

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Spring, 2018

Saturday 2/10 and 4/28 (9-1:30 pm) (Campus)

Thursday April 12 (6-8:30 p.m.) (Campus)

Sunday-Friday, April 15-20 (Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama)

MT/H703 The Preaching and Public Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, D.Min., Ph.D.

Course Description:

Students will gain an understanding of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a preacher and public theologian, and, through the practice of preaching, gain an appreciation of and competencies in preaching prophetically and in the public square. During this course, in addition to in-class work, students will participate in an academic immersion experience and visit some of the significant venues of the Dr. King's ministry and the Civil Rights movement in Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama.

Course Requirements:

- Students should expect to read *at most* 800 pages of required reading.
- Students should expect to write *at most* 22 double-spaced pages. These will be comprised of the following:
 - **First assignment (Due February 10, 2018)** – The student is to prepare a personal reflection paper (4-5 pages; not to exceed 1,250 words) on the relevance of Dr. King and his ministry to you, your faith journey and ministry. **Each student is to be prepared to discuss your reflection paper during the immersion week.**
 - **Second assignment Reflection Paper (Due April 15, 2018)** The student is to prepare a reflection paper (4-5 pages; not to exceed 1,250 words) on Dr. Martin Luther King's understanding of *Beloved Community* and the importance of this concept in the world today. **Each student is to be prepared to discuss your reflection paper during the immersion week.**
 - **Final Integrative Theological Reflection Paper (Due May 1, 2018)** The student is to prepare an integrative reflection paper (10-12 pages; not to exceed 3,000 words) on some specific aspect or topic related to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. The student may choose to write on any specific person(s), place, or event related to King. The topic is to be agreed upon with the professor.

Course requirements include participation in:

- (1) **Two in-class sessions at St. Mary's Seminary & University on Saturday 2/10 & 4/28 (9-1:30 pm)**
- (2) **The Spring 50th Year Commemorative of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination on April 12, 2018 at St. Mary's Seminary & University**
- (3) **The Academic Dr. Martin Luther King/Civil Rights Immersion Experience in Alabama (Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma) during the week of April 15-20**

Required Texts:

Strength to Love. Martin Luther King, Jr., ISBN: 978-0-806-9740-2.

Why We Can't Wait. Martin Luther King, Jr., ISBN: 978-0-8070-0112-7.

The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America. Richard Lischer, ISBN: 978-0-19-51-1132-3.

Blessed are the Peacemakers: A Theological Analysis of the Thought of Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King, Jr., C. Anthony Hunt, ISBN: 1-55605-381-9.

(Recommended:)

April 4, 1968 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America. Michael Eric Dyson. ISBN: 13-978-00465-00212-2.

I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr., Michael Eric Dyson. ISBN: 0-684-86776-1.

Where Have All the Prophets Gone? – Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in America. Marvin McMickle. ISBN: 978-0-8298-1720-1.

Draft Itinerary for Immersion

- S Apr 15 Students/Participants arrive in Birmingham (Comfort Inn Birmingham Airport)/Group dinner)
- M Apr 16 9a-5p In-class Orientation and Team-building (Hotel and AME Ninth Episcopal District); Visit to Bethel Baptist Church, Collegeville, AL
- T Apr 17 9a-7p Montgomery
- Dexter Avenue Church and Parsonage
 - First White House of the Confederacy
 - Southern Poverty Law Center
 - Dinner at Martha's Place
- W Apr 18 9a-7p Selma
- Lowndes County Interpretive Center
 - National Voting Rights Museum
 - Edmund Pettus Bridge
 - Brown Chapel AME Church
- R Apr 19 10a-5p Birmingham
- 16th Street Baptist Church
 - Civil Rights Institute and Kelly Ingram Park
- F Apr 20 9a-11a Birmingham (Hotel)
- Debrief and Depart Birmingham

Logistical Considerations:

1. Students/Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to/from Alabama. The Birmingham International Airport is most amenable to our trip.
2. On-the-ground costs per participant for the Alabama Immersion portion of the course are \$550 (double occupancy room); \$800 (single occupancy room). These costs include rooming at the Comfort Inn, Birmingham Airport; site visit fees; and group ground transportation while in Alabama. There is continental breakfast available at the Comfort Inn, and costs for other meals are the responsibility of participants.
3. **On-the-ground fees are to be paid directly to the Ecumenical Institute office by February 1, 2018.**