



The University of Manchester



**School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities  
Course Unit Descriptor**

23.02.2016

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	<b>Black Theology</b>
Unit Code	369 (8369 for distance learning delivery)
Unit Level	3
Contact Hours	22 hours (n/a for distance learning delivery)
FHEQ Level	6
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Rev Dotha N. Blackwood
ECTS	5

**EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

The unit explores the emergence of Black Theology in the latter part of the twentieth century. It includes an exploration of biblical and theological themes emerging from the field, and encourages students to develop their own approach to faith and practice, building on a theology of personal experience, by reflecting on how Black Theology has empowered the articulation of a significant voice into theological reflection in the West. Specific practical and theological issues are addressed, including criticisms and responses to Black Theology, and its implications for action at the local level. The themes of oppression including slavery, racism, colonialism and poverty provide the context for understanding its radical, politicised and intentionally transformative trajectory.

**COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

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**AIMS**

By engaging with the work of foundational thinkers in the United States and more recent contributions in the UK this unit aims to deepen students' understanding of their contemporary contexts and to explore the formulation of contextual theologies from different perspectives.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of Black Theology in its various contexts, including its origins and methodologies
- Summarise the various critiques that have been made of Black Theology.

### Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Critically understand the contribution of colour and ethnicity to theological dialogue and construction, and the development of a complementary biblical hermeneutic
- Develop their own response to Black Theology and the implications of practical engagement with the issues raised

### Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills in multi-cultural understanding, interpretation and communication
- Demonstrate skills in analysing the use of power and empowerment

### Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Reflect sensitively upon their personal experience and practice
- Empower the voice of minorities and the marginalised

### Employability Skills

The depth and breadth of this unit encourages the development of capacity for critical, conceptual and reflective thinking in all aspects of intellectual and practical activity. A deepened understanding of the contemporary contexts gained in this unit enhances the students' ability to function with insight and understanding as an individual and in multicultural teams and situations; skills that are vital in a wide range of graduate employment contexts.

## SYLLABUS

1. Contextual theology (Biography as theology - personal sources)
2. Birth of a theological movement: James Cone and Classic Black Theology
3. Biblical and theological themes
4. Caribbean Theology
5. Black Theology and Womanist Theology
6. African experience – Black Africa and Apartheid
7. Black Theology in Britain: post-colonialism, migration and diaspora
8. Non-Christian perspectives
9. Black Theology and education
10. Under scrutiny – critical and dissenting voices
11. Ministry and mission trajectories

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

369: Interactive lectures and seminars

8369: Distance learning

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<b>Formative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 369: An interactive group task</li> <li>• 8369: A presentation or transcript</li> </ul>	n/a 10 mins or 750-1000 words	n/a n/a
<b>Summative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 369: An essay</li> <li>• 8369: An essay <i>and a learning journal*</i></li> </ul>	3000-3500 words 3000-3500 words	100% 100% Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element.		

## FEEDBACK METHODS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral feedback in class (369 only)</li> <li>• Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days</li> </ul>
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## REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as Free Choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

## RECOMMENDED READING

Bradley, Anthony B., <i>Liberating Black Theology: The Bible and the Black Experience</i> (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2010)
Bradley, Anthony B., <i>Black Scholars in White Space</i> (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2015)
Cone, James H., <i>A Black Theology of Liberation</i> 2nd edn (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988)
Gregory, Howard (ed.), <i>Caribbean Theology. Preparing for the Challenges Ahead</i> (Kingston, Jamaica: Canoe Press, University of the West Indies, 1997)
Hopkins, Dwight N., and Edward P. Antonio (eds), <i>The Cambridge Companion to Black Theology. Cambridge Companions to Religion</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)
Hopkins, Dwight N., <i>Heart and Head: Black Theology, Past, Present and Future</i> (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002)
Hopkins, Dwight N., <i>Introducing Black Theology of Liberation</i> (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1999)
Jagessar, Michael N., and Anthony G. Reddie (eds), <i>Postcolonial Black British Theology</i> (Peterborough: Epworth Press, 2006)
Jagessar, Michael N., and Anthony G. Reddie (eds), <i>Black Theology in Britain: A Reader. Cross Cultural Theologies</i> (London: Equinox, 2007)
Kapolyo, Joe M., <i>The Human Condition: Christian Perspectives Through African Eyes</i> . (Leicester: IVP, 2005)
Kee, Alistair, <i>The Rise and Demise of Black Theology</i> enlarged edn (London: SCM, 2008)
Mitchem, S.Y., <i>Introducing Womanist Theology</i> (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2002)
Reddie, Anthony G., <i>Black Theology</i> (London: SCM, 2012)

## SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 hours (n/a for distance learning delivery)
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**PLACEMENT HOURS**

n/a
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**INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS**

78 hours (100 hours for distance learning version)
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**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

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**APPROVAL**

Date approved by UGC	
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Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	
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