

**RECU 70003: Introduction to Black Church Traditions and Culture**  
3 Semester Hours

**Instructor:** Dr. Oluwatomisin Oredein ([o.oredein@tcu.edu](mailto:o.oredein@tcu.edu))

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description of Content**

This course aims to familiarize students with the origins, narrative arc, topical priorities, and past and current articulations of African American religious Christian life in the United States. This course challenges students to comparatively identify the cultural patterns and ideas within the practices of what is known as the Black Church that coincide and differ from their own faith contexts.

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Describe, name, and analyze some of the social realities, cultural ideas, themes, practices, and concerns of the Black church in the U.S.
- Understand and articulate how the events and concerns of Black life are embedded within the theological and ethical life of the Christian church in the U.S., the Christian church on a global scale, and U.S. life
- Recognize and analyze the impact of marginalized communities and their religious and thought life to the life and voice of majority Christian contexts

**Class Procedures**

Class will consist of lectures, discussions, and class presentations.

**Requirements:**

1. Full presence and contributive participation in class sessions (including responses)
2. Midterm assignment
3. Class presentation
4. Presentation Individual paper

**Texts**

1. Katie Cannon and Anthony Pinn, *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). ISBN: 9780190917845. **(available online)**
2. Kelly Brown Douglass, *Sexuality and the Black Church* (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1999). ISBN: 9781570752421.
3. Chanequa Walker-Barnes, *I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2019). ISBN: 9780802877208.
4. Chanequa Walker-Barnes, *Too Heavy a Yoke: Black Women and the Burden of Strength* (Eugene: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2014). ISBN: 9781620320662.

Access to TCU Online is required to access the remainder of the readings. This platform as well as email will be my main means of communication with everyone in the course. Please be in touch with the appropriate persons should there be a problem of access.