

# BLACK WOMEN: RELIGION AND SEXISM

## EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY AFC/PLSC/WGST 362

2016 Course Syllabus	AFC/PLSC/WGST 362 CRN: 23732/22720/22719
Instructor: Dyann Logwood	Office: 714 Pray-Harold Office Phone: (734) 487-1177 Email: <a href="mailto:dyann.logwood@emich.edu">dyann.logwood@emich.edu</a>
Class Meetings: Tuesdays 5:30-8:10pm 319 Pray-Harold Office Hours: 9:30-10:30am Tuesdays by appointment and directly after class Other times are available by appointment only. No Fridays	

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of the African American religion in America and the role of Black women in religion. Particular attention will be paid to how African American religion has limited Black women and how they have dealt with the restrictions placed upon them. Additionally, the course will examine the historical evolution of the various major Black denominations in America and their political and social roles in African American communities.

### Course Objectives

This course has the following major objectives:

- (1) To provide an understanding of the history, and evolution of African American religion in the United States.
- (2) To make the contributions of African American women in religion a visible part of the historical and social context of American society.
- (3) To provide an understanding of the social, economic, and political significance of African American churches to the African American community.
- (4) To explore the interconnection and interaction between religion and sexism.
- (5) To study how religion defines and restricts African American women from full participation in Black churches.
- (6) To provide students with a forum to discuss issues as they relate to religion and sexism in American society.

### Textbooks

Lincoln, Eric C. and Lawrence H. Mamiya (1993). *The Black Church in the African American Experience* Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press

Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks. (1993). *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church 1880-1920* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

The texts can be obtained at EMU Bookstore (in the Student Center) [734-483-2850](tel:734-483-2850) or Website: [emich.bkstr.com](http://emich.bkstr.com)

**Email:** I will communicate with you throughout the semester via e-mail and post handouts on Canvas. The instructor reserves the right to modify the assignment schedule/syllabus. You should check your e-mail daily, print out the handouts and make note of any changes in the syllabus or assignments. Feel free to e-mail me anytime; however, rude e-mails will not be answered.

**Assistance:** **Technical questions (problems with the quiz, or viewing items in the course such as documents or films or accessing the assignment column etc.) should be directed to Canvas support.**

**Student tech support for Canvas: If students contact you with problems using the Canvas system, please ask them to immediately call Canvas 24-hour tech support: [844.326.6322](tel:844.326.6322)**

Not only does Canvas provide great support, but they also can collect important technical information that will help us to fix deeper problems in the system. The longer a student waits to call the harder it is for us to troubleshoot their problem.

## **1. Course Requirements and Policies**

### **Class Attendance 35 points**

#### **Attendance/Punctuality/Participation**

Regular attendance for this course is essential. Remember, this is a 14-week course. It will be to your benefit to keep up with the readings and assignments and even complete them in advance. Attendance will be taken during each class period. All students are expected to be in class and in their seats at the beginning of each class period. **A grace period will be given during the first ten minutes of class.** Students who arrive after that period will be marked late for that day.

Attendance and participation are crucial components to this upper-level course, therefore you will receive a point deduction for each absence.

### **Attendance Bonus 3 points**

Any student that maintains perfect attendance for the entire semester will be awarded 3 point bonus. Attendance will not be disputed. Each class period a pre-printed attendance sheet will be circulated. If you have not signed in on the attendance sheet you will be considered absent. The only way to verify that you attended class is with the attendance sheet so if you are late make sure you sign in after class.

## **2. Class Participation 50 points**

A sizeable amount of class time will be given to discussions of the material in the text. The purpose of this is to stimulate thinking about the assigned reading material, to sharpen your analytical skills, clarify your positions, and to contribute to the development and direction of class discussions.

During each class session students are expected to comment on the material that is assigned. Students with the highest total discussion points will receive the highest %, students who have not contributed will receive 0%. The purpose of this exercise is to engage the student in analyzing the major points of the reading. There will not always be a right or wrong answer for the questions and all opinions will be equally valued.

### **Participation Points**

Participation points are reserved for guest speakers, in-class exercises, and discussion board and group discussions. My goal is to book at least one speaker during the semester. The remaining points are

reserved for overall attendance and participation through class discussions and presentations. In order to receive maximum participation points, you need to be present on speaker days and in-class exercise days and *continually* demonstrate (through asking questions, commenting on the literature, discussions during lectures, etc.) that you are an active participant in the course. **If you do not speak up, you will not receive the points. Again, these points are given to those who are present to participate.**

**Points will be deducted from your attendance/participation points for each absence.** If you encounter some unusual personal circumstance that may require an extended absence (e.g., pneumonia, complex medical treatment, etc.) be sure to consult with me about your situation in enough time to make adjustments in scheduling and assignments. Do not assume that you will get an incomplete. Check university deadlines for dropping a class without a grade penalty. **Students who do miss class are responsible for getting notes from a classmate and getting assignment information that you missed.**

**3. Quizzes** 2 at 35 points each = 70 points total

There will be 2 quizzes over class material and the class discussions. I will review the material for each quiz.

**4. Class Presentations 50 points:** Assignment Description located on Canvas.

**Final Group Presentation/Final:** Create Your Own Religion: Assignment Description located on Canvas.

**5. Reading Summary/Papers: (2): 30 points :** Assignment Description located on Canvas.

Participation Assignments (2): 20 points

Assignment Description located on Canvas.

Discussion Topics: (2-3) 20-30 Points: Assignment description located on Canvas

Response Summary Papers:

**Paper 1** Options: Weeks 3, 4, 6

**Paper 2** Options: Weeks 7, 8, 9

**Replacement Paper**

Options: Weeks 10, 12, 13

Participation Assignments Everyone: Weeks 2, 4

**Replacement Participation Assignment Options:** Weeks: 5, 7

Quizzes:

**2/9-Due 2/13 by 11:59pm**

**3/29-Due 4/2 by 11:59pm**

**4/5-Group Final**

**4/12-Group Final**

**4/19-Group Final**

**Additional Assignments:** Additional assignment descriptions will be posted on Canvas.

## **6. Written Assignments**

Assignments must be typed and double-spaced, using a 12-point font size unless otherwise announced and posted on canvas by the assigned due date/time. You also need to fulfill the page requirements for each assignment. Begin your assignments at the top of the page without extra spaces. All papers must be written using APA-style and include a citation list of sources unless otherwise specified. Turn in your papers to the proper assignment column on Canvas **before** class. **Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments cannot be submitted via email or fax.** Items placed in my mailbox **will not** be accepted.

Special circumstances need to be discussed directly with me, prior to the assignment due date and will require documentation. Do not assume you can turn in an assignment late, because you have a “special circumstance.” **Students should keep a copy of all assignments bring a copy of your assignment to class so you can participate in the discussion.** Please also retain all of the assignments I return to you. I suggest that if you think you might be sick or absent that you turn in your assignment early, however if you are sick or absent on the due date you will not receive credit for the in-class activity/discussion portion of the assignment.

### **Late Assignments:**

Again, late/incomplete assignments will not be accepted. If you are absent when an assignment is due, you will not receive credit for the assignment. All assignments have an in-class discussion portion included in the final score. If you are absent you are unable to participate in that portion of the assignment.

If you have these special circumstances or other circumstances (such as illness, family issues, car issues, child-care etc.) it will work to your advantage to do the assignments early and turn them in to the assignment column before the due date.

**Final Grades:** If a student wants to dispute their final grade they must have copies of all of their graded assignments in order request a grade change.

### **Final Grade Policy:**

If a student stops attending class without officially withdrawing from the course, I will assign that student an “E” for the semester. A “W” is assigned only when an official withdrawal has been completed.

\*You will receive a grade for this course. Incomplete “I” grades will not be granted for this course. If you stop attending the course, drop it by the final drop date or you will receive a failing grade for the course.

### **Make-Ups and Rewrites:**

The instructor reserves the right to rule on early or makeup exams and there will be no rewrites.

Each assignment has specific guidelines for evaluation. Listed below are basic guidelines that govern all assignments:

**Organization** – *(Logical flow of an introduction, body, and conclusion; use of proper format)*

**Grammar** – *(Spelling, punctuation, style [tenses, use of active voice/verbs, etc.], and academic writing)*

**Focus** – *(Clearly stated thesis statement with main ideas that are supported throughout)*

**References** – *(Proper citation of sources in text using MLA or APA style)*

### **Final Grade Scale**

<b>A</b> 95-100%	<b>A-</b> 90-94%	<b>B+</b> 86-89%	<b>B</b> 83-85%	<b>B-</b> 80-82%	
<b>C+</b> 76-79%	<b>C</b> 73-75%	<b>C-</b> 70-72%	<b>D+</b> 66-69%	<b>D</b> 63-65%	<b>D-</b> 60-62%
<b>E</b> Below 60%					

## **7. OTHER POLICIES**

**Students with Disabilities:** Please advise the instructor of any special problems or needs at the beginning of the semester, in time to make any special arrangements related to class lectures and exams. All disabilities must be documented in writing by a medical professional or the university.

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability EMU Board of Regents policy #8.3 requires that you first register with the *Access Services Office (ASO)* in room 240 Student Center. You may contact *ASO* by telephone at (734) 487-2470. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with *ASO* promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. **No retroactive accommodations are possible.**

**Academic Integrity:** Written or other work, which a student submits, must be the product of her/his own efforts. If you are unsure of how to site sources within text, please refer to the APA manual. When you submit a paper or other written work where other sources are required, it is assumed that you have incorporated appropriate style measures.

Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the *Office of Student Judicial Services* for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The **Student Conduct Code** contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, but if you are not sure about whether something you're doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the instructor.

### **Classroom Conduct**

Students are expected to abide by the **Student Conduct Code** and assist in creating an environment that is conducive to learning and protects the rights of all members of the University community. Incivility and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in a request to leave class and referral to the *Office of Student Judicial Services (SJS)* for discipline. Examples of inappropriate classroom conduct include repeatedly arriving late to class, using a cellular telephone, constantly sending text messages or talking while others are speaking. You may access **the Code** online at [www.emich.edu/sjs](http://www.emich.edu/sjs).

**In-Class Disruptions:** My goal is to create an optimal learning environment. Because this class relies heavily on in-class discussion, please be respectful of your classmates when making comments. Behavior that inhibits in-class learning (including cell phone usage, texting, outbursts, and talking that competes with lectures, speakers, and other discussions) will not be tolerated in this class. **Make sure your cell phone is on vibrate or off. If it rings in class, you will first be warned. If it rings again, you will lose participation points (10 for each instance).** Step outside of the classroom to answer any calls or conduct non-class-related business. Do not send text messages during class; this is considered disruptive behavior and will result in the loss of points. Laptops can be used during the review/lecture portion of the class only. Please keep them closed until that portion of the class. Excessive chatter and talking over the professor, other speakers, or classmates who have the floor will also result in a loss of participation points (10 for each offense). Issues involving outbursts or threats to fellow students or the professor will become a university issue and will be resolved by campus police.

### **F and J International Students**

**The Student Exchange** Visitor Information System (SEVIS) requires F and J students to report the following to the *Office of International Students*, 244 Student Center within ten (10) days of the event:

- Changes in your name, local address, major field of study, or source of funding.
- Changes in your degree-completion date
- Changes in your degree-level (ex. Bachelors to Masters)
- Intent to transfer to another school

Prior permission from *OIS* is needed for the following:

- Dropping ALL courses as well as carrying or dropping BELOW minimum credit hours
- Employment on or off-campus
- Registering for more than one ONLINE course per term (F-visa only)
- Endorsing I-20 or DS-2019 for re-entry into the USA

Failure to report may result in the termination of your SEVIS record and even arrest and deportation. If you have questions or concerns, contact the *OIS* at 487-3116, not your instructor.

**8. Extra Credit:** The professor reserves the right to rule on extra credit. Extra credit opportunities include: on campus women-oriented speakers and events, getting a physical, getting your blood-pressure and cholesterol checked, donating blood, getting your bone marrow tested, and volunteering. You must show proof in order to receive credit. You can receive 1 point for each extra credit assignment and can receive a **total of 5 points in extra credit**. This will affect your final score and will benefit you the most if your final score teeters between two grades. Additional criteria may apply. There may also be a list of films and television shows (on Canvas) that you can view in order to receive extra credit.

\*Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and/or course assignments and any other aspect of the course.

## **EMU Writing Support**

The **University Writing Center** (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of **10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays**. The UWC opens for the Fall 2015 semester on **Monday, September 14** and will close on **Monday, December 14**. Students are encouraged to come to the UWC at any stage of the writing process.

The UWC also has several satellite locations across campus (in Owen, Marshall, Pray-Harrold, and Mark Jefferson). These satellites provide drop-in writing support to students in various colleges and programs. **Satellite locations and hours can be found on the UWC web site:** <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.

UWC writing consultants also work in the **Academic Projects Center** (116 Halle Library), which offers drop-in consulting for students on writing, research, and technology-related issues. The APC is open

**11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays**. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>.

Students seeking writing support at any location of the University Writing Center should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation.

## **General Education Outcomes:**

In **Humanities** courses, students will:

- Recognize how the humanities cultivate aesthetic appreciation, imagination, and empathic understanding of others.
- Demonstrate basic competency in reading and understanding literary, philosophical, or religious works both in their original historical context and as they inform debate and dialogue today.
- Analyze and write about literary, philosophical, or religious works.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the history of literary works, or religious or philosophical ideas.
- Become familiar with the discursive practices particular to the study of the humanities.
- Begin to recognize how society influences humanistic thought and how the humanities transform society.
- Become practiced in the interpretation and generation of ideas.