

REL 700 AFRICAN AMERICANS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
 WEEKLONG INTENSIVE SCHEDULE

This blended learning course designed for graduate seminary students will critically engage the contentious politics of race and religious freedom in American public life. Particular attention will be given to the how and in what ways power, violence, identity, and pluralism form and frame the discourse of religious freedom across time and space. The course will feature a team of scholars and professional experts actively engaged in addressing these issues in multiple contexts. This onsite experience will take place during **January 6 – 10, 2020** in Washington, D.C.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Student Check-in	Wesley Theological Seminary, Elderdice Hall
9:00 a.m. –9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions by <i>Dr. Sabrina E. Dent, director of programs and partnerships and project director for Religious Freedom: African American Perspectives, Religious Freedom Center</i>	4500 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20016
9:30 a.m. –9:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks by <i>Dr. Faith Harris, Director, Edosomwan Center for Faith, Leadership, and Public Life, Virginia Union University-STVU</i>	
9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Framing the Discussion – “Religious Freedom: For All or None” presented <i>Dr. Sabrina E. Dent</i>	
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lecture and Discussion – History and Legal Frameworks <i>Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative at Vanderbilt University</i>	
12:30p.m. – 1:25p.m.	Lunch (<i>provided - Wesley’s Dining Hall</i>)	
1:30p.m. – 2:00p.m.	Keynote Address – “Faith in American Public Life” presented by <i>Melissa Rogers, Esq., former Special Assistant to President Obama and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships</i>	
2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.	Panel Discussion – The State of Religious Freedom in America featuring <i>Dr. Larissa Hawkins, Rahmah Abdulaleem, Dr. Asa Lee, and Melissa Rogers, Esq. Moderator: Dr. Teresa Smallwood</i>	
3:30p.m. – 3:45p.m.	Break	
3:45p.m. – 5:00p.m.	Small Group Discussions & Wrap-Up	

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Student Check-in	Washington National Cathedral 3101 Wisconsin Ave, NW Washington, DC 20016
9:00 a.m. – 11:30am	Lecture and Discussion “Sacred Space, Sacred Text & Sacred Memory” <i>Dr. Itihari Toure, Sankofa Center, Interdenominational Theological Center</i>	
11:30 am – 12:30pm	Small Group Discussion –“Value of Personhood”	
12:30p.m. –1:30p.m.	Lunch (<i>provided by program</i>)	
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Lecture and Discussion “The Pathway to the Ambassadorship: The Politics of the Role, Creation of International Religious Freedom Act & Understanding the United Declaration of Human Rights.” <i>The Honorable Suzan Johnson Cook, 3rd Ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom</i>	
2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Small Group Discussions & Wrap-Up	
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Washington National Cathedral Tour <i>by Rev. Dr. Leonard Hamlin, Sr., Canon Missioner at Washington National Cathedral</i>	
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner Break	
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Film Screening & Panel Discussion — “American Heretics: The Politics of The Gospel” (<i>Doors open at 5:30pm with reception</i>)	

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

9:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Student Check-in	Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, 1400 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20560
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Violence of Religious Freedom, Part I: <i>Museum Tour led by Dr. Eric Williams, curatorial specialist for religion at NMAAHC</i>	
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Class Debriefing	
1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Lunch (<i>provided- NMAAHC Food Court</i>)	
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	The Violence of Religious Freedom, Part II: <i>Dr. Eric Williams, curatorial specialist for religion at NMAAHC</i>	
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Small Group Discussions and Assignment Review <i>by Instructional Team</i>	

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

- 8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. **Student Check-In** BJC, 200 Maryland Avenue, NE,
Washington, DC 20009
- 9:00a.m – 11 a.m. **Religious Freedom and the Politics of Pluralism:**
Dr. Sabrina Dent, Religious Freedom Center & Rev. Charles Watson, Jr., BJC
- 11:00 a.m. – 12noon **Interfaith Panel Discussion** *featuring PJ Andrews, Race Discourse Officer with the Baha'is of the United States-Public Affairs Office; Danielle Brown, US Conference of Catholic Bishops; Rogièrs, Black Nonbelievers-DC; and Victoria Hamilton, Soka Gakkai International.*
- 12:15pm – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (*provided by program*)
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **“Who Speaks for “God” in Public?”** Metropolitan AME Church, 1518
Rev. William H. Lamar IV, pastor at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church M St NW, Washington, DC
20005
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Metropolitan AME Church Tour**
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Small Group Discussions & Dialogue**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

- 8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. **Student Check-In** Howard University School of
Divinity, 2900 Van Ness St.
NW, Washington, DC 20008
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Religious Freedom and Democratic Futures, Part I:** *Dr. Sharon Grant, Assistant Professor of Christianity, Hood Theological Seminary*
- 11:00 a.m. – 12noon **Small Group Discussions**
- 12noon – 12:50 p.m. **Lunch** (*provided by program*)
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Religious Freedom and Democratic Futures, Part II:** *Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, visiting professor at University of Richmond*
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00p.m. **Small Group Discussions**
- 4:00p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Break**
- 4:15 p.m. –5:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up & Closing Thoughts**

Please note the intensive schedule and meeting locations are subject to change.
*Dress code for all morning, day, and evening events: **Professional Attire.***