

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Courtland Blade

**Humanities Discipline:** Art History

**Date:** Feb. 24 2016

**World Religion:** Christianity

**Teaching Module Title:** Christianity and Art in America: Taking a closer look

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the diversity and beginnings of Christianity in America.
2. Address how Black American Christian artists were affected by the shifts and changes in America and the ideas and policies implemented.
3. Explore the effects Christianity had on Christian American artists like Henry Osawa Tanner.

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

- *Art History Volume 2* pgs. 983-984
- *Christianity in the United States: A history survey and Interpretation* pgs. 5-23, 28-30.
- *Henry Ossawa Tanner: Revolutionizing the Christian Canon* at the website below,  
<http://alberstowyeth.weebly.com/7/post/2013/03/henry-ossawa-tanner-revolutionizing-the-christian-canon.htm>
- Henry Osawa Tanner (Link Bellow)  
<http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artist/?id=4742>

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is Just War Theory?
2. What Christian group brought the first African to Virginia to be sold as a slave in 1619?
3. What were the three "Enduring Themes" for Christianity in the Colonial period?
4. About how many European immigrants flooded into the United States in the first decade of the twentieth century?
5. What effect did this influx of Europeans have on Christianity?

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Paper:

After doing the readings, review the image of Tanner's early works and a piece from his later period below. Discuss the effects and or changes that you see in Tanner's work as he moved from domestic scenes of African American life to Images of Biblical narratives. Also discuss what may have caused this shift in subject matter.

This should be addressed in essay format in a Word document in MLA, APA, or Chicago style format with a minimum of two pages.



**Henry Ossawa Tanner's *The Banjo Lesson*, oil on canvas, 1893**



**The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner 1896**