Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays  1:20-2:40
Room Location: Fisk 413
Instructor: Elizabeth McAlister
Email address: emcalister@wesleyan.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00 to 5:00 and by appointment
Office Location: Religion room 103

Overview
In this course we examine intersections between "race" and “religion” in a number of historical and social contexts in the Americas. We place at the center of our discussions the question of how race and religion are co-constructed categories that function as a prism through which people come to understand and experience their own identities and those of others. We will privilege interpretations that emphasize: a) the intersections of "race" and “religion” as a process in which power plays a pivotal role; and b) a means through which groups form collective identities.

We will read a range of historical analysis and primary source materials from the U.S. and the Caribbean. After a set of theory readings, we will examine a captivity narrative, missionary works, analyses of anti-Semitism, Rastafari, Jonestown, as well as Islamophobia and the contemporary U.S. relationship to the Middle East.

Requirements: Attendance at all classes, completion of the reading assignments, class discussion and weekly 1-page response papers constitute essential components of the course and count for 25% of the grade. Response papers must be posted on Moodle by 11:00 sharp the day of class so that I can read them before our discussion. Late response papers will not be accepted and cannot be made up (but you do get one pass). Response papers will be evaluated on a check system, with average work equaling a ✔, excellent work ✔+, below average ✔-.

During the course of the semester you will give an oral presentation to start class discussion. You get to write three 5-7 page papers for another 75% of the grade. (I will take of a third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late, unless you have asked for an extension at least one day before the due date.) Remember that we are operating under the Honor Code at Wesleyan. Please do not use laptops or tablets in class (but see me if you need one for a specific reason). I don’t mind eating and drinking or lateness (within reason). I DO mind seeing you on your phone, so put it away and on silent. Please email me if you will be or have been absent, and briefly state a reason.
Grading
Participation, response papers, class presentation:  25%
First Essay:  25%
Second Essay:  25%
Third Essay:  25%

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/Student/index.html

Readings
You are required to bring each reading to class on paper, in print form.

Most class readings are in article form and will be available to download from Moodle. Two required books are available from Broad Street Books:


Sept 6  Introduction to the Course

Sept 8  Religious Systems of Meaning


--Wiles, “What Christians Believe” is an optional reading that will provide some basics about Christianity

Sept 13  Race as Social Construction

Sept 15  

*Early Christianity and the potential for race*


Sept 20  

*Colonial Encounters: European and Native American*

--James Axtell, *The Invasion Within: The Cultural Origins of North America*, Chapter 7 (pp. 131-178)

Sept 22  

*Christian and Savage: Primary source*

-- The Captivity Narrative of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, in *So Dreadful a Judgment: Puritan Responses to King Philip's War, 1676-1677*, edited by Richard Slotkin, pp 314-369

Sept 27  

*Africans in the Americas*


Sept 29  

*Atlantic Slavery: Historical Primary Sources*


Oct 4  

*Whiteness and Religion: 19th Century Formations*

Oct 6  

**Racial Formations in Change**


Oct 11  

**Asians, African Americans, and Missionaries**


Oct 13  

**Race, “Hindus” and the Law**


Oct 18  

**Ethiopianism and Rastafari**


Oct 20  

**Changing Self-Representations and Passing**

--Long Lance (Film in class)
--No reading--work on paper

**Paper #1 Due by Friday at 5:00 to Moodle**

Oct 25  

**Fall break no class**

Oct 27:  

**Paranoia and Evil**


Oct 27 panel at 4:30: REQUIRED  
4:30 Panel on Religion and the Elections. Location TBA

Nov 1  \textit{A History of Racism}  

Nov 3  \textit{Anti-Judaism and Anti-Semitism}  
--Sander Gilman, \textit{The Jew's Body}, Ch 7 (169-193); Ch 10 (pp. 234-243).

Nov 8  \textit{Anti-Judiasm without Jews}  

Nov 10: NO CLASS BUT INSTEAD ATTEND TALK ON FRIDAY 4:30 TO 5:45, location TBA  
Jorge Cañizares, "The Jewish Inka King of Paytiti and the Converso Guaman Poma de Ayala (The Old Testament in Peru 1600-1650)"

Reading TBA

Nov 15  \textit{Racialized Eschatologies}  
--David Chidester, \textit{Salvation and Suicide: An Interpretation of Jim Jones, the People's Temple, and Jonestown}, Preface through Chapter two

Nov 17  \textit{Race traitor}  
--David Chidester, \textit{Salvation and Suicide: An Interpretation of Jim Jones, the People's Temple, and Jonestown}, Chapter Three through Epilogue

Nov 22  No class: Prof at Conference

\textbf{--Paper # 2 Due by 5:00 to Moodle}

Nov 24 No class; Thanksgiving
Nov 29  
*Race, The Middle East and US Cultural Politics*

--Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters*, Preface, Intro, Ch. 2

Dec 1  
*Multiculturalism and the Terrorist Threat*

--Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters*, Ch 5, 6, Conc.

Dec 6  
*Racing Religion, Muslims, and the Law since September 11th*


Dec 8  
*Ideology-based Racialization and Islamophobia*


Reading Period begins December 10 and ends December 13

**Final Paper Due December 15 at 5:00, to Moodle**