

TR552

20th Century Moral Thinkers

United Theological Seminary

Professor Alika P. Galloway

Fall 2010

Course Description

This course is an examination of Womanist ethics, art, literature, music and folk wisdom. It is designed to facilitate a deeper understanding of how these elements, shape, reflect and undergird the Womanist Christian ethic of the African Diaspora residing in the United States of America. In particular we will be utilizing the ethical constructs of Katie Geneva Canon as our primary source of ethical discourse and construct.

Course Organization

TR552 will utilize a discussion, reflection and application process derived from the reading, class lectures, discussion and the viewing of art and film. The teaching methodology will encompass and begin with the aesthetic, move to analysis and give primary focus to considering socio-ethical issues for reshaping communities.

Course Expectations

1. Each class gathering will be an opportunity to share your understanding of the course matter and receive feedback from course members.
2. Each person will have completed the reading and digested the material in a manner that will allow each participant to share their understanding and questions honestly, spontaneously, critically, courageously with intellectual curiosity and spiritual hunger.
3. Each person will complete a series of five page reflection papers utilizing the prescribed format.

4. A final project will be required and will consist of an opportunity for each class member to demonstrate his or her critical understanding, synthesis and understanding of the course material. The project must demonstrate an ability to formulate an ethic for the twenty first century utilizing womanist ethical paradigms and practices.

Grading

Final Grades will be determined by:

1. Class participation and attendance
2. Completion of all the reading and the ability to demonstrate competency through the reflection papers and subsequent dialogue
3. Successful completion of the final project

Required Text

Canon, Katie G. *Katie's Canon*. New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 1995

Canon, Katie G. *Black Womanist Ethics*: Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998

Copeland, Shawn. *Enfleshing Freedom*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010

Grant, Jacqueline. *White Women's Christ and Black Women's Jesus* . Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989

Nobles, Wade W. *Seeking the Sakehu* . Chicago: Third World Press, 2006

Ross, Rosetta E. *Witnessing and Testifying – Black Women, Religion and Civil Rights* . Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1976

Zook, Kristal B. *Back Women's Lives - Stories of Power and Pain*. New York: Nation Press, 2006

Additional Resources

Canon, Katie G. *Semeia 47*.: Atlanta: The Society of Biblical Literature, 1989

Canon, Katie G. *Teaching Preaching* : New York: Continuum, 2002

Canon, Katie G. *Inheriting Our Mothers Gardens* :Louisville: Westminster Press, 1988

Floyd-Thomas, Stacey *Mining the Motherlode* : Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2006

Hopkins, Dwight N. *Down, Up, and Over Slave Religion ad Black Theology* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2000

Course Outline

1. 9/14
 - a. Introductions: Forming A Womanist Community – Telling Our Stories
Sharing Our Lives
2. 9/21
 - a. Womanist Ethics
 1. Womanist Ethics an introduction
 2. Chapter VII - *White Woman's Christ Black Women's Jesus*:
Jacqueline Grant
 3. "The Color Purple"
3. 9/28 **
 - a. Worship at an African American Congregation of your choice, or
 - b. Ride the # 5 or #19 City Bus in the Hawthorne / Jordan Community
 1. **Enfleshing Freedom* M.Shawn Copeland
4. 10/5
 - a. Slave Ideology and Biblical Interpretation
 1. *Katie's Cannon* – Chpts.1-5
 2. "Beloved"

5. 10/12

a. The Role of Jesus in the Womanist Community

1. *Katie's Cannon* – Chpts.8-13
2. **Jesus and the Disinherited* Howard Thurman
3. Reflection Paper #1

6. 10/19

a. Hagar's Daughters – Womanist Ways of Being in the World

1. **Seeking the Sakhu* - pgs. 237 – 339
2. **The Quilts of Gees Bend*
3. “Daughters of the Dust”

7. 10/26 – Reading Week

8. 11/2

Hagar's Daughters Cont.

1. Reflection Paper #2

9. 11/9 & 11/16

a. Black Women's Lives: Stories of Power and Pain

1. **Black Women's Lives - Stories of Power and Pain*
2. “Lackawanna Blues”
3. Reflection Paper #3

10. 11/23

a. Zora

1. *Black Womanist Ethics* pgs. 75 – 175

2. “Zora”
3. “Zora’s Roots”

11.11/30 & 12/7

a. Witnessing and Testifying : Black Women, Religion and Civil Rights

1. *Witnessing and Testifying : Black Women, Religion and Civil Rights*
2. **I Dream A World*
3. “The Secret Lives of Bees”
4. Reflection Paper #4

12.12/14-Final Projects Presentations

a. Final Class Projects

*Reserved material

**Either of these opportunities must be reflected in your final project