

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA—CHAPEL HILL

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AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGIONS

RELI 141

Summer II 2022

Gen Ed: HS & NA

REMOTE (ASYNCHRONOUS)

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This course introduces students to the history of African American religious experience in the United States from the colonial era to the present. We will examine African influences on black American religions, the presence of Conjure or hoodoo, the politics of Christianity in slave times, the growth of the independent black Methodist and Baptist churches, black women's religious leadership, and flowering of new religious movements among African Americans during the Great Migration. We will also study the role of religion in the civil rights and black consciousness movements and explore in detail the growth of the Nation of Islam during this period. Finally, we will look at the recent roles of Black religions in contemporary U.S. politics and African American life. As we do, we will search for changes and continuities in black American religious experiences and seek to understand how African American religions have shaped and have been shaped by the social, political, and economic circumstances in which African American persons of faith have found themselves.