CL 550 AME History and Discipline

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PURPOSE

This course satisfies the requirements for ordination in the African Methodist Episcopal Church by instilling a rich awareness of the ecclesiastical, doctrinal and historical dimensions of Wesleyan Methodism as it is experienced in the black church generally and by African Methodists particularly.

COMPETENCIES

Having successfully completed this course, the student should be able to:

• Articulate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of the conference system.
• Identify essential components in the ecclesiastical structure of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
• Correlate AME Church History with AME Church Doctrine in order to nurture and sustain the traditional witness to faith and order in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
• Define “connectionalism”, indigenization, holiness, ecumenism, “the call to preach”, itinerancy, stewardship, episcopacy, Methodism, The Four Horsemen and other concepts relative to the history and heritage of African Methodism.
• Describe the unique relationship between Pastors, Stewards Trustees, Class Leaders, Stewardesses, Deaconesses, Missionaries, the Laity, and other auxiliaries within the local church.
• Utilize The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2000-2004 and Methodist Polity by Bishop Henry McNeal Turner as working handbooks for mission and ministry.
• Organize an AME Church and effectively pastor a local church in its sacramental and liturgical witness to the Trinity in the contemporary existential situation of African Methodists throughout our global village.

REQUIRED TEXTS


ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and active class participation is expected. Assignments are expected on the due date. Exceptions will be allowed only for extreme illness or emergency. Attendance and participation equal 10% of the final grade.

2. Readings and written reflections on the assigned readings represent an important element of the course. It is expected that each student will have read the assignments for particular class session and topic. It is also expected that each student will turn in a one to two page written reflection of the assigned reading. The written assignment in due on the date of the topic discussion in class. Written reflections equal 30% of the final grade.

3. Each student will prepare and present an eight to ten page on a self-selected topic related to What A.M.E.’s Believe and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2000 - 2004. The paper should present an issue related to our polity, discuss why it is an issue, and take a position that is supported through a rational theological discourse. Sources should be cited via endnotes. Careful attention should be given to style and grammar. Topics should be selected and presented for approval by March 3. All papers will be due at the beginning of the class session on April 28. The paper equals 30% of the final grade.

4. There will be a final examination. It will be in essay format and will examine each student’s general understanding of AME History and Polity. The Book of Discipline may be used during the examination. The examination equals 30% of the final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

February 10, 2005
Introduction and Overview

February 17, 2005

February 24, 2005
The Structure of the Local Church, Pastoral Relations, Pastoral Leadership, Property in relation to the Connectional Church, Doctrine, pp. 65-92. Turner, pp. 61-65. Sinclair, Chapters 3 & 4.
March 3, 2005

Position Paper Proposal Due.

March 10, 2005

March 17, 2005

March 24, 2005
Reading Week.

March 31, 2005
Indigenization and Overseas Districts, Doctrine, pp. 301-3212. Sinclair, Chapters 11 & 12.

April 7, 2005

April 14, 2005

April 21, 2005
Connectional Societies and Organizations, Part II. Doctrine, 406-496. Sinclair, Appendices A, B, & C.

April 28, 2005

Position Papers Due.

May 5
Final Examination

*Please be aware that I am available to you for questions or concerns. You can arrange to see me immediately following most class sessions. It will be helpful to me to know that in advance. You can contact me by phone at 1-352-409-3569 or by e-mail at wtdixon@academicplanet.com.