DE 5640 | AFRICAN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIONS

2 semester hours

I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to Christian theologizing in Africa against the background of African cultures and religions. Since Africa has witnessed a rapid expansion of the Christian faith, it is imperative that people interested in Christian ministry in the continent should familiarize themselves with the major issues involved in developing authentic Christian theology within the contemporary context of the continent. After a brief examination of how to study and understand Africa, the course will focus on factors which led to the debate on Christian theologizing in Africa. Descriptions and analyses of African religions will be provided. African theology will be studied in depth.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

A. Appreciate the continent of Africa as Christianity’s most fertile soil.
B. Comprehend the major issues in the study of African religions.
C. Sketch the history and development of African Christian theology.
E. Ascertain what lessons can be learned from Africa by the rest of the worldwide Christian Church.

III. Course Materials

Required


*Recommended*

A. Kato, Byang H. *Theological Pitfalls in Africa*. Nairobi, Kenya: Evangel Press, 1975. (This text is out of print)

**IV. Course Outline**

A. Africa: A General Introduction and Overview

B. Africa and Christianity: A Historical Review

C. African Identity

D. African Religions

E. African Theology

**V. Course Requirements**

A. Read all the required textbooks and the recommended text (if available). Submit with each of the four examinations a reading report listing titles, authors, and pages read.

B. Complete four examinations, each of which follow Lectures 6, 12, 18 and 24.

C. Respond in writing to the study questions for each lecture found in the printed Study Guide. These questions will help focus the lectures for the student and prepare him/her for the four examinations. Submit these responses with your exams.

D. Participate in the discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

E. In addition to the required texts, read up to 200 pages from the bibliography or relevant literature pertaining to the course topic. Submit a record of this reading (author, title, pages read) along with the required reading.

F. Write an evaluative paper for the textbook *Reinventing Christianity* by John Parratt. Evaluate Parratt’s work in light of the three-fold methodology advocated by Dr. Tienou. The paper should consider the following issues in approximately five double-spaced pages:
1. Examine Parratt’s convictions in light of (a) the church, (b) the culture, and (c) Scripture.

2. Do you accept the notion described in his title, namely, “reinventing Christianity” — why or why not?

3. What concepts regarding African Theology might be useful in other contexts around the world, including Western Christianity?

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course labeled with your course tutor’s name. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

VI. Course Grading

Required and Supplemental Reading 10%
Responses to Study Questions and TriNet discussion questions 10%
Four Exams (each 15%) 60%
Evaluative Paper 20%

VII. Reading Schedule

The text listed for a lecture should be read in entirety before listening to that lecture. Required texts that are not mentioned in the reading schedule should be read by the completion of the course.

Lecture 1 African Theology in Its Social Context
Lecture 2 A History of Christianity in Africa
Lecture 3 See Bibliography
Lecture 4 See Bibliography
Lecture 5 African Religions
Lecture 6 See Bibliography
Lecture 7 See Bibliography
Lecture 8       See Bibliography
Lecture 9       Reinventing Christianity; Theological Pitfalls in Africa
Lecture 10      See Bibliography
Lecture 11      See Bibliography
Lecture 12      See Bibliography
Lecture 13      See Bibliography
Lecture 14      See Bibliography
Lecture 15      See Bibliography
Lecture 16      See Bibliography
Lecture 17      See Bibliography
Lecture 18      See Bibliography
Lecture 19      See Bibliography
Lecture 20      See Bibliography
Lecture 21      See Bibliography
Lecture 22      See Bibliography
Lecture 23      See Bibliography
Lecture 24      See Bibliography

VIII. Bibliography


