

## **Multireligious Core Intensive: Amidst the Blessing of Our Ancestors**

IDS-1400

3 Units

Starr King School for the Ministry – Graduate Theological Union

August 2019

### **Instructor Information:**

Taya Mâ Shere

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Office Hours by Appointment

### **Meeting Dates and Times:**

Monday August 26 through Friday August 30, 2019

10 am - 6 pm / Fireside Room @ SKSM

### **Course Description:**

*Multireligious Intensive: Amidst the Blessing of the Ancestors* weaves teachings on organic multireligiosity from Shaykh Ibrahim Baba / Dr. Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajaje with practices of ancestral engagement. Organic multireligiosity “interrupts practices of considering religions as monolithic, rigidly-separated traditions in conflict with one another [and] understands them as having complex and constantly-morphing relationships...” (Ibrahim Baba). This intensive focuses on multireligiosity in personal practice, in spiritual leadership, and toward countering oppression and cultural (mis)appropriation. This course includes conceptual exploration and embodied practice with work in ancestral lineage engagement, reverence and healing. Students complete readings and watch / listen to recordings and submit a reflection post prior to the intensive, and complete a second reflection paper after the intensive. Required for MDiv and MASC degrees.

### **Learning Objectives - During this course, students will:**

Engage Ibrahim Baba’s teachings on organic multireligiosity.

Be exposed to multireligious theory and practice

Consider distinctions between multireligious practice and cultural (mis)appropriation.

Explore concepts, themes and teachings on ancestor reverence and engagement

Inquire into their own ancestral lineages, working with exercises in the Ancestral Medicine Model

**Learning Outcomes - At the conclusion of this course, students will have:**

A nuanced understanding of Ibrahim Baba's teachings on organic multireligiosity.

Embodied experience of multi-religious practice.

An understanding of distinctions between multi-religious practice and cultural appropriation.

Exposure to concepts of of ancestral engagement, reverence and healing.

A greater awareness of their own ancestral lineages.

Direct experience of working with ancestral lineage healing through the Ancestral Medicine model.

**Course Policies:**

Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course, excepting special arrangements agreed upon in advance of the course with the course instructor.

**Course Assignments:**

Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of class including readings, discussion and exercises.

**Pre-class assignments:**

**Submit a 3 paragraph introductory post** in the Moodle forum on your relationship with multireligiosity, your relationship with your ancestors / ancestral engagement, and your best hopes and intentions for this course. Feel welcome to include an optional fourth paragraph sharing how you most hope to feel during this class, and with any concerns you have about our work / approaching this material. Publish your post by August 12, 2019. We expect that you will have read each other's posts by the start of the course.

**Watch "Homily delivered by Professor Dr. Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajajé"** (Ibrahim baba), Provost and Professor of Cultural Studies and

Islamic Studies, Starr King School for the Ministry and guest faculty in Mystical Islam at The Chaplaincy Institute at ChI's Ordination Ceremony and Celebration on September 15, 2015. 23 minutes. Find this video — and more talks by Dr. Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajajé — at <https://www.ibrahimbaba.org/video/>.

**Read in full** *The Ibrahim Baba Reader in Organic Multireligiosity* (compiled by Taya Mâ) <http://bit.ly/IbrahimBabaReader>

**Listen to two Bespoken Bones podcasts** - any two episodes you wish! Use notecards to write down a quote, concept, or practice that you heard that relates to ancestral engagement. Please write 3 - 5 notecards per podcast and bring them to class, we'll be working with them during one of our sessions.

**Read pages 21 - 87 & pages 201 - 254** of *Ancestral Medicine: Rituals for Personal and Family Healing* by Daniel Foor. (Exercises optional.)

**Read in full** “Cornrows, Kwanzaa, and Confusion: The Dilemma of Cultural Racism and Misappropriation” article by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley. <https://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/misappropriation/37852.shtml>

**Read pages 1-51** from *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* by Adrienne Maree Brown.

**Please bring to the first day of class:**

- \*An object that represents something about multi-religiosity to you
- \*Bring natural items - seeds, grain, plant material, fruits, spices or some other perishable / natural offerings - for the ancestor altar
- \*Bring notecards from Bespoken Bones podcast

**Post-class:**

Students submit their culminating reflection paper, 3-4 pages in length, by September 10, 2019

**Grading:**

Students are graded based on a combination of class participation - full participation expected unless agreed upon with the instructor in advance of the course - and completion of all assignments SKSM is on a Pass / Fail system - students must request letter grades if desired.

### **Required Texts & Recordings:**

*The Ibrahim Baba Reader in Organic Multireligiosity*, compiled by Taya Mâ, <http://bit.ly/IbrahimBabaReader>.

“Homily delivered by Professor Dr. Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajajé” (Ibrahim baba), Provost and Professor of Cultural Studies and Islamic Studies, Starr King School for the Ministry and guest faculty in Mystical Islam at The Chaplaincy Institute at ChI's Ordination Ceremony and Celebration. September 15, 2015. 23 minutes. Find this video — and more talks by Dr. Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajajé — at <https://www.ibrahimbaba.org/video/>. (Direct video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8P7E9Vhy4w&feature=youtu.be>).

Two episodes (student's choice) of the podcast *Bespoken Bones* ([www.bespoken.com](http://www.bespoken.com)).

*Ancestral Medicine: Rituals for Personal and Family Healing* by Daniel Foor ISBN: 9781591432692 \$20 Pages 21 - 87 & 201 - 254.

“Cornrows, Kwanzaa, and Confusion: The Dilemma of Cultural Racism and Misappropriation” article by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley. <https://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/misappropriation/37852.shtml>

*Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* by Adrienne Maree Brown. AK Press, 2017. ISBN: 9781849352604. \$13

### **Course Schedule:**

#### **Monday August 26, 2019**

Welcome / Intention-Setting / Introduction to Multi-Religiosity  
Introduction to Ancestor Engagement

**Tuesday August 27, 2019**

Multireligiosity in Personal Practice  
Ancestral Lineage Assessment

**Wednesday August 28, 2019**

Toward countering oppression and cultural (mis)appropriation  
Connecting with Ancestral Support

**Thursday August 29, 2019**

Multireligious Spiritual Leadership  
Ancestral Futurism / Themes in Ancestral Engagement

**Friday August 30, 2019**

Pilgrimage to Ibrahim Baba  
Multi-Religious Completion Ritual

\*The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule and assigned readings to achieve course objectives.