

## **SOC 9010: QUALITATIVE APPROACHES TO AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGIOSITY**

Spring 2014 | Thursday 12.30-1.30pm | Minor Hall 139

Professor: Dr. Sabrina Pendergrass  
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

### **Course Overview**

This course introduces students to the basic concepts and tools of qualitative research, with a specific focus on African American religiosity. Students will have the opportunity to read and critically engage different examples of research methods. By evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of diverse approaches, students will become more equipped with the theoretical and practical tools necessary to conduct their own research.

### **Requirements**

- (a) Attendance and participation in all sessions;
- (b) Timely completion of all reading requirements;
- (c) Timely completion of all writing assignments: (i) weekly responses to the readings (approx.. 250 words); (ii) one final research paper (approx. 20 pages), **due by May 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Final Research Paper**

Each student is expected to generate an original 20-page research paper driven by primary source material. They will provide a **content analysis** concerning a topic chosen in consultation with the professor. These papers are intended to further the broader research interests of each student, functioning as a draft for a potential scholarly article, conference presentation, or dissertation chapter. Please use the citation style of your choice.

## Reading Schedule

- 1/16: Introduction
- 1/23: Mary Pattillo-McCoy, "Church Culture as a Strategy of Action in the Black Community" in *American Sociological Review*, 63 (1998).  
Timothy J. Nelson, "Sacrifice of Praise: Emotion and Collective Participation in an African-American Worship Service" in *Sociology of Religion*, 57 (1996).
- 1/30: Omar M. McRoberts, *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2005).  
Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – "Introduction"
- 2/6: Susan Crawford Sullivan, *Living Faith: Everyday Religion and Mothers in Poverty*, (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2005).  
Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – "Chapter 1"
- 2/13: John Lofland, David A. Snow, Leon Anderson, Lyn H. Lofland, *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis* (Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2005) – "Chapters 1-5"  
Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – "Chapter 2"
- 2/20: Marla F. Frederick, *Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith* (Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 2003).  
Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – "Chapter 3"
- 2/27: Jonathan L. Walton, *Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism* (New York, NY: New York University Press, 2009).  
Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – "Chapter 4"
- 3/6: Gerardo Marti, *A Mosaic of Believers: Diversity and Innovation in a Multiethnic Church* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004).  
Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – "Chapter 5"
- 3/13: SPRING BREAK!

- 3/20: Korie L. Edwards, *The Elusive Dream: The Power of Race in Interracial Churches* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008).  
Klaus H. Krippendorf, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – “Chapter 6”
- 3/27: Richard N. Pitt, *Divine Callings: Understanding the Call to Ministry in Black Pentecostalism* (New York, NY: New York University Press, 2012).  
Klaus H. Krippendorf, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – “Chapter 7”
- 4/3: Melissa Victoria Harris-Lacewell, “Ideology in Action: The Promise of Orange Grove,” in *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004).  
Richard N. Pitt, “Killing the Messenger: Religious Black Gay Men’s Neutralization of Anti-Gay Religious Messages” in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 49 (2010).  
Cathy J. Cohen, “Willing to Serve But Not to Lead” in *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1999).  
Klaus H. Krippendorf, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – “Chapter 8”
- 4/10: John Lofland, David A. Snow, Leon Anderson, Lyn H. Lofland, *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis* (Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2005) – “Chapter 6-11”  
Klaus H. Krippendorf, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – “Chapter 9”
- 4/17: John L. Jackson Jr., *Thin Description: Ethnography and the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013).  
Klaus H. Krippendorf, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – “Chapter 10”
- 4/24: Robert J. Wuthnow, “Taking Talk Seriously: Religious Discourse as Social Practice” in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 50 (2011).  
Klaus H. Krippendorf, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press). – “Chapters 11-14”