INSTRUCTOR
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COURSE INFORMATION
Course Semester: Spring 2018
Three (3) Semester hours
Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Drawing from the Black idiomatic expression “you actin’ womanish,”¹ novelist Alice Walker in her collection of essays, In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens: Womanist Prose (1983) penned the term “womanist” in efforts to name the distinctive political aims of Black women beyond a white feminist scope in the 1980s. From Walker’s four-part poetic framing, womanism birthed in religious studies as a critical approach to take seriously the lived experiences of Black women against multiple forces of oppression. This course engages the theoretical contributions of womanist scholarship of the 20th and 21st centuries to the discipline(s) of theology and ethics. The course explores womanist thought as a theo-ethical enterprise for dismantling multidimensional oppression at the critical crossways of identity and difference. Utilizing the core tenets of womanist theological ethics, students will interrogate the moral virtue(s) of the body, human flourishing, ecology, faith, love, justice, hope, and redemption.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
1) To introduce the interreligious, spiritual, political, theological, and ethical dimensions of a womanist sacred worldview.
2) To mine the motherlode of primary womanist theological and ethical contributions from the 1980s to the present.
3) To investigate and employ research methods for constructive womanist theology and ethics including literary analysis, sociology of Black liberation, Black women's historiography, and Black popular culture.
4) To interpret, articulate, and construct original theo-ethical positions resource womanist theology and ethics.

CLASS PROCEDURES
Lectures, Readings, Class Participation, Analytic Paper, Final Presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

RECOMMENDED TEXTS (students do not need to purchase, but may engage these writings as reference sources for course content and discussion)


**FILMS**
Journey to Liberation: The Legacy of Womanist Theology. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjhtUGqFCWg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjhtUGqFCWg).

What Manner of Woman Is This? Documentary. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUlc6L1Z9-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUlc6L1Z9-k).

**GRADING PROCEDURES (70970-045) * **
Weekly Oral Participation (in class) 10%
Social Strata Inventory 10%
Diasporic Literary Journal 20%
Class Presentation 30%
Analytic Essay (12-15 pages) 30%

**GRADING PROCEDURES (80970-045)**
Weekly Oral Participation (in class) 10%
Social Strata Inventory 10%
Diasporic Literary Journal 20%
Class Presentation 30%
Constructive Theo-ethical Credo (15-18 pages) 30%

* Grading Procedures are subject to change. Final grading procedures are set forth on the first day of class with the syllabus.