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CS 625 Black History, Theology and Mission

Richard Gray

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CS625 BLACK HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND MISSION
Dr. Richard L. Gray

DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to examine the African-American religious experience and expression in America. To this end, facts and insights will be explored to assist the general community in gaining a better understanding of the place and role of the African American and his Church in the greater American society.

Objectives of the course are as follows:
1. To explore the historical growth and development of the African-American Church and community within the United States.
2. To enhance the skill level of the student in identifying, understanding and evaluating the religious contributions of African Americans to American society.
3. To increase the level of understanding on the part of students as to historical and current routes which African American leadership have used in order to advance the African American people.
4. To introduce the student to those key issues which continue to effect the African American people living in the United States.

COURSE FORMAT:
This course is being offered in an intensive format over a two-week period during January Term. A Lecture and discussion format will be utilized as the primary means of instruction.

REQUIRED READING:


RECOMMENDED READING:
(See the selected bibliography at the end of this syllabus)
ASSIGNMENTS:
Each student is required to produce a research paper, not to exceed 10 pages in length. Additionally, unless serving in a ministry capacity which would be prohibitive, each student must attend a Black Church for a Sunday morning worship experience and discuss that experience in a small group setting. Each student must produce a biographical study of a significant Black Christian Leader chosen from a listing provided in class. This study should not be less than 10 pages and should not exceed 15 pages. Finally, each student will write a one-page reflection paper on the various videos as described in the syllabus.

FINAL EXAMINATION:
Yes.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:
The following papers are due during the semester.

1. Research Project that addresses the historical relationship between the American Black community and your denomination. If you don’t embrace a particular faith walk, then your study should focus on the Methodist Church.

2. A biographical study of a significant Black Christian leader (to be chosen from a listing provided in class).

3. Unannounced objective quizzes on assigned reading

4. Reflection Papers on class videos

GRADING:
50% Quizzes and biographical study
25% Research Project
25% Final Exam
**BLACK HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND MISSION**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

(Section I)  **Black History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>February 7</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Introduction: (The Beginnings)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Class Video (Henry Louis Gates, <em>Wonders of Africa</em> “Black Kingdoms”)</td>
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<th>Week Two</th>
<th>February 14</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Class Video (Henry Louis Gates, <em>Wonders of Africa</em> “Swahili Coast”)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Begin readings in Bennett and Wilmore</td>
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*Turn in reflection on Gates’s Black Kingdoms*

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<tr>
<th>Week Three</th>
<th>February 21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Class Video (Henry Louis Gates, <em>Wonders of Africa</em> “Timbuktu”)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Bennett and Wilmore</td>
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*Turn in reflection on Gates’s Swahili Coast*

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<tr>
<th>Week Four</th>
<th>February 28</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Africans in America – A question of Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Class Video (Henry Louis Gates, <em>Wonders of Africa</em> “The Slave Trade”)</td>
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*Turn in reflection on Gates’s Timbuktu*

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<tr>
<th>Week Five</th>
<th>March 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>The Black Church and the Age of Jim Crow</td>
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| **Reading**  | You should have completed Wilmore by this time  
Class Video (Birth of a Nation) |

*Turn in reflection on Gates’s The Slave Trade*

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<tr>
<th>Week Six</th>
<th>March 14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>The Black experience in America (Strange Fruit)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Class Video (James Cameron)</td>
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*Turn in reflection on Birth of a Nation*

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<tr>
<th>Week Seven</th>
<th>March 21</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>The Golden Age of Black Nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>You should have completed Moses by this time</td>
</tr>
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*Turn in reflection on James Cameron*
(Section II) Black Theology

Week Eight  March 28
Focus  A view on the theology of blacks
Reading: Class Video (Henry Louis Gates, Wonders of Africa “The Holy Land”)
Our Voices “African Hebrew Israelites”

Turn in reflection on Birth of a Nation

Week Nine  April 4
Reading Week, let’s all enjoy ourselves

Week Ten  April 11
Focus  The Black Response to American Oppression
Reading: Class Video (Farrakhan press conference)

Turn in reflection on Gates’ The Holy Land and Our Voices
Turn in your Research Paper

Week Eleven  April 18
Focus  Black Christian Leaders and a Divine Redemptive Mission
Reading: Dr. Gray class lecture

Turn in reflection on Farrakhan

(Section III) The Mission

Week Twelve  April 25
Focus  Exploring this Divine Redemptive Mission (part two)
Reading: Gray, class lecture

Turn in your study of a Black Christian Leader

Week Thirteen  May 2
Focus  Let’s Review and see where we’re at

Turn in reading log

Week Fourteen  May 9
Final Exam
Black Leaders for Biographical Study

Edward Wilmot Blyden  W. E. B. DuBois
Henry McNeal Turner  Mordecai Wyatt Johnson
Martin Delany  Benjamin Elijah Mays
Henry Highland Garnett  Howard Thurman
Alexander Crummell  Adam Clayton Powell
Simeon of Cyrene  Elijah Muhammad
Nathaniel Paul  Malcolm X
Richard Allen  Albert B. Cleage, Jr.
David Walker  C. Eric Lincoln
Nat Turner  Charles Shelby Rooks
Daniel Alexander Payne  Martin Luther King, Jr.
James W. C. Pennington  Jesse Louis Jackson
Samuel Ringgold Ward  James H. Cone
Marcus Garvey  J. Deotis Roberts, Sr.

Possible research paper topics:

Early Methodism (1758 – 1843) and the American Black Community
Middle Methodism (1844 – 1938) and the American Black Community
Late Methodism (1939 – current) and the American Black Community
The Central Jurisdiction
(Black Sons of Thunder) The Black Circuit Riders
The “Seven Sister” (the seven major Black denominations): their history and development
Exploring John Wesley, his “Holy Nameless Two”, and Slavery
Francis Asbury, American Blacks and Slavery
The Methodist Church and Slavery
The Wesleyan Church and Slavery
The Wesleyan Church: its history, development and relationship to Black America
A Selected Bibliography

Angell, Stephen Ward  

Asante, Molefi K. and Mark T. Mattson  

Banks, William L.  

Berry, Mary Frances and John W. Blassingame  

Blyden, Edward Wilmot  


Bracey, John, August Meier, and Elliot Rudwick, eds.,  

Brotz, Howard ed.,  

Carlisle, Rodney  

Cone, James H.  


Crummell, Alexander  
1966  "The Relations and Duties of Free Colored Men in America to Africa." Negro Social and Political Thought. Edited by Howard Brotz. New York:
Basic Books.


Cruse, Harold

Davis, Allison

Delany, Martin

Delany, Martin

Dittmer, John

Felder, Cain Hope

Fitts, Leroy

Foner, Philip S.

Franklin, John Hope

Franklin, John Hope and Alfred A. Moss, Jr.
Frazier, E. Franklin 

Garnet, Henry Highland 

Hall, Raymond L. 

Hudson, Winthrop S. 

Huggins, Nathan 

Jones, Howard O. 

Levine, Lawrence W. 

Lincoln, C. Eric 


Lincoln, C. Eric and Lawrence H. Mamiya 

Litwack, Leon F. 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myrdal, Gunner</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td><em>An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and American Democracy.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ofari, Earl</td>
<td>Let Your Motto Be Resistance: The Life and Thought of Henry Highland Garnet</td>
<td>Boston: Beacon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parvin, Earl</td>
<td>Missions USA</td>
<td>Chicago: Moody Press</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ponton, Mungo M.</td>
<td>Life and Times of Henry M. Turner</td>
<td>Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scruggs, Otey M.</td>
<td>&quot;We the Children of Africa in this Land.&quot; Africa and the Afro-American Experience</td>
<td>Washington, DC: Howard University Press</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuckey, Sterling, ed.</td>
<td>The Ideological Origins of Black Nationalism</td>
<td>Boston: Beacon</td>
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