

Strategic Leadership for Black Congregations Seminar
SUMMER 2017

Class Time: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
June 19 - June 30, 2017

Professors:

Dr. Reginald Blount

Dr. Michael Nabors

DMIN 80-XXX New Number: DM-731

Course Description

This course will examine traditional and contemporary culture(s) of the Black Church and explore the pastoral and administrative leadership needed to foster a vital, vibrant, relevant and transformative congregation for the 21st century. Special attention will be given to the missional legacy of the Black Church and a call for its renewal through liberative public theology, prophetic preaching, and community engagement.

Course Texts

Lewis V. Baldwin, **The Voice of Conscience: The Church in the Mind of Martin Luther King, Jr.** (Oxford University Press, 2010) ISBN-13: 9780195380309 \$29.95

Keri Day, **Unfinished Business: Black Women, Black Church and the Struggle to Strive in America** (Orbis Books 2012) ISBN-10: 1570759812 \$28.00

Kelly Brown Douglass, **Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God** (Orbis Books 2015) ISBN-10: 1626981094 \$24.00

Leah Gunning Francis, **Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community** (Chalice Press 2015) ISBN-10: 0827211058 \$19.00

Obery Hendricks, **The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted** (Three Leaves, 2007) ISBN-10: 0385516657 \$17.00

Cleophus LaRue, **I Believe I'll Testify: The Art of African American Preaching** (Westminster John Knox Press, 2011) ISBN-10: 9780664236779 \$20.00

Pre-Course Work

Personal Leadership Portfolio: (Due June 12th)

Provide insight into your personal leadership style and culture of local church context that includes:

- Experience and skill development that shapes your current leadership style
- What do you believe to be the role of the pastor and the purpose of preaching?
- What are your current administrative responsibilities and practices?
- What do you believe is the role of the laity in ministry?
- What do you believe to be your growing edges?
- What are the demographics of your congregation?
- How would you describe the community where your congregation is located?

Reflection Papers: (All papers due June 19th)

Write a 2-3 *page single space (12-font) paper* offering reflection and critique of each of the readings. Each paper should include:

- a) A brief synopsis of the major issues or points posed by the readings;
- b) A reflection of how the readings affected the writer;
- c) A formulation of 3-4 questions to spark class discussion.

Course Organization and Schedule

Session 1 (June 19th): Introductions; Review of Syllabus; Defining Culture; Historical and Contemporary Culture(s) of the Black Church and Missional Leadership

Readings: "The Voice of Conscience"

Session 2 & 3 (June 20th and 21st): Prophetic Preaching

Readings: "I Believe I'll Testify" and "Politics of Jesus"

Session 4 & 5 (June 22nd & June 23rd): Missional Congregational Development

Readings: "Unfinished Business"

Session 6 - 8 (June 26th - June 28th): Strategies for Community Engagement

Readings: "Stand Your Ground" and "Ferguson and Faith"

Session 9 - 10 (June 29th - June 30th): Strategic Leadership for Local Context

Final Project

Drawing from the class readings and other research, class discussions, personal reflection and analysis, how would you reimagine your approach to leadership in your local context. Engage in this exploration through the lens of your own research interest and passion. Project must have instructor approval by June 28th. (20-25 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font; Due September 3rd)

Grades

- 10% Class attendance and participation*
- 30% Pre-Course Work*
- 60% Final Project*