Professor: Cheryl B. Anderson
Room 210
Monday 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Office: 323 Pfeiffer
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Course Objectives:

* Familiarization with the variety of biblical interpretation in the African American tradition and the continuing tensions within those same traditions

* Awareness that all biblical interpretation takes place in particular social locations and must be in dialogue with interpretations from other social locations

* Ability to critically analyze scholarly resources and evaluate their possible contribution to a particular racial/ethnic community

Required Texts:


NOTE: Additional readings not found in these books are available on the course Moodle site.

**Course expectations:**
- completion of reading assignments before each class
- active and informed participation in class sessions
- punctual and regular attendance at all class sessions

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. It is expected that you will give your full attention to the lectures and discussions in the class. To facilitate your engagement with the class, cellphones and earpieces must be turned off and put away, and your laptops should be used only for taking notes.

Our class discussions will supplement and integrate the readings rather than repeat that material. For this reason, missing a class damages the learning process. Consequently, two absences from a full class session will result in a substantial lowering of your grade and more absences than that will make it unlikely that the course can be successfully completed. Partial absences due to tardiness or early departures, among other things, will count towards missing a full class session. If you have to miss a class for any reason, please inform me in advance by telephone or email.

**Course Grading:**

Consistent and active participation in class discussions
(including summarizing and leading the class discussion on two readings)  
20%

Identify a social/economic issue associated with the African American community, research the parameters of the issue, describe perspectives of the black church, relevant biblical texts and propose possible solutions.  
20%

Brief Exegetical Assignment (2-3 pages and due April 29)  
20%
Choose a pericope from the Africana Bible or True to our Native Land and compare its treatment there to that in a variety of Conventional commentaries such as the Anchor Bible, NIB, Women’s Bible Commentary, etc.
Please inform professor of commentaries chosen in advance.

Analytical Paper (12-15 pages)  
(Due Monday, December 16)  
40%
An analytical paper can cover a particular topic covered in the class, a particular text (as interpreted in a given historical period or in the contemporary setting), or the work of one scholar. All assignments must be submitted to receive a final grade in the course. Furthermore, all assignments must be submitted on the date specified. Requests for extensions are strongly discouraged. Any extension granted for any assignment may result in the lowering of your final grade.

September 8 (Session 1)
Social Location: Part One

Butler, A Loving Home, Chapters 1-3


September 15 (Session 2)
Social Location: Part Two

Butler, A Loving Home, Chapters 4-7

Felder, Stony the Road, articles by Wimbush, Weems, Hoyt, and Myers

September 22 (Session 3)
Issues of Translation and Tensions in Pluralistic Contexts

Wil Gafney, “Hearing the Word-Translation Matters: A Fem/Womanist Exploration of Translation Theory and Practice for Proclamation in Worship,” in Text and Community

September 22 (Session 3 cont’)


September 29 (Session 4)
The Exodus Motif


October 6 (Session 5)
Perspectives on Old Testament Texts

Reports due on a social or economic issue facing the African American community

John W. Waters, “Who was Hagar,” in Stony the Road.

October 6 (Session 5 con’t)


October 13 (Session 6)
More on Old Testament Texts


Cheryl B. Anderson, “Reflections in an Interethnic/racial Era on Interethnic/racial Marriage in Ezra,” in Fernando Sergovia, Randall Bailey, and Benny Liew, eds., They Were All Together in One Place?: Toward Minority Criticism (Semeia Studies).

October 20 (Session 7)
Issue: Race and Ethnicity

Felder, *Stony the Road*, articles by Felder, Copher, and Bailey


October 20 (Session 7 con’t)


October 27 (Session 8)
Issue: Sexuality

November 3 (Session 9)
Issue: Sexuality
Pinn and Hopkins, eds., Loving the Body, articles by Brown, Smith, Butler, Griffin, Anderson, Pollard and Brown Douglas


November 10 (Session 10)
Issue: The HIV/AIDS Pandemic
November 17 (Session 11)
Issue: Slavery


December 1 (Session 12)
Issue: Gender, the Household Codes, and the book of Revelation


December 1 (Session 12 con’t)
Resources: Demetrius Williams, An End To This Strife: The Politics of Gender in African American Churches (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004), Keri Day, Unfinished Business: Black Women, the Black Church, the Struggle to Thrive in America (Orbis Books, 2012), and Sharon Ellis Davis, Battered African American Women: A Study of Gender Entrapment (Edwin Mellen, 2014).

December 8 (Session 13)

Comparative exegetical assignments are due and to be discussed in class

Analytical Papers due December 16, 2014