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**J. Kameron Carter, Ph.D.**

**Religion and the Post-Racial Condition**

THE JARVIS LECTURE ON  
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

March 13, 2012

7:00 PM

Wright Auditorium

*Celebrating the spirit of exploration and discovery  
in the arts and sciences*

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Welcome

Dr. Alan White, Dean  
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences  
East Carolina University

Introduction

Dr. Calvin Mercer  
Professor of Religious Studies  
Religious Studies Program  
East Carolina University

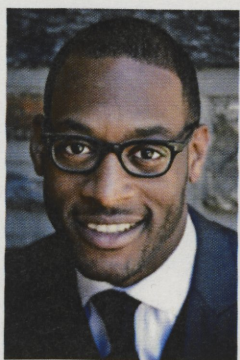
THE JARVIS LECTURE ON  
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

Dr. J. Kameron Carter  
Duke Divinity School,  
Duke University

*Religion and the Post-Racial Condition*

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J. Kameron Carter teaches courses in theology and black church studies at Duke Divinity School, Duke University. His theological studies address basic areas of Christian thought such as Christology (the person and work of Jesus Christ) and theological anthropology (the human being in the Christian perspective).

Carter's work also investigates the complex forms of identity, especially those centered around race, gender, and nationalism, that have come to mark us all. He is particularly interested in the implication of Christian theological thought and the specific deployments of Christianity's social imagination in the identity and social formations that we inhabit. In engaging such matters, he does so with a view not just to the church or to Christian believers, but also to the broader humanities, particularly, such fields as cultural studies, gender studies, philosophy, and literature. His masterwork, *Race: A Theological Account* (Oxford University Press, 2008), examines the multiple legacies implicated in the production of a racialized world. These are the legacies of colonialism and empire, political theories of the state, anthropological theories of the human, and philosophy itself, from the eighteenth-century Enlightenment to the present.

Carter is working on a new book *The Secular Jesus: Religion and the Project of Civilization* (forthcoming, Yale University Press). In it, he explores the ideological uses of Jesus in the modern invention of the human. The book provides a kind of theological archaeology which is, at the same time, a cultural archaeology uncovering and discussing layers of meaning that

reveal how contemporary culture has shaped and been shaped by this pivotal religious figure. Carter re-imagines the identity of Jesus and the politics of Jesus of Nazareth's identity in light of shifting global realities of the twenty-first century. In doing so, Carter constructs a way forward for Christian theology. Through engagement with figures as disparate in outlook as Immanuel Kant, Frederick Douglass, Jarena Lee, Michel Foucault, Cornel West, Charles Long, James Cone, Irenaeus of Lyons, and Maximus the Confessor, Carter reorients the whole of Christian theology, bringing it into the twenty-first century.



### *Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series*

In 2007, the Advancement Council of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences provided funding to establish the College's Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. Showcasing ECU's vibrant academic life, the series advances the spirit of exploration and discovery that is the hallmark of the liberal arts and has become the premier intellectual event for students and faculty of East Carolina University and for the citizens of eastern North Carolina. Each year, the series features thought-provoking and recognized leaders from a variety of disciplines who provide insights into important issues and who share their unique experiences and perspectives.



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