Course Description:

This is a lecture-seminar course. It will examine the nature of religion in the lives of humans, within the framework of culture, and as a pervasive social institution. The course will focus on the special case of the intensive and involved character of religion in the history and the lives of Afro-Americans. These special uses of religion create special problems. We will analyze those problems.

The course is open to all students and it requires no special background or preparation. There will be two examinations and two short written assignments. Class participation and attendance are required.

Required Texts:

1. THE BLACK CHURCH IN AMERICA BY C.E. LINCOLN & L. MAMIYA.
2. COMMUNITY IN A BLACK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY BY M.D. WILLIAMS.
3. THE HUMAN DILEMMA BY M.D. WILLIAMS.

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce the subject of religion as a social institution, as a pervasive component of culture, and as a contemporary adjustment and adaptation to peculiar social problems.
2. Demonstrate how an anthropological analysis can be used to understand religion in contemporary society.
3. Develop skills in critical thinking and analysis.
4. Present the relationship between culture, institutions, religion, subculture, and the nature of man (humans).
5. Enable students to understand the religious institutions of humans generally and Afro-American specifically.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Attendance
2. Class Participation
3. Midterm
4. Final
5. Two Written Assignments
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Calendar:

September:
14 ORIENTATION
21 THE NATURE OF RELIGION
28 THE AFRICAN CONNECTION

Readings:
Lincoln, Chapters 1 AND 9
Lincoln, Chapters 2,3,4

October:
5 SLAVE RELIGION: THE
INVISIBLE INSTITUTION
12 FIRST REPORTS DUE
19 URBAN RELIGION: THE
NORTHERN MIGRATION
26 CRISIS IN RELIGION
AND COMMUNITY

Lincoln, Chapters 5,7,8
Lincoln, Chapters 6,11,12
Williams, Community
Williams, Dilemma

November:
2 SECOND REPORTS DUE
9 SECTS, CULTS, AND
DENOMINATIONS
23 FIELD RESEARCH IN
CONGREGATIONS
30 FIELD RESEARCH IN
CONGREGATIONS

Individ. Reading Assignments
Individ. Reading Assignments

December:
4 FIELD RESEARCH IN
CONGREGATIONS

Individ. Reading Assignments

Recommended Readings:

Banton, Michael (ed.)

Beidelman, T.O.

Durkheim, Emile

Faucett, Arthur Huff

Frazer, Sir James George
Frazier, E. Franklin and C. Eric Lincoln  

Gayraud, Wilmore S. (ed.)  

Hall, William T. et al  

Lanternari, Vittorio  

Leslie, C.M. (ed.)  

Lessa, W.A. and E.Z. Vogt (eds.)  

Lincoln, C. Eric  

Lincoln, C. Eric and Lawrence H. Mamiya  

Norbeck, Edward  

Nottingham, Elizabeth K.  

Raboteau, Albert J.  

Sernett, Milton C. (ed.)  

Smith, Huston  
Spindler, George and Louise
   New York: Falmer Press.

Washington, Joseph R., Jr.

Williams, Melvin D.

Yinger, J. Milton

Zaretsky, Irving I. and Cynthia Shambaugh