Possible Curricular Design: M.A. with African American Church Studies Specialization

**Degree**: Master of Arts

**Specialization**: African American Church Studies (AACS)

**Purpose**: The African American Church Studies (AACS) program prepares students to address the issues and challenges of leadership in African American contexts and communities through exposure to the social, historical, and theological nuances of African American religious culture. The AACS specialization strives to provide a historical and theological framework for African American religious life, build students’ capacity to exegete and interpret non-traditional texts through exposure to the diversity of “black religion,” and emphasize the theory and practice of prophetic witness and crisis ministry in the African American context. The ultimate goal of the AACS specialization is to equip African American religious leaders to serve effectively in a globalized and multicultural society for the transformation of the world.

**Requirements:**  Successful completion of 36 credit hours of the M.A. degree program including a total of 14 credits in required AACS courses and electives plus the IS-100 MA Integrative Seminar. M.A. students must declare their intent to specialize within their first semester. Students may either indicate intent in pursuing this specialization at time of admission or may submit the specialization declaration [form](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wesleyseminary.edu%2FPortals%2F0%2FdocLib%2FREG-201000-EMP%250ADeclaration.pdf&data=04%7C01%7Cbludlum%40wesleyseminary.edu%7C79f8d876c0cb4ee8b77108d9d7738837%7C7248b5fdde37482898a9d9a101e8a82b%7C0%7C0%7C637777713478185301%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=qYpyC65iKC3VCbhT0Kz4Zx1yQD8LAMh2WqS%2BQi2mPBU%3D&reserved=0) available at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/forms](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wesleyseminary.edu%2Fforms&data=04%7C01%7Cbludlum%40wesleyseminary.edu%7C79f8d876c0cb4ee8b77108d9d7738837%7C7248b5fdde37482898a9d9a101e8a82b%7C0%7C0%7C637777713478185301%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=I9YiptusyOy%2F5InT5G84yxcGh4Tob5jggLhApxoQG0Q%3D&reserved=0) or in the Registrar’s Office.

**Required:**

AACS Specialization Requirements

* CM-290 – Introduction to the Study of African-American Religion(1 credit)
* EP 282 – Faith, Politics, and the Public Square (2-4 credits)

AACS Electives

Students are required to take a total of 12 credits of AACS approved elective courses. A list of AACS approved elective courses can be found at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies). Courses not listed must have written approval by the Program Director.

To be taken in final semester:

* IS-100 MA Integrative Seminar (1 credit)
* CM-450 Integrative Seminar in AACS (1 credit)

**Potential Additional Coursework:**

Suggested Courses with no-pre-requisites:

* BI 101- Introduction to Hebrew Bible I (Fall course, 3 credits)
* BI 102 - Introduction to Hebrew Bible II (Spring course, 3 credits)
* BI 171 - Introduction to New Testament: Gospels (Fall course, 3 credits)
* BI 172 - Introduction to New Testament: Epistles (Spring course, 3 credits)
* CH 101- The Church in History: Early Church through Reformation (Fall course, 3 credits)
* CH 102 - The Church in History: Reformation to Present (Spring course, 3 credits)
* Philosophy course (ST 180 or ST 181, offered Summer and Fall, respectively)
* Ethics electives (200-level ES coursework) and through the Washington Theological Consortium

Suggested Courses with pre-requisites:

* Systematic Theology I (Fall course, 3 credits)
* Systematic Theology II (Spring course, 3 credits)
* Upper-level Ethics coursework (300-level ES courses, offered every Fall & Spring)