

## **SEMINAR ON RACE/ETHNICITY AND RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES (sample – advanced undergraduate or graduate course)**

Term: Fall 2015  
Time: Thursdays 1pm – 4pm  
Location: TBA  
Instructor: Samuel L. Perry  
Office hours: XXX  
Office: XXX  
Contact: samperry@uchicago.edu

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will focus on the scientific study of how race and ethnic issues influence and are influenced by religion. The course will focus upon this race and religion relationship within the context of the United States. We will begin with a historical and theoretical examination of religion and race/ethnic relations. This will lead us to examining how various racial interests have used religious concepts to legitimate their racial beliefs. We will examine empirical evidence of the ways religion can influence racial issues such as racism, discrimination and stratification. We will then look at the different religious traditions of various racial and ethnic groups in America. Lastly, we will consider the phenomenon of multiracial faith communities and their potential impact in our society. This is a seminar course will be discussion-based. It assumes previous course work in both the social sciences and religion.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Attendance, Participation, & Preparedness (30%)**

Full participation is essential to your getting the most out of the readings, class sessions, and assignments. Class participation will be weighted heavily and will be based on my subjective evaluation of whether you consistently come to class, contribute to the class discussions, and demonstrate that you have read and thought about the materials. The impetus will be on you to convince me of these things.

#### **Weekly Reflection Papers (30%)**

You will submit 1 page (double-spaced) papers at the beginning of class each week in which you reflect on the readings for that day. These papers should be more than a mere summary, but should also include critique and/or extension of the authors' arguments.

#### **Leading Course Discussion (10%)**

Students will be required to lead course discussion at least once during the semester. I will pass around a sign-up sheet for you to choose the date/topic on which you wish to lead. This will be first come, first served.

#### **Final Term Paper (30%)**

Students will be required to write a final term paper on a topic of their choice related to race/ethnicity and religion in the United States. This can be an empirical analysis using primary or secondary data, or it can be a systematic (and thorough) review of the literature on a particular topic pertaining to race/ethnicity and religion.



## GRADING

Attendance, Participation, & Preparedness = 30%  
Weekly Reflection Papers = 30%  
Leading Course Discussion = 10%  
Final Term Paper = 30%  
Total = 100%

## COURSE MATERIALS

The course is reading intensive and there is obviously a good deal of required books here. Nevertheless, most of these books can be found on Amazon for a few dollars. They will also be on reserve in the library.

- James Cone. 1997. *God of the Oppressed*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- Kelly Brown Douglas. 1999. *Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective*. Orbis.
- Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith. 2000. *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Robert J. Priest and Alvaro Nieves. 2007. *This Side of Heaven: Race, Ethnicity, and Christian Faith*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mark Noll. 2008. *God and Race in American Politics: A Short History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Korie Edwards. 2008. *The Elusive Dream: The Power of Race in Interracial Churches*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Carolyn Chen and Russell Jueng (eds.). 2012. *Sustaining Faith Traditions: Race, Ethnicity, and Religion among the Latino and Asian American Second Generation*. New York: NYU Press.
- Carolyn Chen. 2008. *Getting Saved in America: Taiwanese Immigration and Religious Experience*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Christopher Bail. 2014. *Terrified: How Anti-Muslim Fringe Organizations Became Mainstream*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Various articles and selected chapters from sources outside of these books can be found online or through the course website where I will post them.

## READINGS AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

### Week 1 Introduction and Foundational Considerations

- Read:** Cone, chapter 3
- Read:** Emerson and Smith, Introduction
- Read:** Priest and Nieves, Introduction through chapter 3

### Week 2 Historical Considerations

- Read:** Noll, chapters 1-3
- Read:** Emerson and Smith, pp. 5-50.

### Week 3 Historical Considerations Cont'd.

- Read:** Lien and Carnes. "The Religious Demography of Asian American Boundary Crossing."
- Read:** Chen, chapter 1
- Read:** Noll, chapters 4-Theological Conclusion

### Week 4 Religion and Race Relations: Theoretical Considerations

- Read:** Allport. 1954. *The Nature of Prejudice* (selections).
- Read:** Hall et al. 2010. "Why Don't We Practice What We Preach? A Meta-Analytic Review of Religious Racism." *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 14(1):126-139.

### Week 5 Religion and Contemporary Race Relations

- Read:** Emerson and Smith, pp. 69-172
- Skim:** Emerson, Smith, and Sikkink. 1999. "Equal in Christ, but Not in the World: White Conservative Protestants and Explanations of Black-White Inequality." *Social Problems* 46(3):398-417.
- Read:** Tranby and Hartman. 2008. "Critical Whiteness Theories and the Evangelical 'Race Problem': Extending Emerson and Smith's Divided by Faith." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 47(3):341-359.
- Read:** Edgell and Tranby. 2007. "Religious Influences on Understandings of Racial Inequality in the United States." *Social Problems* 54(2):263-288.
- Read:** McDaniel et al. 2010. "Divine Boundaries: How Religion Shapes Citizens Attitudes toward Immigrants." *American Politics Research* 39(1):205-233.

### Week 6 Religion and Contemporary Race Relations

- Read:** Bail (whole book)

### Week 7 The African American Religious Experience

- Read:** Raboteau. 2004. *Slave Religion* (selections)  
**Read:** Mays and Nicholson. 1993. *The Negro's Church* (selections).  
**Read:** DuBois. 1953/1996. *The Souls of Black Folk* (selections).  
**Read:** Frazier. 1964. *The Negro Church in America* (selections).

### Week 8 The African American Religious Experience

- Read:** Douglas (whole book)  
**Read:** Cone, chapters 1, 2, 5, and 8  
**Read:** Pinn. 2002. *The Black Church in the Post-Civil Rights Era* (selections).

### Week 9 The African American Religious Experience

- Read:** Lincoln and Mamiya. 1990. *The Black Church in the African American Experience* (selections).  
**Read:** Nelson. 2005. *Every Time I Feel The Spirit: Religious Experience and in an African American Church* (selections).  
**Read:** Edwards. 2009. "Race, Religion, and Worship: Are Contemporary African-American Worship Practices Distinct?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(1):30-52.  
**Read:** Barnes. 2014. "The Black Church Revisited: Toward a New Millennium DuBoisian Mode of Inquiry." *Sociology of Religion* (online first).

### Week 10 Religion and Immigrant Faith

- Read:** Chen (whole book after chapter 1)

### Week 11 Religion and Immigrant Faith, cont'd.

- Read:** Chen and Jeung, chapters 1-5  
**Read:** Priest and Nieves, chapters 15 and 16

### Week 12 Religion and Immigrant Faith, cont'd.

- Read:** Chen and Jeung, chapters 7, 9, 10-12

### Week 13 Multiracial/ethnic Faith Communities: Goals and Aspirations

- Read:** Garces-Foley. 2007. *Crossing the Ethnic Divide: The Multiethnic Church on a Mission* (selections).  
**Read:** DeYoung et al. 2003. *United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race* (selections).  
**Read:** Marti, "Affinity, Identity, and Transcendence: The Experience of Religious Racial Integration in Diverse Congregations." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(1):53-68.  
**Read:** Emerson. 2006. *People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations in the United States* (selections).

### Week 14 Multiracial/ethnic Faith Communities: Challenges

**Read:** Lichterman et al. 2009. "Race Bridging For Christ: Conservative Christians and Black-White Relations in Community Life."

**Read:** Priest and Nieves, chapters 9 and 17

**Read:** Christerson, et al. 2005. *Against All Odds: The Struggle for Racial Integration in Religious Organizations* (selections).

**Read:** Marti. 2010. "The Religious Racial Integration of African Americans into Diverse Churches." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(2):201-217.

**Read:** Pitt. 2010. "Fear of a Black Pulpit? Real Racial Transcendence Versus Cultural Assimilation in Multiracial Churches." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(2):218-223.

**Read:** Marti. 2010. "When Does Religious Racial Integration 'Count'? A Caution About Seeking Ideal Ethnographic Cases." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(2):224-230.

### Week 15 Multiracial/ethnic Faith Communities: Critiques and Avenues for Future Research

**Read:** Edwards (whole book)

**Read:** Edwards, et al. 2013. "Race, Religious Organizations, and Integration." *Annual Review of Sociology* 39:211-228.

### Week 16

Final Term Paper Due