RECU 70970/80970 Special Topics in Religion and Culture -
The Church, the Bible, and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic
Three Semester Hours

Instructor: Cheryl B. Anderson, Professor of Old Testament, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Prerequisites: For RECU 70970 – NETE 60003 or HEBI 60003
For RECU 80970 – Admission to the D.Min. Program

Description of Content:
The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been with us for over three decades and great strides have been made in the medical treatment of the disease. However, infections continue to occur even though infections can be prevented. Of these new infections, women are disproportionately affected, globally, and, in the United States, the African American population is disproportionately affected. Throughout these decades, Christian churches have had a variety of responses to the pandemic but, overall, they have not been able to deal effectively with HIV prevention. This course will cover the nature of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the challenges that the disease raises for churches, and how the Bible is used and can be used to meet those challenges.

Class Procedures:
Lectures, discussion, student presentations, in-class small group work, and watching relevant movies/video clips

Requirements for Masters degree students:
1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. 4 written assignments on each day’s readings (due during week of intensive)
3. 1 analytical paper on a denominational policy on HIV and AIDS
4. 1 reflection paper on 2 of the movie/video resources used in class
   (#3 and #4 are due the week after the course ends)

Requirements for DMin students:
1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. 4 written assignments on each day’s readings (due week of intensive)
3. Development of a two-part workshop series for adults on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the Church (due the week after the course ends)
Texts:


Ted A. Smith, editor, *Frequently Asked Questions About Sexuality, the Bible and the Church*, available online for free at www.covnetpres.org/resources/faq

**Grading Procedures for Masters degree students:**
4 papers on readings (4-5 pages each, 20% each) = 80%
1 paper on denominational policy (2-3 pages) = 10%
1 paper on 2 of the movies/videos shown during the class (2-3 pages) = 10%

**Grading Procedures for DMin students:**
4 papers on readings (4-5 pages each, 20% each) = 80%
1 two-part series for adults on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the Church = 20%