

*The Evolution of African American Gospel Music*

*Fall 2013*

*FSP 102-02*

*Professor: Rev. Todd S. McCrary, M.S. Ed.*

Thursday 5:45-8:35p

Class Location: Bldg./Rm: SC C113

**Required Text:**

Boyer, Horace Clarence. "The Golden Age of Gospel." University of Illinois Press: Urbana and Chicago.1995

Costen, Melva Wilson, In Spirit and In Truth. The Music of African American Worship. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville and London.

**Recommended Text:**

Singing In My Soul. Black Gospel Music in a Secular Age, Jackson,; 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

Office Hours: By appointment only

Office Phone: 771-2719

Office Location: Roscoe West 125

Email: [mccrary@tcnj.edu](mailto:mccrary@tcnj.edu)

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The seminar is designed to give students a history/overview of African American Gospel Music (AAGM) as it pertains to the African American worship experience. Periods covered will range from the Negro Spirituals to present day Contemporary Gospel Music.

### I. PURPOSE

To teach about the origins of African American Gospel Music (AAGM) from the time period of Negro Spirituals to present day Contemporary Gospel Music guided toward a better understanding of why Gospel music often times take on a different dynamic within the African American culture.

### II. OBJECTIVES

#### A. General Learning Objectives

The course seeks to:

1. Survey the African American Gospel Music experience from its inception in Africa to its modern day experience today in America.
2. Introduce theological vocabulary for dealing with concepts and issues within the Christian lifestyle as it relates to Gospel Music.
3. Explain the place of African American Gospel Music in the overall nature and functioning of the church.
4. Describe various music styles ranging from spirituals to contemporary Gospel Music.
5. Engage students in the experience of African American Gospel Music as it pertains to the worship experience.

#### B. Specific Behavioral Objectives

As a result of the activities and study in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze various Gospel tunes from various time frames.
2. Understand the numerous arrangements of AAGM and the appropriate application for a particular arrangement during worship.
3. Identify some artists and their contribution to AAGM
4. Appraise the role of AAGM in church as well as a Christian's lifestyle.
5. Evaluate the content of AAGM songs to determine the value these songs have in the worship experience

### III. TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- A. Understanding The Holy Spirit in worship in regards to music
- B. Various AAGM artists
- C. Contributors to AAGM
- D. AAGM Market, Production and Sales
- E. Recording Artists and Radio Hosts
- F. The Sacredness of this music
- G. African American Hymnody
- H. Instruments in Worship
- I. Gospel Concerts and Sunday Morning Worship Service

### IV. Instructional Procedure

- A. Lectures
- B. Multi-media presentations
- C. Guest lecturers
- D. Seminar
- E. Student Presentations

### V. Course Assignments

- A. Come to class having read the assigned sections from the prescribed texts and/or other readings assigned by the professor.
- B. Two class examinations are scheduled for this course.
- C. Critical response to lecturers and selected readings – (journal format)
- D. Critical Book Reflection
- E. Research Paper

**VI. Evaluation:**

Evaluation Activities

- a. Examinations (2x15%) 30%
- b. Critical Song Reflections 10%
- c. Journal Reflections & Quizzes 5%
- d. Response to Journal Articles (5) 5%
- e. Term Paper 40%
- f. Class Participation 10%

**VII. Grading Scale:**

<b>A=94-100</b>	<b>B+ = 87-89</b>	<b>C+ = 77-79</b>	<b>D+ = 68-71</b>
<b>A- = 90-93</b>	<b>B = 83-86</b>	<b>C = 73-76</b>	<b>D = 65-67</b>
	<b>B- = 80-82</b>	<b>C- = 70-72</b>	<b>D- = 62-65</b>

**Below 62% is an F**

**\* Late submission of assignments will incur a penalty of at least 2% per school day. Work submitted after ONE week of the due date will not be graded.**

**VIII. Attendance Policy:**

It is the responsibility of students to attend class regularly and punctually. Every absence whether **excused** or **unexcused** counts in the attendance evaluation. Extenuating circumstances will be judged on their merit and at the discretion of the professor. Cumulative absences over two will result in the loss of one letter grade. Make up tests will only be given based on medically confirmed reports, and school business (music, athletic trips, required academic trips etc.), however, unexcused absentees may take their exam subject to a grade reduction. In either situation, exams must be taken **within one week** of the student's return to campus. Keep in mind that this class meets once a week for three hours. If you miss a class, you have missed the equivalent of one week worth of learning. (3 hours)

**IX. Students with Disabilities:**

The College of New Jersey is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students who think they may qualify for these accommodations should contact The Office of Disability Services at 609-771-3199 immediately. Special services are provided through this office.

**X. APPENDIX A: SEMINAR GUIDELINES & TOPICS FOR TERM PAPER:**

**Research Paper**

Students will write a 6-8 page paper on any of the topics covered in class or from the assigned readings. Papers will be typed, double-spaced assuming one-inch margins with appropriate MLA style guidelines. The bibliography should comprise at least five sources including at least two journal articles. The topic, outline, and a list of sources for your research information are **due** no later than **October 15, 2013**. (The list of sources is not expected to be an exhausted bibliography.) The term paper must be **submitted** no later than **November 19, 2013**.

1. A handout summarizing the material studied for the class presentation must be distributed to the class on the day you lead the discussion.
2. Either text will serve as the basis for dialogue and discussion in the seminar/presentations.

**XI. APPENDIX B: Guidelines for Song Review**

The critical reflection should be between three and four pages, double spaced, assuming one inch margins all around and 12 font, Times New Roman.

1. Here are some questions to bear in mind when you are listening to the songs.
  - a) What is the main theme of the song?
  - b) What do you consider to be the purpose of the song?
  - c) Would you recommend this song to someone else to listen to? Who should listen to this song? ( A person in what condition or state of mind)
  - d) How would these songs be used during the worship experience?
2. In the first part of the reflection do the following:
  - a) What are the primary contributions made by the artist(s) in the song?
  - b) State the main aim of the song.
  - c) What background or experience did the artist share that led to him/her writing or singing this song?
3. The second part of the reflection should contain the following:
  - a) A brief description of the song
  - b) Summarize the content of the song. Here you should aim to give the implied listener (someone who has not heard the song) a good overview of the content.
  - c) Be sure to reflect on the whole song.
4. In the third section of your reflection:
  - a) You should engage the material personally and critically. Does the artist make a convincing argument? How has listening to the song shaped your own thinking? Does the artist do justice to the subject? Is the song relevant for today's missionary or evangelical enterprise?
5. Finally you should conclude the critical reflection to state your overall impressions of the song. Suggest its importance or unimportance for the listener.

## **XII. APPENDIX C: Journal Response to: (CDs, Videos, and Guest Lecturers)**

1. The response should be completed in a minimum of one page for each piece of material and each guest lecturer, double spaced, 12 inch font, Times New Roman and assuming ONE inch margins all around.
2. You should devote approximately ONE page to summarizing the article. Offer the reader a summary that will provoke the reader to read the whole piece.
3. Identify/list at least three major points from the reading, cd, video, lecture or journal that you would like to critique/evaluate.
4. Discuss these three points stating whether you agree or disagree with the artist. Give reasons for your point of view.
5. Conclusion: Suggest alternative views/resources that shed light on the subject or current topic/issue.

## **XIII. APPENDIX D. AAGM or Worship Service Paper**

1. The response should be completed in a minimum of three pages, double spaced, 12 inch font, Times New Roman and assuming ONE inch margins all around.
2. Use at least half a page to introduce the concert or church service. For a concert this must be done by stating the name of the venue. Date, Time, Location, Ticket Cost if any, headline artists, approximate number of people in attendance.
3. Describe the setting. Talk about the entire atmosphere to include but not limited to: clothing worn by attendees as well as artists. Talk about the progression of the concert. Tell about the music, rhythm, volume, and modern/contemporary, fast, slow etc.
4. Discuss what happened while you were there. Did people get or catch The Holy Spirit? What was that experience like for you? Was there an opportunity for salvation? If so, was anyone saved?
5. Was there an offering taken up? If so, was it stated what the offering was to be used for?
6. Did you like the concert or not?
7. Were there any familiar tunes sung or played? Were there any familiar artists mentioned or in attendance?

NOTE: If you are writing about a Sunday morning Worship Service, please follow the same guidelines omitting question number 5. Also, you have to change question number 6 to read did you like the worship experience or not?

## DUE DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
Introduction and Overview of the course Review Syllabus Assign Chapters from In Spirit and in Truth for Presentation(s)	8/29	8/29
Read pgs. 5-46 Text: The Golden Age of Gospel Chapters from In Spirit and in Truth Read pgs. 1-42 Text: In Spirit and In Truth Discuss Concert Assign Artist Group Work Journal Entry Due **Attend Concert	9/5      9/6	
Discuss Gospel Music Origins, Trends, Current Events Discuss Papers Group Work With Artist Video w/Journal Entry	9/12	
Read pgs. 49-123 Text: The Golden Age of Gospel Listen to Selections Reflection journal entries on selections Reflection Paper on Concert Due (3-5 pgs) Journal Entry Due	9/19  9/19 9/19 9/19	
View Music Videos & Write Reflections Read pgs. 43-52; 74-130 Text: In Spirit and In Truth Lecture – Metered Hymns Discussion on Term Papers and topics Journal Entry Due Attend Worship Service Sunday 9:30a - 1p (4-5 pg. paper due 10/10)	9/26 9/26  9/26 9/26 9/29	Quiz on readings from 9/19
Meet in Library Rm. 2 – Research Lecture Discuss Gospel Articles and Readings Assign First Song Review (Paper Due 10/10 see syllabus for Song Review (3-4 pgs) Instructions) Discussion on Sunday Service Journal Entry Due	10/3  10/3 10/3 10/3 10/3 10/3	Quiz on readings from 9/26
Read pgs. 181-232 Text: The Golden Age of Gospel (Begin w/bottom of pg. 181- Five Blind Boys) Topic Outline and Bibliography due for term paper (Review topics and outlines in class) Song Review Due Paper due on Church Visit	10/10  10/10 10/10 10/10	Quiz on readings from 10/10
Discussion on Gospel Awards/Shows/and Articles Concert (Begin Reflection Paper) Attend Gospel Concert	10/17   10/20	Lecture
Discussion on Concert Discussion on Selected Readings (h/o) Journal Entry Due Midterm	10/24 10/24 10/24 10/24	

Video	10/31	Discuss Topics
Read pgs. 232-260 Text: The Golden Age of Gospel	11/7	Quiz on readings from 11/7
Film/Video Paper Due (Reaction Paper)	11/7	
Reflection Paper Due on Concert (3-5 pgs)	11/14	Lecture
Hymns	11/14	
Evaluating Gospel Music	11/14	
Assign Artist		
Artist Presentations	11/21	
Lecture – Gospel Jazz, Gospel Music and the Worship Experience and Gospel Music and The Theater	11/21	
<b>Term Papers Due</b>	<b>11/21</b>	
<b>Visit to Youth Center</b>	<b>11/23</b>	
Lecture- Music Ministry	11/28	
Gospel Music and the Worship Experience	11/28	
Gospel Music and the Dance Ministry	11/28	
Review for final Exam		
Community Engaged Learning Experience (3-5 page paper due at final)	12/4	
<b>Final Exam Date and Location</b>	<b>TBA</b>	

**\*There will be additional required writings that will be assigned after various class discussions and lectures. Also, some classes will be adjusted to better accommodate the guest presenter.**

**\*\*Please note that attendance to Gospel Concerts is mandatory as there is no make-up for a live performance.**