

COURSE SYLLABUS

African Theology and Religions

Course Lecturer: Tite Tiénou, PhD

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, you 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



Tite Tiénou, PhD

Education:

- Fuller Theological Seminary, MA and PhD
- Faculté Libre de Théologie Evangélique, Maîtrise en Théologie
- Nyack College, BS

Teaching Career:

- Senior Vice President of Education, Dean, and Professor of Theology of Missions, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School—expertise in missions, theology, and the church in Africa

- President and Dean, Faculté de Théologie Evangélique de l'Alliance Chrétienne in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa
- Faculty, Alliance Theological Seminary
- Lectured or taught at various institutions around the world

Other Career Highlights:

- Member, African Studies Association
- Member, OMSC Study Group on Mission Issues
- Senior mission scholar in residence, Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, CT
- Research fellow, Yale Divinity School
- Ordained pastor in the Central Church of the Christian Alliance denomination
- Teacher/preacher, various churches in the United States and Africa
- Recipient of the Contextualization Award granted by the School of World Mission for Fuller Theological Seminary
- Member, International Advisory Council for Lausanne II (1986-1989)
- Chairman Emeritus, International Council of Accrediting Agencies
- Editor, *Issues in African Christian Theology*

Publications:

- Numerous publications, including *The Theological Task of the Church in Africa*, *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology*, and *Understanding Folk Religion*

Recommended Reading

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.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

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.

Course Assessment and Requirements

Course requirements include:

- Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
- Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student. No numeric or letter grade will be awarded for this course.