView](http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs/wwm9722/@Generic_BookView)

Recommended Readings:

-Cooper, Valerie C. *Word, Like Fire: Maria Stewart, the Bible, and the Rhetoric of African American Rights*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2011. ISBN 9780813942629

**Wednesday: 1-4 p.m.: Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Rufus L. Perry:

Primary Document Reading

Perry, Rufus. *The Cushite or the Descendants of Ham as Found in the Sacred Scriptures and in the Writings of Ancient Historians and Poets*. Springfield, Mass. : Willey & Co., 1893.

This document can be found on the class documents CD.

Recommended Readings:

-Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp, "Mapping the World, Mapping the Race: The Negro Race History, 1874-1915" *Church History*, Vol. 64, No. 4, (Dec., 1995), pp. 610-626

-Moses, Wilson Jeremiah. *The Golden Age of Black Nationalism, 1850-1925*. Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1978.

**Thursday: 9 a.m.-12 noon: Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Virginia Broughton:

Primary Document Reading

Virginia Broughton, *Twenty Year's Experience of A Missionary*. Univ of Tennessee Pr; Reprint edition (November 30, 2010) ISBN-10: 157233696X or ISBN-13: 978-1572336964

Virginia Broughton's work can also be found in Houchins, Susan, *Spiritual Narratives*. (Oxford University Press, 1988).

Virginia Broughton's work can also be found @ [http://digilib.nypl.org:80/dynaweb/digs/wwm974/@Generic\\_BookView](http://digilib.nypl.org:80/dynaweb/digs/wwm974/@Generic_BookView)

Recommended Readings:

-Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks, *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church 1880-1920*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993.

**Thursday 1-4p.m: Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Robert Lawson:

Primary Document Reading

Lawson, Robert C. *The Anthropology of Jesus Christ Our Kinsman* 1924. Can be purchased from Dr. W. Howard Collier, <https://omegapublishing.org/product/the-anthropology-of-jesus-our-kinsman-christ/>

Recommended Readings:

-Jacobsen, Douglas G. *Thinking in The Spirit: Theologies of The Early Pentecostal Movement*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

**Friday: 9a.m.-12noon: Discussion Student Assigned \_\_\_\_\_**

Howard Thurman:

Primary Document Reading

Thurman, Howard. *The Vision of the Disinherited*. Beacon Press; Reprint edition (November 30, 1996) ISBN-13: 978-0807010297

Recommended Readings:

-Dixie, Quinton Hosford & Peter Eisenstadt. *Visions of a Better World: Howard Thurman's Pilgrimage to India and The Origins of African American Nonviolence*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2011.

-Raboteau, Albert J. *American Prophets: Seven Religious Radicals and Their Struggle for Social and Political Justice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.

## **V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning**

There are an enormous number of books, articles, videos, seminars being produced by African American scholars today. Contact the McCreary Center (216-431-5468) for website for video lectures and courses, links, course offerings, seminars, etc . See the Sam DeWitt Proctor Institute and the American Academy of Religion for numerous African American scholar presentations, both national and global.

## **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. For further details of Academic Integrity Policy, please see the Student Handbook.

**B. Seminary Writing Consultation Service**

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service 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 [Writing Center Online](#) and select "Online and Graduate" from the drop down 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, 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 recommended reading in section IV Tentative Course Schedule