

**Speaking the Truth to Change: Preaching in A Changing World
Spring 2023**

Please read all three texts prior to the first day of class as we will draw on concepts from all of them throughout the course.

Required Reading/Viewing:

Please review these texts before class. Additional videos or postings will be required between class sessions.

Otis Moss III: Blue Note Preaching in A Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in An Age of despair, Westminster John Knox Press. ISBN 13: 9780664261603, \$14.99. Available on DTL2.

Please purchase or obtain access to one of the InSpirit Series:

<https://www.uua.org/publications/skinnerhouse/inspirit>

Pew Research on the Changing World of Religion

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/modeling-the-future-of-religion-in-america/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/12/21/key-findings-from-the-global-religious-futures-project/>

Religion has been and continues to be a primary energizing force for white supremacy. This course will engage students with religious writers, literary figures, and public intellectuals who expose the religious underpinnings of white supremacy—from transcendentalist authors to Frederick Douglass to current scholars examining Christian Nationalism. A longer historic look-back at the alliance of Christianity with colonization and enslavement will also be relevant, including the violent racism at the Puritan roots of Unitarianism and Universalism, and the Christian religious symbolism of torture and humiliation that infuses modern lynchings with religious zeal. We will ask, What countering religious commitments and theological frameworks can redress white supremacy's virulence within religion? Identifying and constructing reparative theologies will be the culminating purpose of this course.

We will also draw from this text (required for the prerequisite class)

Smith, Christine Marie, *Preaching Justice: Ethnic and Cultural Perspectives* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock 2008). ISBN: 978-1606081426, \$19.62. Available on DTL2.