

**DI-634 Black Church-Black Mosque: Christian-Muslim Dialogue for Public Engagement**  
(Theme for the 2019 Luce-Hartford Conference in Christian-Muslim Relations)

Summer 2019  
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Benjamin Watts, Sr.  
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**TIME AND PLACE**

Monday - Friday June 17-18 (3:00-9:30 PM); June 19-21 (9:00 AM - 5:30 PM)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Religious leaders provide guidance on public issues through their spiritual authority. This course will provide students with opportunities to develop models for engaging in moral discourse and leadership on the social, ethical, or environmental concerns faced by Christian and Muslim communities as presented in the Luce-Hartford Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations, students will engage in deeper conversation and exploration of how the larger global or regional concerns impact and are lived out within a student's own religious community, bringing the global into the local context. A seminar format will allow students to examine the topics presented early in the week. Additional material that will provide the opportunity to explore models and develop programs for practical inter-faith public engagement facing Christian and Muslim communities. Attendance and participation in the Luce-Hartford Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations is required. There will be no extra registration fee for the conference for registered students.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Analyze the role of religion in the history of African Americans (MARS 1b; DMIN 1a)
2. Analyze the impact of racism on African American Christian and Muslim relationships (MARS 5a; DMIN 1b)
3. Articulate how one's own religious tradition frames the discourse on social justice and opportunities for interfaith networking (MARS 1b; DMIN 1c)
4. Demonstrate skills in providing tools for engagement in local communities to address the issues of race and racism through an interfaith perspective (MARS 4d; DMin 2c)

**TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:** The course will build on the presentations and discussions held at the Luce-Hartford Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations. Following the conference, registered students will continue to explore and analyze the issues raised in a seminar style format by responding to the presentations. Additional material will be presented throughout the remainder of the week that will assist students to develop their own projects. These projects will be posted on the course Canvas site and peer reviewed by the cohort in the class. Some of these projects may be used on a course website for public dissemination.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Cone, James H. *Martin and Malcolm and America: A Dream or a Nightmare*. Orbis Books, 2012.  
Jackson, Sherman A. *Islam the Blackamerican Toward the Third Resurrection*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Lincoln, C. Eric, and Lawrence H. Mamiya. *The Black Church in the African American Experience*. Duke University Press, 1990.

Lincoln, Charles Eric. *The Black Muslims in America*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1994.

Pinn, Anne H., and Anthony B. Pinn. *Fortress Introduction to Black Church History*. Fortress Press, 2002.

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**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Curtis IV, Edward E., and Danielle Brune Sigler. *The New Black Gods: Arthur Huff Fauset and the Study of African American Religions*. Indiana University Press, 2009.

Curtis IV, Edward E. *Black Muslim Religion in the Nation of Islam, 1960-1975*. Univ of North Carolina Press, 2009.

———. *Muslims in America: A Short History*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2009.

Decaro, Louis A. *Malcolm and the Cross: The Nation of Islam, Malcolm X, and Christianity*. Fredericksburg: New York University Press, 2000.

Diouf, Sylviane A. *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas, 15th Anniversary Edition*. New York: New York University Press, 2013.

Gomez, Michael A. *Black Crescent: The Experience and Legacy of African Muslims in the Americas*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Grant, Jacquelyn. *White Women's Christ and Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*. Scholars Press, 1989.

Griffith, R. Marie. *Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance*. Johns Hopkins University Press, n.d.

Hammer, Juliane. *American Muslim Women, Religious Authority, and Activism: More Than a Prayer*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012.

Hopkins, Dwight N. *Introducing Black Theology of Liberation*. Orbis Books, 2014.

Jackson, Sherman A. *Islam and the Problem of Black Suffering*. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Netland, Harold. *Encountering Religious Pluralism: The Challenge to Christian Faith Mission*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2001.

Pinn, Anthony B. *Varieties of African American Religious Experience: Toward a Comparative Black Theology - 20th Anniversary Edition*. Fortress Press, 2017.

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

Reid III, Frank Madison, Jeremiah Wright Jr, and Colleen Birchett. *When Black Men Stand Up for God: Reflections on the Million Man March*. 1 edition. Chicago, Ill: African American Images, 1997.

Savage, Barbara Dianne. *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion*. Harvard University Press, 2009.

Turner, Richard Brent. *Islam in the African-American Experience*. Indiana University Press, 2003.

Yuskaev, Timur R. *Speaking Qur'an: An American Scripture*. Studies in Comparative Religion. University of South Carolina Press, 2017.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignment	Due Date(s)	Course objective(s) assessed by assignment	% of course grade
Presentation on chapters from <i>The Black Church in the African American Experience</i> AND <i>Islam the Blackamerican Toward the Third Resurrection</i> .	Monday, 31 May (to be presented on 19 June)	#1	20%
Paper on scriptural and social views on the topic of “interfaith collaboration.”	Friday, 14 June (to be discussed on 20 June)	#1	20%
Participation in the Luce- Hartford Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations	17-18 June	#5	30%
Final Project	TBA	#2 & #4	30%

- Students will be expected to read all required reading and engage in the seminar sessions following the conference.
- Students will be expected to register and attend the Luce-Hartford Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations. (Conference registration fees will be waived for students who are paying tuition fees.) (30% of the grade.)
- Report on one chapter in both *The Black Church in the African American Experience* and *Islam the Blackamerican Toward the Third Resurrection*. Participants must synthesize one chapter from each and provide an oral report in class. Students must contact the instructor via email by Monday, 31 May to choose the chapters. The presentation will be presented on Wednesday, 19 June (20% of the grade.)
- 1,000-word review of the student’s own scriptural and social views on the topic of “interfaith collaboration.” The student should draw from their own tradition and utilize the methods of interpretation with which they are familiar or comfortable. There will be time during the seminar

sessions to explore this paper. The paper is due on the Canvas course site by Friday, 14 June. These papers will be presented on Thursday, 20, June. (20% of the grade.)

- An interfaith collaborative project on a topic related to the impact of what it means to be a Black American Muslim or Christian in modern America and how do we speak to those realities?

The presentation should address as well as assess:

- a) An overview of the social issues related the challenges that confront Black Muslims and Black Christians.
- b) Scriptural resources on the topic;
- c) Contemporary issues and challenges of this issue within one's own community or specific context;
- d) A practical program or resource to assist a religious community to engage in the issue.

**The project is due on the Canvas course site by Friday, 12 July.** This should include all materials, including an annotated Bibliography (including websites or electronic resources). Students will then provide peer reviews of each other's projects through a Canvas discussion board. (30% of the grade.)

## COURSE OUTLINE

Monday, 17 June	3:00 pm	Course Intro session
Monday – Tuesday (17 & 18 June)		<b>Luce – Hartford Conference on Christian- Muslim Relations</b> (See Program flier)
Wednesday, 19 June	2:00 – 5:00	Reflections on conference (Student presentations from <i>Islam the Blackamerican Toward the Third Resurrection</i> .)
Thursday, 20 June	9:00 – 12:00	What are the challenges that confront Black Muslims and Black Christians? (Student presentations from <i>The Black Church in the African American Experience</i> .)
	2:00 – 5:00	What work can we mutually agree upon and engage in? Scriptural and social views on the topic of “interfaith collaboration.”
Friday, 21 June	9:00 – 12:00	Dialogue for Engagement and Project Planning
Friday, 12 July		Posting of Projects on Canvas Site and peer review of Projects

## **POLICIES AND MISCELLANY:**

**Attendance:** Active attendance in all classes is expected. Please contact the instructor right away if you have a conflict with any of the inter-session days.

**All written assignments should follow the normal conventions as in Turabian 7th ed** (or later). *All papers should be submitted electronically.* Please include a title page on all papers more than one page, and make sure your email address is included below your name on the cover page. Number all pages.

**Email Policy:** The instructor will use the official Hartsem student email addresses for all communications. Please check your Hartsem email account regularly.

**Wikipedia and other non-documented websites:** Please do not cite *Wikipedia* or other non-documented websites. While these sites might direct one to documented sources (in the **Bibliography**) their authorship is unknown and cannot be considered authoritative. Students will be marked down for referencing these public sites if they are used as primary sources.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Academic honesty and integrity are expected of all students. Plagiarism exists when: a) the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by anyone other than the one submitting the work, b) parts of the work, whether direct quotations, ideas, or data, are taken from another source without acknowledgement, or c) the whole work is copied from another source [especially a webbased source]. See "Plagiarism" at <http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/>.

**Appropriate Classroom etiquette and use of technology:** In order to respect the community within the classroom: 1) Turn off all cell phones during class; 2) Utilize laptops for the sole purpose of taking class notes. Please do not surf the web, email, or other programs during class time. Such use of the computer during class is disrespectful of the class and professor and will result in lowering your participation grade.

**Extensions:** Extensions for papers will be given for illnesses or family emergencies only in consultation with the instructor.

**Late Assignments/Papers:** As per the Student Handbook, late assignments or papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for every two days.

**The following evaluation process will be utilized as a guideline:** (based on a 4-point system)

- A (4-3.8) Demonstrates excellent mastery of the subject matter, a superior ability to articulate this, and provides helpful connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.
- A- (3.7-3.4) Demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, ability to articulate this well, and makes connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.
- B+ (3.3-3.0) Demonstrates a very good understanding of the subject matter, able to articulate lessons learned in the assignment well. Meets expectations of the course.
- B (3.0-2.8) Demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to articulate lessons learned. Meets expectations of the course.
- B- (2.7-2.4) Demonstrates an understanding of the material at hand, has some difficulty articulating this, and basic connection of the material to daily life or contemporary issues/life. Meets basic expectations for the course.
- C+ (2.3-2.1) Demonstrates a basic comprehension of the subject matter, weak articulation and connections. Does not meet expectations for the course.
- C (2.0-1.8) Demonstrates a minimal comprehension of the subject matter and has difficulty making connections. Does not meet expectations of the course.
- F (1.7-0.0) Unable to meet the basic requirements of the course.

**DMin Grading Scale:** High Pass (A) 4.0-3.5, Pass (B) 3.4-2.8, and Low Pass (C) 2.7-2.0.

**Student Handbook:** For all other questions you might have regarding policies or procedures, please check the student handbook.