

COURSE SYLLABUS

WM508: African Theology and Religions

Course Lecturer: Tite Tiéno, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President of Education at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Course Description

With the broad expansion of Christianity in Africa, the African Church and African theology should be understood by us all. This course examines Christian theological formation in Africa against the background of African cultures and religions, and in light of its contemporary context. Also considered are how to study and understand Africa, and the factors that led to the debate on Christian theologizing in Africa. Throughout the course, descriptions and analyses of African religions are provided.

Course Objectives

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

- Appreciate the continent of Africa as Christianity's most fertile soil.
- Comprehend the major issues in the study of African religions.
- Sketch the history and development of African Christian theology.
- Examine specific African proposals for African theology.
- Ascertain what lessons can be learned from Africa by the rest of the worldwide Christian Church.

Course Lecturer



Dr. Tite Tiéno is Senior Vice President of Education, Dean, and Professor of Theology of Missions at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL, where he has served since 1997. At Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Dr. Tiéno's areas of expertise include missions, theology, and the church in Africa. Beginning in 1993 and prior to his work at Trinity, Dr. Tiéno served as President and Dean of Faculté de Théologie Evangélique de l'Alliance Chrétienne in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. Dr. Tiéno taught on the faculty of Alliance Theological Seminary for 9 years where he has continued to serve off and on as a visiting professor. Furthermore, he has lectured or taught at various institutions around the world.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Tiénou has been a member of the African Studies Association since 1991 and the OMSC Study Group on Mission Issues since 1985. He has also served as the senior mission scholar in residence at Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Connecticut, and research fellow at Yale Divinity School. He received the Contextualization Award granted by the School of World Mission for Fuller Theological Seminary. His exceptional leadership is recognized globally.

Education:

- Nyack College, B.S.
- Faculté Libre de Théologie Evangélique, Maîtrise en Théologie
- Fuller Theological Seminary, M.A., Ph.D.

Course Texts

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Bediako, Kwame. *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995.

Dickson, Kwesi. *Theology in Africa*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1984.

Isichei, Elizabeth. *A History of Christianity in Africa*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Parratt, John. *Reinventing Christianity: African Theology Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Ray, Benjamin C. *African Religions*. 2nd edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999.

To order textbook(s), you may use the CUGN online store available on our website at cugn.org. Shipping is available to international students, but please place your order early enough to allow adequate time for delivery. When available, you may also consider downloading the textbook(s) to an eReader.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.