



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION WITH IT.  
1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR  
MAIN CAMPUS – SCHOOL BASED**

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**COURSE CODE: ZRE 3111**

**COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION**

**EXAM VENUE:**

**STREAM: (BED )**

**DATE:**

**EXAM SESSION:**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

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**Instructions:**

- 1. Answer Question ONE (COMPULSORY) and ANY other 2 questions**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper.**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.**

1. (a) Discuss the etymology of the term 'religion'. (10 marks)  
 (b) "Religion is an elusive concept." Respond to this assertion with relevant examples. (20 marks)
2. "Practically, the distinction between religion and magic is one of emphasis: similar metaphysical premises underlie both magical and religious beliefs and practices." With examples, examine this statement by outlining the similarities of religion and magic. (20 marks)
3. "The African God is real, actually known, thought and spoken off". Citing appropriate examples, critically discuss the validity of this statement by articulating respective key aspects. (20 marks)
4. Discuss the concept Theism basing your response on Christian Religion. (20 marks)
5. With illustrative examples do an in-depth assessment of the current state of religion in Kenya. (20 Marks)

**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**School of Humanities and Social Sciences: Department of History, Religion and Philosophy**  
**ZRE 3111: INRODUCTION TO RELIGION**

**Year 1, Semester 1:** September-December 2016. **Contact Hours:** 42; **Lecture Hours:** 42; **Credit Hours:** 3; **Lecture Schedule:** 42hrs: **Credit Hours:** 3 hours/week (3 credits): Tuesdays: 15-16hr at Lab 1, Wednesdays: 15-17hrs at Lab 2. **Office Hours:** Mondays-Fridays 8.00hrs-17.00hrs. **Pre-requisites:** ZRE 3111.

**Purpose of the Course:**

- To teach the interpretive skills for the understanding the concept of religion so as to unearth the socio-economic, political, and cultural significance of religiosity to the African context.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

By the end of the course the learner should be able to:

- Equip oneself with skills to explore the etymological meaning of the concept religion from scholarly, sociological and cultural points of view.
- Present the supernatural nature of religion, and compare it with other disciplines and dimensions of human life.
- Understand Methodological Perspectives and Approached that enabled Scholars Study Religion in different Contexts.
- Apply the results of these investigations to particular situations of life in the contemporary Africa and the rest of the world.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

1. Active class participation. Classroom discussions are an integral part of learning discourse. This class will be built around intense class presentations and discussions. To do this successfully students will be required to read the assigned text prior to every class.
2. Students will be required to write term paper of a maximum of ten (10) pages and a minimum of eight (8) on topics to be assigned during the course. This will constitute 15% of C.A.T. marks
3. Each student will be required to sit for a C.A.T. This will constitute 15 % of the 30% C.A.T. marks.
4. Sit for the final examination which consists of 70%. (*i.e.*, 2, 3 and 4. **COURSE ASSESSMENT:** Examination- 70%; Continuous Assessments, Exercises and Tests -30%; Total 100%.)

**CLASS POLICIES:** As part of course work, every student is expected to:

1. Regularly attend and actively participate in all lectures: The course involves sharing of insights based on the readings understanding, explanation and interpretation of texts with the rest of the class.
2. All assignments must be turned in when they are due.
3. Both class discussions and written assignments will be conducted in academically appropriate language that enhances learning and also preserves and promotes respect for others.
4. If you decide to drop this course, kindly inform me immediately.

**Teaching Methodologies:** A combination of: Lectures; Tutorials; Class/Group assignments, discussions, and presentations; Library and Internet research.

**Instructional Material/Equipment:** Hand-outs; Chalk/white boards, Assignments.

**Course Assessment:** Continuous Assessments: SIT-IN 15%, TAKE AWAY 15%, (=30%); End Semester Examination - 70%; Total 100%.

### **ZRE 3111 COURSE OUTLINE: Topics and Sub-Topics and Weekly Lecture Schedule**

- Week 1-2:      **Word of Welcome and General Introduction of the Course**  
**Introduction of the Course:** Course Outline  
**The Notion “Religion” in the Study/Field of Science of Religion**  
**Definition of terms:**  
                    The Concept and Etymological Divisions of Religion  
                    Dimensions of Defining Religion  
                    Scholarly Definitions of the Term Religion  
                    Difficulties in Defining Religion: Ninian Smart (1998)  
                    Summary: Definitions of Religion
- Week 3:        **Origin of the Term Religion**  
                    Belief in the Supernatural Order  
                    Religion as Revitalization Movements  
                    Justification of the Moral Order  
                    Escape from Reason  
  
                    Theories of the Origin of Religion (*For students’ research and class discussion*)  
                    Summary: Theories of Religion
- Week 4:        **Classifications of Religions** (*For students’ research and class discussion*)  
                    Natural Religions  
                    Cosmic Religions  
                    Revelatory Religions
- Week 5:        **Methodological Perspectives in the Study of Religion**  
                    Empirical Perspective  
                    Theological Perspective  
                    Historical Perspective
- Week 6:        **Approaches Applied by Scholars that Enabled them Study Religion in Different**  
**Contexts**  
                    Psychological Approach  
                    Sociological Approach  
                    Historical Approach

Form Comparative Approach  
Hermeneutical Approach

Week 7-8: **Religion and Other Disciplines**(*For students' research and class discussion*)  
Religion and Sociology  
Religion and Theology  
Religion and other Social Sciences (Humanities: esp. Philosophy, Anthropology)  
Religion and Science

Week 9-10: **Religion and other Dimensions of Human Life**  
Religion and magic  
Religion and Morality(*For students' research and class discussion*)  
Religion and Theism

Week 11: **The Teaching and Nature of God**  
In African Religion  
The Christian Perspective: The Dogmatic Teaching on the Trinity

Week 12-13: **Religion and Revelation**  
The Concept Revelation  
Revelation in Buddhism (*For students' research and class discussion*)  
Revelation in Christianity

Week 14: **Observations and Conclusions**  
Present state of Religion in the Contemporary World  
The Future of Religion in Africa  
General Observation about the future of Religion

#### REFERENCES

1. Bowker, J., (ed.), *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Religions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
2. Brown, David A., *Guide to Religions*, (SPCK) 1975.
3. Durkheim, Emile, *The Elementary forms of Religions*, George and Unwin Ltd. 1915.
4. Eliade, M. *The Quest, History and meaning of Religion*, Chicago University 1959.
5. Evans, Prichard, *Theories of primitive Religions*, Oxford University press 1965.
6. Hall T. Williams *Introduction to the study of Religion*, New York Harper and Row, 1879.
7. Mugambi, J. N.K. (ed.), *A Comparative Study of Religions*. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2010.
8. Ninian Smart, *The Religious Experience of Mankind*, New York, Collins, 1969
9. Noss John, *Mans Religion*, London, Macmillan Publishing Co. 1980.
10. Parrinder, E.G., *The Worlds Living Religions*, London, Pan, 1964.

#### *Primary Books for further Reading*

11. *Blackwells Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Thought*, A McGrath, 1993.
12. *Dictionary of Fundamental Theology* (Ed) Rene Ratouzello, St. Pauls Middle green, Slough, 1994.
13. *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, (Ed), Cross, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1978.

Course Lecturer: **Dr. Naila G. Napoo**

Sign:

Date: