

DICKERSON-GREEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I. TE 537 Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Social Role of Religion

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III. Course Name and Description

TE 537 Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Social Role of Religion

Credit 3 hrs.

This course examines King's role as a religious leader and agent of global social change with some attention devoted to the intellectual sources of his thought and social activism. The course also explores King's role in the world beyond his importance as a national human and civil rights leader.

IV. Course Objectives

After participating in this course students will be able to: articulate the major pillars of the theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.; gain experience in using the theological method of engaging and interpreting a particular theologian; and develop tools to analyze and explore the influences of the role of the church in social and cultural events.

V. Course Policies

Class Attendance

It is the responsibility of each student to attend all scheduled class meetings in the courses in which he/she is enrolled. Documentation of absences begins on the designated start date for classes. The specific number of absences for each class should not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of meeting days established for the course.

Pertinent Policies can be Found in the university's Student Handbook:

Class Attendance and Excused Absences-p. 11

Plagiarism-p. 38

Student Conduct to include disruptive behavior-p. 35-40

Dress Code- p. 10

Satisfactory Academic Progress- p.15-17

Provisions for Disabled or Special Need Students-p. 19-20

Course Schedule/ Topic / Assignments/Assessments

PERIOD	IN CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS	IN CLASS ASSESSMENT
Week 1	"Here Comes the Dreamer": Martin Luther King, Jr. as Radical Prophet of His Times	No assignments Introduction to syllabus and Class Lecture	First Class Meeting
Week 2	Textbook: Reclaiming the Great World House: The Global Vision of MLK. Chapter 1 For the Beauty of the World	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Assessment based upon participation and reflection paper.
Week 3	Chapter 2 The Scourge of the Color Bar: Racism as Barrier to Human Community.	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Submit a one-page (single spaced) reflection paper for assigned reading for the week.
Week 4	Chapter 3 For the Least of These: The Scandal of Poverty	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Class discussions, participation, and attendance.
Week 5	Chapter 4 Living by the Sword: The Haunting Spectacle of Violence	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Submit a one-page (single spaced) reflection paper for assigned reading for the week.
Week 6	Chapter 5 Sexism in the World House: Women and the Global Vision of MLK.	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Class discussions, participation, and attendance.
Week 7	Chapter 6 Plenty Good Room: MLKs vision of the World House	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Class discussion, participation, and attendance.
Week 8	Chapter 7 The Rising Significance of Class: The Haves and Have- nots	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Submit a one-page (single spaced) reflection paper for assigned reading for the week.
Week 9	Chapter 8 MLK and the Nonviolent Transformation of Global Conflict	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Class discussions, participation, and attendance.

Week 10	Chapter 9 Embracing Difference: MLKs World House as Teaching Resource	Weekly Reflection Paper Class Discussions and Lecture	Submit a one-page (single spaced) paper for the assigned reading for the week.
Week 11	Chapter 10 All Over the World Like a Fever: MLK and the Black Lives Movement	Class Discussions and Lecture	
Week 12	Chapter 11 The World as a Single Neighborhood	Class Discussions and Lecture	Submit a one-page (single spaced) paper for the assigned reading for the week.
Week 13	Chapter 12 Toward a Higher Global Ideal: MLK and the Challenges of Tomorrow	Class Discussions and Lecture	
Week 14		Concluding Conversations	

VI. Course Units

Outline of Content

Part I.

Creative Living in the Great World House: The Vision of Martin Luther King Jr. in the Context-Where We Were Then?

Chapters 1 Through 5

Part II.

Surviving in the Contemporary World House: The Enduring Threats-Where We Are Now?

Chapters 6 Through 12

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate constructive theological and ethical reflection, grounded in theory and impacted by contemporary cultural, political and social issues as related to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Assignments

Read the assigned materials.

Reflection Papers (10) on the reading content are given weekly

All reflection papers are due at the beginning of each class session.

You will submit the reflection paper during the week indicated on the course calendar above.

Reflection Paper

Prepare a reflect paper on assigned readings each week. Here are some suggestions to guide your thinking:

- What is the nature of this chapter? For example, is it a historical piece, a book on practical theology, a primer on theological ethics?
- What are her/his governing assumptions?
- Is her/his argument consistent?
- Do you share her/his views? Why? Why not?
- What contribution has the author made to the field of study?
- How would you apply the author's thinking or contribution to your own ministerial, theological or pastoral context?

Weekly Conversations for the beginning of class

“What do I think has been the impact of Martin Luther King, Jr. on North American civilization?”

VIII. Course Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on the assessments listed below.

Assignments	Points
Weekly Reflection Papers	20 Pts Each 100 Points (5)
Final Research Paper	50 Pts
Attendance and Participation	50 Pts
Total	200 points/100%

IX. Course Textbook

Baldwin, Lewis V. *Reclaiming the Great World House: The Global Vision of Martin L. King Jr. (The Morehouse Collection)*. University of GA Press, 2019.

Suggested Readings

Baldwin, Lewis V. *There is a Balm in Gilead: The Cultural Roots of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Fortress Press, 1991.

Dyson, Michael Eric. *I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.*, The Free Press, 1999.

Suggested Readings Continued:

Fairclough, Adam. *Martin Luther King Jr.* The University of Georgia Press, 1995.

Washington, James M. *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Harper, 1986.

Assigned articles and selected readings from the web: *ATLA Religion Database*, *JSTOR*, and other articles which can be accessed through the Allen University Flipper Library (<https://allenuniversity.libguides.com/c.php?g=699146&p=4993491>).

X. Course Reading, Listening, and/or Viewing List

Additional resources which includes but is not limited to course readings will include sermons, recordings and interviews of Dr. Martin L. King Jr. This will be provided by the professor and distributed in class.