

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2017**

Thursday

6:00-8:30 pm

ST 745 Perspectives in Black Theology

Rev. Dr. S. Todd Yeary

Course Description: This course explores the development and emergence of “God-talk” in the context of the historical experiences of Africans-of-the-diaspora in America. Wrestling with the question/s of what it means to be defined by race, the course also explores points of intersectionality between gender, class, sexual orientation, and faith tradition. We will critique the viability of Black Theology as a critical frame through which to deconstruct racist, sexist, xenophobic and various theological states of being. The core question throughout the course will be whether Black Theology is an essential hermeneutical frame for the utility and benefit of 21st-century Christian ministry.

Students will examine the historical underpinnings of the emergence of Black Christianity as the core ingredients of what would emerge as Black/Liberation Theology as a response to the meta-narrative of white racism and white supremacy. Included in this will be the critique of existing theological frameworks, and the opportunity to identify current and future opportunities for expanding cross-cultural theological discourse.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Completion of weekly readings. Students should expect to read approximately **1000** pages of required reading relevant to the course and ministry praxis. The readings are intended to be engaging and draw on the passion of the students to make a difference in the world. Additionally, students should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:**
 - (2) 3-page reflection papers based on the readings
 - (1) 7-10 page final evaluative paper on a theological theme covered in the course
- **Other:**
 - (1) In-class facilitated discussion on an assigned reading

Bases of Evaluation:

- Completion of assignments by due date (late assignments will not be accepted)
- Accuracy and precision of scholarship
- Clarity and intellectual precision of oral and written presentations
- Depth of comprehension of reading material and in-class engagement
- Grammar & Conformity with relevant academic style manuals

Required Texts: TBD