

**Popular Culture:** Sinners: How Religion Shapes Popular Culture

**Faculty:** Dr. Ambre Dromgoole, Assistant Professor of Africana Religions and Music, Africana Studies & Research Center

**Week One:** July 5 – 11, 2026

**Schedule:** Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

**Location:** Lincoln Hall, room 124

## Resource List

### Reading and Resource List:

Below you'll find a list of readings and resources that correlate with every class session. They are meant to help guide your thinking on daily topics and provide some historical, cultural, and analytical scaffolding. While we will review most readings in class, reviewing them prior will help facilitate spirited discussion. At minimum, students should come prepared to discuss topics, arguments, claims, sources, and authors. All pieces (except for hyperlinked suggested readings) are in our [Class Google Drive Folder](#).

#### ▪ **Monday: Sound**

- “Dylan Goes Electric”: Religion and Race in Rock’s Secularizing Event” by: Kathryn Lofton
- “Call and Response” from *Black Diamond Queens: African American Women and Rock and Roll* by: Maureen Mahon
- Suggested Readings:
  - “How D’Angelo’s “Voodoo” Showed Me How to Live A More Loving and Honest Life” by: Ashon Crawley
  - “Amazing Grace” Gives Us Aretha Franklin at the Spellbinding Height of Her Powers” by: Vinson Cunningham

#### ▪ **Tuesday: Drama**

- “Part I (Act 1-3): Millenium Approaches” from *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* by: Tony Kushner
- “AIDS = Purgatory: Prior Walter’s Prophecy and “Angels in America” by: Claudia Barnett

#### ▪ **Wednesday: Media**

**Popular Culture:** Sinners: How Religion Shapes Popular Culture

**Faculty:** Dr. Ambre Dromgoole, Assistant Professor of Africana Religions and Music, Africana Studies & Research Center

**Week One:** July 5 – 11, 2026

**Schedule:** Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

**Location:** Lincoln Hall, room 124

- Introduction to *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon* by: Kathryn Lofton
- “Female Televangelists and the Gospel of Sexual Redemption” in *Colored Television: American Religion Gone Global* by: Marla Frederick
- **Thursday: Visual Culture**
  - “Shouting” from *The Lonely Letters* by: Ashon Crawley
  - “Between Visual Scenes and Beautiful Lives”: A Conversation with Saidiya Hartman
  - Suggested Readings:
    - [Praise House and Blessing and Healing Oil](#)
    - [Martyrdom and the Role of Art: Kara Walker’s Religious Turn](#)
  - Special Note: We will visit the Johnson Museum for the second half of class from 1:30pm-3:30pm
- **Friday: Film**
  - “Sinners: White Violence, the Spirit(s), and the Purifying Fire of the Blues: A Conversation Between Ahmad Greene-Hayes and Ambre Dromgoole”
  - “I Don’t Do Horror, Ryan Coogler”: Black Magic’s Dr. Yvonne Chireau on Sinners and Bringing Hoodoo to Life” by: Megan Goodwin
  - Special Note: We will screen *Sinners* in this class

School Supply List:

- Paper
- Writing Utensils
- Energy and enthusiasm!