

## **BIBHB-650 The Bible, The Church, and HIV/AIDS**

### **Fall Semester 2022**

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Room

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This is an intensive course that will meet 3 weekends during the fall semester. The dates are September 16-17, October 14-15, and November 11-12. The time period for each session may vary from those listed in earlier schedules. The purpose of the course is to delve more deeply into biblical perspectives on gender and sexuality, the Christian traditions that have developed from those biblical texts, and their relationship to the HIV/AIDS crisis and the current COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this class, students will learn about their denominational traditions and evaluate their effectiveness in today's contexts. Most important, students will be challenged to ask whether those traditions need to be modified to respond more effectively to the pandemic and to offer creative solutions situated within different biblical and Christian traditions, if warranted.

Completing the course will reinforce the goals of our MDiv program in the following ways:

- students will learn more about the biblical traditions regarding gender, sexuality and the different ways of interpreting the Bible on these topics (Assessment: assigned readings for the course and the assignment on biblical interpretation of specific texts.
- students will become more aware of how their own backgrounds and assumptions influence how they read texts (Assessment: report on denominational policy)
- students will have the biblical and theological skills to be engaged and prophetic leaders as they consider church traditions in the contemporary context of HIV and AIDS (Assessment: report on target population and consequences of denominational policy)

Required Texts (accessed on March 12, 2022)

Dan Royles, *To Make The Wounded Whole: The African American Struggle Against HIV/AIDS*

(Durham: The University of North Carolina Press, 2020).

ISBN-13: 1469661339, \$29.95 at amazon.com.

Steven W. Thrasher, *The Viral Underclass: The Human Toll When Inequality and Disease*

*Collide* (Macmillan 2022). Kindle version is available at amazon.com for \$14.99 with a

50% discount.

**Resources:**

For HIV/AIDS statistics, visit the websites for the following agencies and organizations: UNAIDS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Minority AIDS Council, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Black AIDS Institute, and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. Other useful statistics are found in the United Nations statements on reproductive health.

Several denominations have recent statements and policies on HIV/AIDS that can be found online. Examples are the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Additional interdenominational resources are offered by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lausanne Congress 2010 (evangelical).

As part of the course, we will watch documentaries and movies that address issues of gender, sexuality, and the Bible. Examples include: "Cover," "And the Band Played On," "Out of Control: AIDS in the African American Community," "Yesterday," and "Dallas Buyers Club,"

## **Course Requirements:**

Because of the format, completing reading assignments before each of the class sessions is required and attendance and full participation in all sessions are crucial. In addition, there are specific written assignments.

**Report on Target Population:** a 3-5 page paper on a population that is heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS. You may choose a global region (for example, Eastern Europe) or a country (for example, Uganda), or a specific population within the United States (for example, gay youth or African American females). In the report, provide statistics, address recent trends, include an analysis of the dynamics that are driving the pandemic, and offer some discussion and evaluation of current prevention or treatment programs that are in place. If at all possible, interview someone from that target population and incorporate insights gained from it in your report. Due: September 16, 2022

**Report on Denominational Policy:** a 3-5 page paper on a denominational or faith-based organization's policy on HIV/AIDS. What are the biblical and theological references in the document? Has the current policy modified in some way an earlier one? Why were any changes necessary? Consider whether the current statement will meet the needs of your target population. Explain why you think the statement will or will not be helpful in your chosen context. If you come from a non-denominational church, you may interview a church pastor for his/her perspectives on the pandemic. Due: October 14, 2022

**Biblical Interpretation Assignment:** a 5-6 page paper on a specific biblical text or several related texts that are used in discussions of gender and sexual expression in churches today. Cover the exegetical background of the text(s), evaluate their current use in communities of faith and suggest alternative texts or interpretations. Due: November 11, 2022

**Grading:** The final grade will be a combination of the written assignments, class presentations, and class participation. The grade for class participation is 25% of the final grade, and each of the three shorts papers will constitute 25% of the final grade for a total of 75% of the final grade.

## ***Course Expectations:***

- completion of reading assignments before each class
- active and informed participation in class sessions
- punctual and regular attendance at all class sessions

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory and it is expected that you will give your full attention to the discussions in the class. To facilitate your engagement with the class, cellphones and earpieces must be turned off and put away. Laptops and other electronic devices must only be used for purposes of the class, including showing a film clip or playing music as part of a class presentation.

Our class discussions will supplement and integrate the readings rather than repeat that material. For this reason, missing a class damages the learning process. Because there are limited sessions missing a session will result in a lowering of your final grade. If portions of sessions are missed

(totaling more than 20% of class time), a student will not be able to complete the course successfully. Partial absences due to tardiness or early departures, among other things, will count towards missing a full class session. If you must miss a class for any reason, please inform me in advance by telephone or email.

All assignments must be submitted to receive a final grade in the course. Furthermore, all assignments must be submitted on the date specified. Requests for extensions are strongly discouraged. Any extension granted for any assignment will result in the lowering of your final grade.

## **Academic Policies**

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the [Academic Handbook](#) for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

### **Writing**

- Academic integrity and [plagiarism](#): (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The *Turabian Manual for Writers* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online [here](#). In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/student-life/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

### **Attendance and Class Participation**

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching-learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

(See 19-20 Handbook, 9)

- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

## Academic Accommodations

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the *Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities* policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook (19-20 Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19-20 Handbook, 20)

### *Course Schedule:*

#### **September 16-17**

##### **Readings:**

Royles, *To Make The Wounded Whole*, Chapters 1-3

Thrasher, *The Viral Underclass*, Section 1

**Assignment due:** Report on Target Population

#### **October 14-15**

##### **Readings:**

Royles, *To Make The Wounded Whole*, Chapters 4-5

Thrasher, *The Viral Underclass*, Section 2

**Assignment due:** Report on Denominational Policy

#### **November 11-12**

##### **Readings:**

Royles, *To Make The Wounded Whole*, Chapters 6-7

Thrasher, *The Viral Underclass*, Sections 3-4

**Assignment due:** Biblical Interpretation of text(s) on gender or sexual expression

### **Select Bibliography:**

Battle, Juan and Sandra L. Barnes, eds. *Black Sexualities: Probing Powers, Passions, Practices, and Policies* (Rutgers University Press, 2009).

Bongmba, Elias K. *Facing a Pandemic: The African Church and the Crisis of AIDS* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2007).

Browning, Melissa. *Risky Marriage: HIV and Intimate Relationships in Tanzania* (Lexington Books, 2014).

Brownson, James V. *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* (Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2013).

Butler, Lee H. *A Loving Home: Spirituality, Sexuality, and Healing Black Life* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000).

Carmichael, Calum. *Sex and Religion in the Bible* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010).

Chitando, Ezra and Charles Klagba, eds. *In the Name of Jesus: Healing in the Age of HIV*. World Council of Churches Publications: Geneva, Switzerland, 2013.

Collins, Patricia Hill. *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

Coogan, Michael. *God and Sex: What the Bible Really Says* (New York and Boston: Twelve, 2010)

De la Torre, Miguel. *Liberating Sexuality: Justice Between the Sheets* (Chalice Press, 2016).

\_\_\_\_\_ ed. *Out of the Shadows, into the Light: Christianity and Homosexuality* (Chalice Press, 2009).

Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999).

Dube, Musa W. *The HIV & AIDS Bible: Selected Essays* (Scranton, PA: University of Scranton Press, 2008).

Ellens, J. Harold. *Sex in the Bible: A New Consideration* (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2006).

Ellison, Marvin M. *Making Love Just: Sexual Ethics for Perplexing Times* (Fortress Press, 2012).

Farley, Margaret A. *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics* (New York: Continuum, 2010).

Farmer, Paul, and others, eds., *Women, Poverty, and AIDS: Sex, Drugs, and Structural Violence*, revised edition (Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 2007).

- Flunder, Yvette A., *Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion* (Pilgrim Press, 2005).
- Fortune, Marie M. *Love Does No Harm: Sexual Ethics for the Rest of Us* (2003)
- Freitas, Donna. *Sex and the Soul: Juggling Sexuality, Spirituality, Romance and Religion on America's College Campuses* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Gaca, Kathy L. *The Making of fornication: eros, ethics, and political reform in Greek philosophy and early Christianity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).
- Godsey, Heather, and others, eds. *Oh God! Oh God! Oh God: Young Adults Speak Out About Sexuality and Christian Spirituality* (Chalice Press, 2010).
- Haddad, Beverley. *Religion and HIV and AIDS: Charting the Terrain* (University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2011).
- Harris, Angelique. *AIDS, Sexuality, and the Black Church: Making the Wounded Whole* (New York: Peter Lang, 2010).
- Hornsby, Teresa and Deryn Guest. *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation* (SBL Press, 2016).
- Isherwood, Lisa. *The Power of Erotic Celebacy: Queering Heteropatriarchy* (London: T&T Clark, 2006).
- Jensen, David H. *God, Desire, and a Theology of Human Sexuality* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2013).
- Lee, Shayne. *Erotic Revolutionaries: Black Women, Sexuality, and Popular Culture* (Hamilton Books, 2010).
- Lemelle, Anthony J., Jr. *Black Masculinity and Sexual Politics* (New York: Routledge, 2010).
- Levenson, Jacob. *The Secret Epidemic: The Story of AIDS and Black America* (New York: Pantheon, 2004).
- Loader, William, *Sexuality in the New Testament: Understanding the Key Texts* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010).
- McCleneghan, Bromleigh. *Good Christian Sex: Why Chastity isn't the Only Option—and other things the Bible says about sex* (HarperOne, 2016).
- Marin, Andrew. *Love is an Orientation: Elevating the Conversation with the Gay Community* (IVP Books, 2009).
- Martin, Dale B. *Sex and the Single Savior: Gender and Sexuality in Biblical Interpretation* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006).
- Martin, Colby. *Unclobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016).

- McCune, Jeffrey Quinn, Jr. "Doin' the down low, remixin' the closet: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Sexual Passing"(unpublished doctoral dissertation, Northwestern University, 2007).
- McMickle, Marvin A. *How Black Pastors Can Respond to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2008).
- Morgan, Ruth and Saskia Wieringa, *Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men, and Ancestral Wives: Female Same Sex Practics in Africa*. Jacana Media, 2006.
- Paterson, Gillian. *Women in the time of AIDS: women, health, and the challenge of HIV* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996).
- Rogers, Jack. *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, revised and expanded edition ((Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).
- Roscoe, Will and Stephen Murray, *Boy-Wives and Female Husbands: Studies of African Homosexualities*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2001.
- Scholz, Susanne. *Sacred Witness: Rape in the Hebrew Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010).
- Stone, Ken. *Practicing safer texts: food, sex and Bible in queer perspective* (London: T&T Clark International, 2005).
- Stone, Ken, ed. *Queer Commentary and the Hebrew Bible* (London: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001).
- Tamale, Sylvia, ed. *African Sexualities: A Reader*. Pambazuka Press, 2011.
- Traister, Rebecca. *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of the Independent Nation* (Simon and Shuster, 2016).
- Trinitapoli, Jenny and Alexander Weinreb, *Religion and AIDS in Africa* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2012).
- Vines, Matthew. *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships* (Convergent Books, 2014)
- Whiteside, Alan. *HIV/AIDS: A Very Short Introduction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Winner, Lauren. *Real Sex: The Naked Truth about Chastity* (Brazos Press, 2005).