



Introduction to African Religions

EL 1400

Spring 2024

Required Texts

Cleveland, Christina. *God is a Black Woman*. New York, NY: Amistad, 2022. ISBN-10: 0062988786 Available on DTL2.

Boaz, Danielle. *Banning Black Gods: Law and Religion in the African Diaspora*. ISBN-13: 978-0270787689. \$34.95

University Press, PA: Penn University, 2022. ISBN-10: 0271094524 Available on DTL2.

Olupona, Jacob, *African Religions- A Very Short Introduction*. ISBN: 97801999790586 \$12.99

Stewart, Diane. *Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume 1*. Durham, NC: Duke Press University, 2022. ISBN-10: 1478014865 \$24.83

Suggested Reading:

Asante, Molefi Kete and Ama Mazama. *Encyclopedia of African Religion*. Los Angeles: SAFE, 2009. ISBN-10: 1412936365

Asante, Molefi Kete and Emeka Nwadiora. *Spear Masters: An Introduction to African Religion*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2007. ISBN-10: 0761835741 \$46.99

Betancourt, Sofia. *Ecowomanism at the Panama Canal: Black Women, Labor, and Environmental Ethics (Environment and Religion in Feminist-Womanist, Queer, and Indigenous Perspectives)*. Landham, MD: Lexington Books, 2022 ISBN-10: 1793641382 \$39.99 Available on DTL2.

Steward, Diane. *Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume 2*. Durham, NC: Duke Press University, 2022. ISBN-10: 1478014865 \$24.56 Available on DTL2.

Thompson, Robert Farris, *Flash of the Spirit*. New York, NY: Random House Publishing, 1983. ISBN-10: 0394723694. \$24.56

Course Schedule

List the topic and assigned readings -- both required as well as optional -- for each given class/week.

Class Date	Topics and Themes	Assignments
February 1 st	<p><i>What are African Religions?</i></p> <p>Required Readings: Jacob Olupona ~ African Religions, Preface</p> <p>Populi Video ~ Sunni Patterson, TED Talk “Wild Women”</p>	<p>Virtual Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centering in the Space• Review Syllabus• Creating Classroom Community

<p>February 8th</p>	<p><i>Myths and Cosmology</i></p> <p>Readings: Jacob Olupona ~ African Religions, Chapter 1</p> <p>Christena Cleveland ~ God is a Black Woman, Chapters 2 & 3</p> <p>Populi Zora Neale Hurston ~ Moses, the Man on the Mountain, Chapters 1, 2 & 3</p>	<p>WWE: February 6th at 11:59pm WPE: February 9th at 11:59pm</p>
<p>February 15th</p>	<p><i>Representations of Deities and Divinities</i></p> <p>Readings: Olupona, Jacob: African Religions, Chapter 2 Cleveland, Christena, God is a Black Woman, Chapters 9 & 10 Octavia Butler, Wild Seed, Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4</p>	<p>WWE-February 13th at 11:59pm WPE- February 16th at 11:59pm</p>
<p>February 22nd</p>	<p><i>Ancestors and Elders</i></p> <p>Readings: Jacob Olupona ~ African Religions, Chapter 3</p> <p>Populi Gloria Naylor ~ Mama's Day, Chapters 2 & 3 Octavia Butler ~ Mind of My Mind, Chapter 5 Movie "Daughters of the Dust" Video~ Ancestor Procession</p>	<p>WWE- February 20th at 11:59pm WPE- February 23rd at 11:59pm</p>
<p>February 29th</p>	<p><i>Divination and Oracles</i></p> <p>Readings: Jacob Olupona ~ African Religions, Chapter 5</p> <p>Populi Velma Love ~ Divining the Self-Mythic and Origins Chapter Chinua Acebe ~ Things Fall Apart, Chapter TBD</p>	<p>WWE- February 27th at 11:59pm WPE- March 1st at 11:59pm</p>

<p>March 7th</p>	<p><i>Rituals and Initiations</i></p> <p>Readings: Jacob Olupona ~ African Religions, Chapter 4</p> <p><u>Populi</u> John Mbiti ~ Introduction to African Religions, Chapter 2 Video- Sunni Patterson, My Mama's House is a River Movie~ The Women King</p>	<p>WWE- March 5th at 11:59pm WPE- March 8th at 11:59pm</p>
<p>March 14th</p>	<p><i>Niger- Congo (Ifá-Orisa, Bakongo, Vodun)</i></p> <p>Readings: Dianne Stewart and Tracey Hucks ~ Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume 1, Chapter 1</p> <p><u>Populi</u> Velma Love ~ Divining the Self, Orisha Archetypes Katrina Hazzard-Donald ~ Mojo Workin Chapter 1</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>	<p>WWE- March 12th at 11:59pm WPE- March 15th at 11:59pm</p> <p>Final Project Proposal Due</p>
<p>March 21st-</p>	<p>Spring Break School Closed</p>	
<p>March 28th</p>	<p><i>Hoodoo and Vodoo Traditions</i></p> <p>Readings: Danielle Boaz ~ Banning Black Gods- Chapters 8 and 9</p> <p><u>Populi</u> Katrina Hazzard-Donald ~ Mojo Workin Chapter 2 Zora Neale Hurston ~ Mules and Men, Chapters 1, 2, & 3</p> <p>Video- American Horror Story, the Coven- Episode</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>	<p>WWE-March 26th at 11:59pm WPE-March 29th at 11:59pm</p>
<p>April 4th</p>	<p><i>The African Diaspora (Lucumi, Santeria, and Candomble</i></p>	<p>WWE- April 2nd at 11:59pm WPE- April 5th at 11:59pm</p>

	<p><i>Traditions)</i></p> <p>Readings: Danielle Boaz ~ Banning Black Gods- Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Dianne Stewart and Tracey Hucks, Obeah, Orisa, and Religions, Chapters 3 and 5</p> <p><u>Populi</u> Rachel Harding and Valadina Pinto, Afro-Brazilian Religion, Resistance, and Environmental Ethics</p> <p>Video - Orisas Video -Candomble</p>	Memoir Paper Due
April 11 th	<p><i>Rafastarian, Kemetic, Hebrew Israelites, and Islam</i></p> <p>Readings: Danielle Boaz ~ Banning Black Gods- Chapters 5 and 6</p> <p><u>Populi</u> Video~ Hebrew Israelites Video ~ Nyabinghi Rastafarian</p>	WWE-April 9 th at 11:59pm WPE-April 10 th at 11:59pm
April 18 th	<p><i>The Black Church and Liberation Theology</i></p> <p>Readings: <u>Populi</u> Raphael Warnock ~ The Divided Mind of the Black Church, Chapters 1 and 2 Julius Bailey ~ Down in the Valley Chapters 2 and 3 Howard Thurman ~ Luminous Darkness, Chapters 2 and 3 Video- The Black Church</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>	WWE-April 16 th at 11:59pm WPE-April 19 th at 11:59pm
April 25 th	Final Presentations	
May 2 nd	Final Presentations	

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