

HT 261W AMERICAN GENOCIDE 2: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND THEOLOGY

Instructor: Craig Nesson

Elective (Synchronous only)

Open to all

1 Credit; letter grade or credit/no credit

This course is a seminar in reading selected texts in African American history and theology through the interpretive lens of genocide theory. While there has been significant theological attention to contexts beyond North America in many forms of liberation theology, this course examines the significance of the slave trade from Africa, slavery of African descent peoples in North America, and the ongoing oppression of African descent peoples as an occasion for liberation theology. One text attends to this history and a second text to the work of a contemporary Black theologian.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an introduction to genocide theory (practice of complex analysis).
2. To explore the history of the slave trade from Africa and slavery in the United States (practice of engagement with cross-cultural and global dimensions).
3. To encounter recent theological works by African American/Black theologians (practice of biblical and theological wisdom).
4. To engage in discussion for the implications of this study for the ministry and mission of the church (practice of personal faith and integrity).

PROCEDURE: The course meets once per week for one hour. The primary format is interactive discussion of readings led by instructor and students.

EVALUATION: 1) Attendance and demonstrating informed preparation to discuss assigned readings. 2) Discussion leadership of assigned readings on a rotating schedule. 3) Project or research paper to demonstrate integration of semester's work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Required texts **

- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. 2012.
- Allen, James. *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*. 2000.
- Andrews, William L. and Gates, Henry Louis, Editors. *Slave Narratives*. 2000.
- Baptist, Edward E. *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*. 2014.
- Cannon, Katie Geneva, Sims, Angela D., and Townes, Emilie M., Editors. *Womanist Theological Ethics*. 2011.
- Cone, James H. *A Black Theology of Liberation*. 2010. 40th Anniversary Edition.
- Cone, James H. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. 2011.
- Cone, James H. *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare*. 1992.
- Douglas, Frederick. *Autobiographies: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas/Other Writings*. 1994.
- DuBois, W.E.B. *Writings: The Suppression of the Slave Trade/The Souls of Black Folk/Essays, Articles*. 1987.
- Jennings, Willie James. *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. 2010.
- Gerbner, Katherine. *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*. 2018.
- Glaude, Jr., Eddie. *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*. 2016.
- Hannah-Jones, Nikole. *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*. 2021.
- Kendi, Ibram X. and Keisha N. Blain. *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America*. 2021.
- Kendi, Ibram X. *How to Be an Antiracist*. 2019.
- King, Jr. Martin Luther (Washington, J.M., Ed.). *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches*. 2003.
- Lloyd, Vincent W. and Prevot, Andrew, Editors. *Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics*. 2017.
- Malcolm X. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. 2001.
- McCaulley, Esau. *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*. 2020.
- **Smith, Clint. *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*. 2021.
- **Thomas, James R. *A Rumor of Black Lutherans: The Formation of Black Leadership in...Lutheranism*. 2024.
- Tisby, Jemar. *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the...Church's Complicity in Racism*. 2020.
- Wheeler, Kenneth W. US: *The Resurrection of American Terror*. 2022.