

# BLACK RELIGIOUS DENVER

■ Spring 2020 ■ 24 APRIL 2020 ~ 13.00-17.00P / 25 APRIL 2020 ~ 08.00A-12.00P ■ Iliff School of Theology

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT ON TUESDAYS

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course invites students to think about the social, cultural, and religious specificity of Black Denver. Students are introduced to key contemporary figures and historic places through visits and interviews. Students have an opportunity to learn critical analysis and qualitative research skills.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To begin learning the Black cultural spaces of Denver, and especially Black religious cultures of Denver.
2. To hone observational and research skills. To develop qualitative research skills in general.
3. To identify, articulate, and analyze the strengths and weaknesses, challenges and success of Black religious spaces in Denver from both internal perspectives and the perspectives of outside of observers.
4. For students who are not local to Denver, to learn about other regions in comparative analysis with Black religious Denver.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **COMPLETION OF READING ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO THE FIRST CLASS MEETING OF THE WEEK FOR WHICH THE READINGS ARE ASSIGNED – INCLUDING READING THE WEEK’S DISCUSSANT’S RESPONSE PAPER.**
- **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND “ATTENDANCE” (I.E. WEEKLY LECTURE VIEWING AND RESPONSE) FOR THE CLASS SESSIONS.**
- **SITE VISITS.** Observation Log on five (5) visits.
- **FINAL PRESENTATION ON ONE SITE.**
- **RESPONSE PAPERS.** You are responsible for writing response papers every week with the exception of the first week of class and the last week of class (2 page, doubled-spaced, 12-point font). These response papers should be posted on *Canvas* a full 24-hours *prior* to the start of the class session to which they apply.

## EVALUATION

- You will be graded according to Iliff School of Theology standards on a letter grading scale. For more information see: [www.iliff.edu](http://www.iliff.edu)
- Your grade will be determined as follows:
  - Preparedness, Participation, Attendance: 20%
  - Observation Log – Students may visit religious spaces local to them; during journey days, students will visit Denver spaces: 20%
  - Response Papers: 5% each
  - Final Presentation: 20%

## OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

1. **DO NOT plagiarize!** If you have any questions about whether or not what you are doing is plagiarism, ask. NO ASSIGNMENTS FOUND TO REFLECT COMPROMISED ACADEMIC INTEGRITY WILL RECEIVE ANY CREDIT.
2. If you are unable to complete the assignments due to physical or mental health reasons, please notify me prior to the due date for the assignment.
3. Pick a form of citation. Indicate which form you will use. Use it consistently.
4. All course assignments should be emailed the instructor by the designated time at [jleath@iliff.edu](mailto:jleath@iliff.edu).
5. Please save and submit your work for assignments in the following format:
  - a. [last-name].[assignment-name].morrison
  - b. e.g. leath.discussant.morrison or leath.response1.morrison
6. I am glad to meet to discuss your written work. I will not be able to review full drafts of written assignments.

## COURSE READINGS

### Black Denver

#### Week 1

*Something Within: Religion in African-American Political Activism*, Frederick Harris

#### Week 2

*Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*, John W. Creswell (Parts 1-3)

### Churches

#### Week 3

*The Philadelphia Negro*, W.E.B. Du Bois (Selections)  
*Five Points Neighborhood of Denver*, L. Mauck

#### Week 4

*The Philadelphia Negro*, W.E.B. Du Bois (Selections)  
*African Americans of Denver*, R. Stephens

### Civic Organizations & Alliances

#### Week 5

*On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*, A'Lelia Bundles

#### Week 6

*The Bluest Eye*, T. Morrison

### Mosques, Mystics & Mystiques

#### Week 7

*Remnants*, R. Harding (Part 1)

#### Week 8

*Remnants*, R. Harding (Part 2)

### Death & Dying

#### Week 9 – Visiting Pipkin Braswell & Taylor

Survival and Liberation: Pastoral Theology in African American Context, C. Watkins Ali

#### Week 10 – Final Presentations