

MF4333 Justice, Church, and Society
Rev. Samuel L. Feemster
3 Credits
Semester

DESCRIPTION:

This course will challenge students to bring the transformational potential of the biblical texts to bear on critical current justice context regarding the distribution of social benefits and penalties, the exercise of legitimate power, fairness, and balance, and honoring the rights or entitlements of people made in the image of God. In addition, students will critique religious behaviors congruent or incongruent with Biblical Justice by reflecting upon and contrasting what we love and what God loves.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY:

This course will further the student's search for Biblical Justice by examining the relationship between the Church, Society, and Biblical Justice. Students will reflect upon the Church's activity in America, particularly regarding its influence on the interpretation, apprehension, and application of Biblical Justice on American society, or the lack thereof.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Through participation in this course, students will:

- Develop an informed critique of the ongoing adverse impact of the separation of American society through de jure segregation.
- Articulate reasons why formation, as revealed in scriptures, leads to Biblical Justice and Christian Formation
- Demonstrate an understanding of God's Justice's transformative power and ways the Church must engage her duty to identify, dismantle, and uproot entrenched biased systems and structures.

COURSE FORMAT:

A semester-long hybrid course taught as a series of lectures and interactive discussions interspersed with virtual museum tours. Cohort students will continue to develop the group project initiated during EH3205 – In Search of Biblical Justice. Student assessment will include attendance, weekly assignments and reflections, group discussions, contributions to the group project, and a final paper.

REQUIRED READINGS for MF4333

Geronomus, Arline T., *Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in An Unjust Society* (Little, Brown Spark, NY, 2023)

Jones, Robert P. Jones, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* (Simon & Schuster, New York, NY, 2020)

Hart, Drew G.I., *Who Will Be A Witness? Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance.* (Herald Press, Harrisonburg, VA, 2020)

McGhee, Heather, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* (One World, NY., 2021)

Rothstein, Richard, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America,* (Liveright Publishing Corporation, New York, NY, 2017)

Tisby, Jamar, *The Color of Compromise: The Truth About The American Church's Complicity in Racism* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Mi, 2019)

SUGGESTED READING

Cone, James H., *Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody* (Orbis Press, Maryknoll, NY., 2021)

Gardner, Tyshawn, *Sacred Anthropology: Prophetic Radicalism for Pulpit and Pew* (Fortress Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2022)

Gilliard, Dominique Dubois, *Subversive Witness: Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege* (Zondervan Reflective, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2021)

Harink, Douglas, *Resurrecting Justice: Reading Romans for the Life of the World* (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill., 2020)

Hendricks, Obery M. Jr., *Christians Against Christianity: How Right-Wing Evangelicals Are Destroying our Nation and Our Faith* (Beacon Press, Boston, Mass., 2021)

Powery, Emerson B, and Sadler, Rodney S. Jr., *The Genesis of Liberation (Biblical Interpretations in the Antebellum Narratives of the Enslaved)* (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 2016)

Powery, Luke A., *Becoming Human: The Holy Spirit and the Rhetoric of Race* (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 2022)

Thurman, Howard, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon Press, Boston Mass. 1976)

Westfall, Cynthia. L., and Dyer, Bryan, R., EDS, *The Bible and Social Justice: Old Testament and New Testament Foundations for the Church's Urgent Call* (Pickwick Publications, Eugene, Or., 2015)

Wilkerson, Isabel, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (Random House, New York, 2020).

PREREQUISITES: EH3205 (*For Cohort Students*)

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM:

This course meets a core curriculum requirement for the Masters of Christian Leadership (MCL), the Graduate Certificate in Leadership Studies, congregation and public life tracks, and the Graduate Certificate in Justice Formation.

This ECD may be amended at any time by the professor.