

Introduction to African American Religion

AFA 3356/REL3139

T 8- 9/ (3:00-4:55 PM) – AND 134

R 9 (4:05 -5:00 PM – AND 134

Spring 2014 - Course Assignments

1.) January 7th

Introduction of Syllabus & Course Outline, introduction of class members – View segment of the Documentary: *This Far by Faith*

2.) January 9th

View Film: Cont'd of film: *This Far by Faith*

3.) January 14th *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Introduction to 2nd & 3rd eds., and Chapter 1, “African Beginnings” & Chapter 2, “The Religion of the Slave.”

View documentary film segment of: *Africans in America*

4.) January 16th *This Far by Faith*, “Introduction” & Chapter 1: “God Has a Hand in It,” & *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Chapter 3, “Not Peace, but the Sword.”

5.) January 21st

CLASS CANCELLED

(I will be giving the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr
Lecture at Earlham College in Richmond, IN)

6.) January 23rd *This Far by Faith*, Chapter 2, “The Prince” & African Muslims in Antebellum America, Chapter 1, “There Are Good Men in America...” View documentary film: *Prince Among Slaves*

The Dates for your Four Reaction Papers to be type written & turned in today

Select the four dates on which you want to write your reaction papers

Also pick the one date on which you want to lead the class discussion

7.) January 28th *African Muslims in America in Antebellum America*, Chapter 2, “Glimpses of Seventy-Five African Muslims in Antebellum North America” & Chapter 3, “Job Ben Solomon.

8.) January 30th *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Chapter 4: “Three Generals in the Lord’s Army,” & *This Far by Faith*, Chapter 3, “Speak to My Heart.” View Documentary: *This Far by Faith*, Segment 2.

February is Black History Month. There will be many events on campus and in the city related to this month. Announcements of events will be sent to the class.

- 9.) February 4th** *This Far by Faith*, Chapter 4: “God Is a Negro” & *African Muslims in America in Antebellum America*, Chapter 4, “Abd ar-Rahman and His Two Amazing American Journeys.”
- 10.) February 6th** *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Chapter 5, “The Black Church Freedom Movement,” & *African Muslims in America in Antebellum America*, Chapter 5, “Bilali Mohammed and Salih Bilali.” View documentary on the *Underground Railroad*
- 11.) February 11th** *This Far By Faith*, Chapter 5, “The Business of Religion,” & Chapter 6, “Saved, Baptized and Holy Ghost Filled.”
View Documentary on *Reconstruction*
- 12.) February 13th** *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Chapter 6, “Black Religion and Black Nationalism” & *This Far by Faith*, Chapter 7, “Black Gods of the City.”
- 13.) February 18th** *The New Black Gods*, (book) Introduction and Chapter 1, “Fauset’s (Missing) Pentecostals: Church Mothers, Remaking Respectability, & Religious Modernism” *Slavery By Another Name* (book) “Introduction,” & Chapter II, “An Industrial Slavery.” (This chapter will be posted on Sakai & sent as pdf.)
View Documentary: Cont’d on *Reconstruction*
- 14.) February 20th** *The New Black Gods*, (book), Chapter 2, “Grace Has Given God a Vacation: The History & Development of the Theology of the United House of Prayer of All People” & *Slavery By Another Name* (book), Chapter II, “An Industrial Slavery.”

Turn in your Draft Research Paper Proposal with beginning Bibliography

- 15.) February 25th** *Slavery By Another Name* (book), Chapter III, “Slavery’s Increase,” & Chapter IV, “Green Cottenham’s World.” (This chapter will be posted on Sakai sent as a pdf .)
View Documentary: *Slavery by Another Name* (film).

**Mid –Term Break
March 3rd - March 9th
ENJOY YOUR BREAK!!!**

16.) March 11th

The New Black Gods, Chapter 4, “Debating the Origins of the Moorish Science Temple: Toward a New Cultural History,” & Chapter 6: “A True Moslem Is a True Spiritualist.”

Video Documentary: *African American Islam*

Oral Reports (brief) on your Research Projects
These are oral reports made in class

17.) March 13th

The New Black Gods, Chapter 5: “The Consciousness of God’s Presence...,” & *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Chapter 7, “The Deradicalization of the Black Church.”

18.) March 18th

Black Religion & Black Radicalism, Chapter 8, “The Dechristianization of the Black Church,” & *The New Black Gods*, Chapter 10, “Defining the ‘Negro Problem’ in Brazil.”

Submit Final Title of Research Project with Sources in writing.

This is your firm topic for your final research paper

Documentary Viewing: *Marcus Garvey’s Biopic*

19.) March 20th

This Far by Faith, Chapter 8, “Prayers of the Righteous” & Chapter 9, “A Call to Witness.”

20.) March 25th

The New Black Gods, Chapter 7: “Religion Proper and Proper Religion...,” & Chapter 8: “The Perpetual Primitive in African American Religious Historiography,”

View Documentary: *Marcus Garvey’s Biopic* cont’d

21.) March 27th

Your Spirits Walk Beside Us, Introduction & Chapter 1, “The Reformation of the ‘Negro Church’” & “Illusions of Black Religion.” (This reading will be posted in Sakai and sent as a pdf.)

22.) April 1st *Black Religion & Black Radicalism*, Chapter 9: “Black Power, Black People and

Theological Renewal” & *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us*, Chapter 4, “The Advent to Civil Rights.”

View Documentary, *This Far by Faith*, Segment 4

23.) April 3rd

Black Religion & Black Radicalism, Chapter 10: “Survival, Elevation & Liberation in Black Religion,” & *Black Theology & Black Power*, Chapter 2, (This material will be posted on Sakai & sent as a pdf to the class via e-mail.)

View Documentary: Film on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Turn in draft of your research paper. It will not be graded but commented upon and returned with suggestions, comments, etc.

24.) April 8th

Your Spirits Walk Beside Us, Chapter 5, “Southern Black Liberal Protestantism,” & *The New Black Gods*, Chapter 9, “Turning African Americans into Rational Actors.”

Begin Oral Presentations of Research Projects with hand-outs to class

25.) April 10th

Your Spirits Walk Beside Us, Chapter 6, “A Religious Rebellion,” & Chapter 7, “Reconcilable Differences.”

Oral Presentation of Research Projects with hand-out to class cont’d

Sunday April 14, 2013 – Suggested Date for our visit to a Baptist or an AME Church (May change)

26.) April 15th

The New Black God, Chapter 11, “Fauset and His Black Gods:” & *This Far by Faith*, Chapter 10, “The Black Messiah.”

View Film: Documentary on *Blacks in Latin America*

27.) April 17th View Film with Discussion

28.) April 22nd **Last Class – Wrap Up with light refreshments**

Monday April 30th Final Paper Due in my office by 5:00pm

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!!

Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Ph.D. Instructor
Office Hours: Mondays: 10:30AM -12:30 PM`
& Wednesdays: 11:30 – 12:30 & By Appointment
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