HISTORY AND THEOLOGY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH
Reformed Theological Seminary

HT6225 — Fall Term, 2020
Instructor: Carl F. Ellis, Jr.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the historical development of the church in the African American experience — its theology, ministry and cultural influence. The emergence of the church is seen in light of the struggle for freedom within the larger quest for dignity, identity and significance. Included in this course is a look at some possibilities for the future shape of the church.

CLASS SESSIONS

September 11-12
Friday 4:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm

COURSE OBJECTIVES — At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

a. Identify the development stages of the African American church.
b. Articulate how these stages relate to the main phases of the African American experience.
c. Use new theological tools for understanding the mission and ministry of the African American church.
d. Explain the relationship between cultural/historical context and the development of theology.
e. Identify the basic models of today’s African American church.
f. Articulate the challenges faced by the church in contemporary society.
g. Discuss implications of Reformed theology from the perspective of the sub-dominant culture.
h. Develop a theology of ministry that better reflects biblical standards.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Frazier, E. Franklin & Lincoln, C. Eric, *THE NEGRO CHURCH IN AMERICA / THE BLACK CHURCH SINCE FRAZIER*

2. Ellis, Carl F., *FREE AT LAST?: The Gospel in the African American Experience*

3. Ellis, Carl F., *GOING GLOBAL: Beyond the Boundaries*  
   (This will be available on Canvas)

4. Lincoln, C. Eric & Mamiya, Lawrence H., *THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE*

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOKS

1. Keener, Craig S. & Usry, Glenn, *BLACK MAN'S RELIGION*

2. Keener, Craig S. & Usry, Glenn, *DEFENDING BLACK FAITH*

REQUIRED READING

1. The Negro Church in America / The Black Church since Frazier, pp 7-203

2. Free At Last, *pp. 13-137, 172-207*

3. Going Global, *pp. 1-86*

4. Lincoln & Mamiya, *pp. 1-195*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Complete all reading assignments by November 1, 2020.**

2. Consistent class attendance and participation in class discussions.

3. Complete a final exam by **November 8, 2020.**

   Please put your name on the document itself.

5. **Guidelines for integration papers**
   a. **CREATIVITY;** Evidence of personal insight into the content — 25%
   b. **CLARITY;** Thinking and expression of thought clearly communicated — 25%
   c. **CONCEPTUALIZATION;** Analytical skills evident — 25%
   d. **CONTRIBUTION;** Practical and usable in ministry — 25%
STUDENT EVALUATION

1. Reading accounts for 20% of the final grade.
   Students will report on the percentage of reading they have completed over the course of the semester on the final exam. If the student does not report the percentage of the reading they have completed, it will be assumed that they have not completed any of it.

2. The final exam accounts for 40% of the final grade.
   Students will submit the final exam via Canvas

3. The integration paper accounts for 40% of the final grade.
   The integration paper is to be loaded into Canvas.

If you run into difficulty meeting the deadlines, please email or call me:

(423) 280-4183 (cell)