

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Audrey Jefferson

**Humanities Discipline:** American History

**Date:** Jan. 29, 2016

**World Religion:** Christianity

**Teaching Module Title:** Christianity in America

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Students will discuss Christianity's role in early America in shaping values.
2. Students will explore ways in which Christianity has been used to oppress and control non-Christian cultures, including Native Americans and African American slaves, and how in turn Native Americans and African Americans used Christianity as a form of resistance.
3. Students will gain awareness of how African Americans included Christianity into African religious beliefs and practices.
4. Students will examine the role of Christianity in leadership formation among African Americans.

### Reading Assignments:

David W. Wills, *Christianity in the United States*, pp. 5-20, 29-34, 44-46

Barbara Diane Savage, *Your Spirit Walks Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion*

### In-Class Activities:

First Class: Provide students with a copy of the Mayflower Compact. Engage students in the understanding of the content of the document. What does this document tell us about the early intentions of these signers? What does the document tell us about their religious views? What indications suggest their goals in establishing Christianity in this new world?

Second class: Discuss the influence of Christianity on Anglo American, African American, and Native American cultures. How did these groups interpret Christianity in similar and different ways? What was political impact of Christianity on their lives? How did each group respond?

Third Class: Discuss the legacy of Christianity in Black America, focusing on patriarchy and leadership.

### Written Assignment:

Students will submit three pages of research about one of the following: Richard Allen, Lemuel Hayes, Louis Farrakhan Father Divine, Fred Shuttlesworth, Benjamin Mays and Adam Clayton Powell.