

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1. INTRODUCTION

This program is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills necessary for a rational reflection on the religious forces that shape our society and world; offer a critical appreciation and appropriation of their own respective religious values and faith-traditions. Religious Studies encourage and guide inquiries into life's most meaningful issues from diverse perspectives, such as: ethics, sacred scriptures, theology, history, psychology, sociology, philosophy, African Studies, and comparative world religions.

This particular program targets those who wish to specialize in the following areas: Ethics, Leadership, and Integrity; Peace and Conflict Resolution; Human Rights and Social Justice; Religion and Development; Religious Education. It will also serve as a propaedeutic, preparing those who intend to do postgraduate studies in Religion, Theology, and Philosophy; and those considering a vocation of service as pastoral workers, ministers of religion, social workers, community organizers, and counsellors.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this program is to encourage students to think critically and creatively about their religious beliefs and practices, while at the same time learn to appreciate the religious teachings, traditions, and practices of others.

Specific objectives of this program include:

- (i) To develop an appreciation of cultural pluralism and religious diversity.
- (ii) To foster character formation and responsible global citizenship.
- (iii) To cultivate an appreciation for moral, ethical, and religious values.
- (iv) To facilitate acquisition of servant leadership skills.
- (v) To prepare expert articulate scholars of religion.
- (vi) To train experts in inter-religious dialogue, ecumenism, and peace building.
- (vii) To prepare students for a life of active commitment to social justice and to be catalysts of social transformation.

3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must satisfy the minimum University entry requirements. In addition, they should meet the following requirements:

Have at least a mean grade of C+ in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and at least a grade C+ in social ethics or Religious Studies.

Or

Have two principal passes in KACE / EAACE.

Or

Have a Diploma in Philosophy or any other related discipline from a recognized university or college.

4. CREDIT TRANSFER

- a) Transfer of academic credits shall be accepted on individual basis for courses undertaken and successfully completed by students at accredited universities/institutions who request to transfer the same to the university, for incorporation into the degree course and final classification of the degree.
- b) The relevant academic body as approved by the University Senate shall make official evaluation and transfer of credits.
- c) The number of hours, content and grading of courses for which credit transfer is sought should be equivalent to the courses offered at the University.
- d) Only grades of B and above will be transferred.
- e) Only a maximum of $\frac{1}{3}$ or equivalent of the study program at the university can be transferred.
- f) Such courses are to satisfy the requirements of the first and second years of study only.

5. COURSE STRUCTURE AND DURATION

- a) The degree shall normally take four academic years or 8 semesters.
- b) Courses shall be offered in Units. A course Unit is defined as that of a subject described by a coherent syllabus and taught normally over a period of a semester. It is

designated as a total of 42 hours of study in a semester. For this purpose one 1 hour lecture is equivalent to 2 hour tutorial or 3 hour practical or any combination as may be approved by the board of the School.

- c) All courses will be taught for a total of 42 contact hours, including examinations except institutional attachment which will take 480 hours of practical work in a relevant institution.

6. EXAMINATIONS REGULATIONS

University rules and regulation shall apply.

7. COURSE LISTING

One semester shall comprise minimum of seven (7) units and a maximum of nine (9) units.

8. COURSE DISTRIBUTION

YEAR ONE: SEMESTER ONE

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
*ZRE 3111	Introduction to Religious Studies	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3112	History of Religions	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3113	Hebrew Scriptures	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3114	Introduction to Philosophy	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3115	Logic	42	0	42	1C
PHT 3114	HIV and AIDS	42	0	42	1R
EEL 3115	Communication Skills	42	0	42	1R
SCS 3111	Computer Organization and Application	28	14	42	1R
Total		322	14	336	8

YEAR ONE: SEMESTER TWO

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours	Weight
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		Lecture	Practical	Total	(Unit)
ZRE 3121	Phenomenology of Religion	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3122	African Religions	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3123	Synoptic Gospels	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3124	Religion, Culture, and Communication	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3125	Critical Thinking	28	14	42	1C
ZRE 3126	Religion and Science	42	0	42	1C
ERP 3121	Social Ethics and Integrity	42	0	42	1R
SLB 3121	Development Studies	42	0	42	1R
Total		322	14	336	8

) *Means a New Course*

YEAR TWO: SEMESTER ONE

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
ZRE 3211	Hinduism	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3212	The Life and Teaching of Prophet Muhammad	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3213	Foundations of Ethics	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3214	Epistemology	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3215	The Modern Worldview	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3216	Religion in Literature	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3217	African Philosophy	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3218	Elementary Latin	42	0	42	1R
Total		336	0	336	8

YEAR TWO: SEMESTER TWO

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
*ZRE 3221	History of Early Christianity	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3222	Christology	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3223	Eastern Religions	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3224	Life and Teaching of Gautama Buddha	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3225	Psychology of Religion	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3226	Hermeneutics	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3227	Postmodernism	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3228	Elementary koine Greek	42	0	42	1R
Total		336	0	336	8

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER ONE

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
ZRE 3311	Philosophy of Religion	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3312	Hebrew Prophets	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3313	Post-Reformation Christianity	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3314	Qur'an and Hadiths	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3315	Jainism	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3316	Marriage and Family in Africa	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3317	Johannine Writings	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3318	Elementary Hebrew	42	0	42	1E
Total		336	0	336	8

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER TWO

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
*ZRE 3321	Applied Ethics	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3322	New Testament Epistles	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3323	Research Methods in Religion	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3324	Chinese Religions	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3325	History of Christianity in Kenya	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3326	Belief Systems in Kenya	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3327	History of Islamic Civilization & Culture	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3328	Arabic	42	0	42	1E
Total		336	0	336	8

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER TWO

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
*ZRE 3331	Institutional Attachment	480	0	480	
Total		480	0	480	

YEAR FOUR: SEMESTER ONE

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
ZRE 3411	Contemporary Religious Thought	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3412	Religion, Education, and Development	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3413	Human Rights Justice and Peace	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3414	Indian Philosophy	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3415	Women in Religion	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3416	History of Islam in Africa	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3417	Religion and Health in Africa	42	0	42	1C

*ZRE 3418	Elementary Sanskrit	42	0	42	1R
Total		336	0	336	8

YEAR FOUR: SEMESTER TWO

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours			Weight (Unit)
		Lecture	Practical	Total	
*ZRE 3421	New Religious Movements	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3422	African Theology	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3423	Liberation Theology	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3424	Ecumenism	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3425	Inter-religious Dialogue	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3426	Religion and African Customary Law	42	0	42	1C
ZRE 3427	Islamic Mysticism	42	0	42	1C
*ZRE 3428	Peace and Conflict Resolution	42	30	42	1C
*ZRE 3429	Research Seminar	12	0	42	1E
Total		348	30	378	9

COURSE DESCRIPTION

YEAR ONE: SEMESTER ONE

***ZRE 3111: Introduction to Religious Studies**

The importance of the study of religion; concept of religion: nominal, functional, descriptive definitions; the history of the study; theories of the origin of religion; man's search for meaning; analysis of relationships between religion and magic, revelation and faith, myth and symbol, reason and faith, religion and morality, mysticism and theism; fetishism, animism and totemism; religions of pre-historic man and select preliterate peoples; evaluation of prevailing critique of religion.

ZRE 3112: History of Religions

The importance of the study of religion; the history of the study; theories of the origin of religion; fetishism and magic, naturism, animism and animatism, euhemerism, totemism, and the Oedipus complex; religious traditions of various people of the world; religions of pre-historic man and select preliterate peoples, with special attention on African Religion and Religions of India.

***ZRE 3113: Hebrew Scriptures**

General introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, the Text, the Canon, questions of authorship, sources, dates, contents and characteristics of the books in order of the Hebrew Canon: The Law, Historical Books, Prophets, Wisdom Literature, and the Apocrypha; readings and exegesis of the Pentateuch and Historical Books.

***ZRE 3114: Introduction to Philosophy**

Nature of philosophical inquiry; writings of major figures, thinkers, and groups in the history of Philosophy from classical antiquity up to the medieval era: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas, Ockham; Epicureans, Stoics, Neo-Platonist, Jewish philosophers, Islamic philosophers, scholastics, rebirth of classical humanism; worldviews, cultural assumptions and values represented by these philosophers and movements; effects of these assumptions on philosophical and religious thinking.

***ZRE 3115: Logic**

Introduction, problems of definitions, Structure and interrelations of propositions, syllogisms, evaluating premises, deductive and inductive reasoning, inference, arguments, dilemmas, judgment, fallacies, square of opposition, symbolic Logic, non-deductive processes of the scientific method, analysis of probabilities.

PHT 3114: HIV and AIDS

Historical background and magnitude of HIV/AIDS, general organization of the human body, reproduction immune system (human physiology) and other factors, sex and sexuality, the biology of the human immune deficiency virus and viral transmission, stages of infection and the

development of HIV and AIDS, opportunistic infections, HIV and AIDS prevention and infection control, peer education for HIV, treatment options and vaccine development, blood transfusion and HIV and AIDS, management of HIV and related infections, legal and ethical issues in HIV and AIDS, factors that influence the spread of HIV and AIDS in Africa, case studies in selected countries in Africa, HIV and AIDS as a national disaster impacts, myths and emerging issues on HIV and AIDS.

EEL 3115: Communication Skills

Study skills, planning study time, making reference, filing notes, preparing for examinations, library skills, organization, classification, shelving, using reference books, listening in lecture, speeches and instructions, understanding lectures, note taking, speaking skills, asking and answering questions in lectures and seminars, making and defending arguments, agreeing and disagreeing, explaining points clearly, academic reading skills, skimming and scanning, understanding footnotes and bibliographical references.

SCS 3111: Computer Organization and Application

Introduction to the computer and the notion of a programmable machine, the basic organization based on the Von Neumann Model, functional components (CPU, memory, I/Q) and their logical organization, number systems and internal data representation, concept software and types of software, components of contemporary personal computer systems from end-users perspective, classical and contemporary application of computers, proficiency in basic computer usage and productivity/office automation application including word-processing, spreadsheets, e-mail, web, etc, basic first level security and maintenance issues, ethical and societal issues.

YEAR ONE, SEMESTER TWO

ZRE 3121: Phenomenology of Religion

Phenomenology as a general methodology and its application to religion, theories of the origin of phenomenology; religious experience and its expressions in thought, action and fellowship; religion in human society, schools of thought as represented in the traditions of Emile Durkheim and Marx Weber; the functions of religion in society in general and to the individual in particular; impact of science.

ZRE 3122: African Religions

Reason for the study of African Religions; problems encountered in the study: past and present; the nature of African Religions; the conception of God, Divinities, Ancestors and Spirits; the African view of man; family and kinship systems; Religious Specialists, transition rites; communal and personal rites; magic, witchcraft and sorcery and the interaction between African Religions and Christianity on the one hand, and Islam on the other; African Religions today and future prospects.

***ZRE 3123: Synoptic Gospels**

Survey of the New Testament canon; some enduring problems of canonicity; the synoptic problem; two source theory; the authors of the synoptics, what, where, and when they wrote; contribution of Source, Form, and Redaction critics in understanding the gospel message; portraits of Jesus in each of the synoptics; portraits of the disciples and other gospel characters proposed to gospel readers for emulation; comparison of parables, deeds, and sayings of Jesus in the synoptics; comparison of infancy and passion narratives in the synoptics.

ZRE 3124: Religion, Culture and Communication

The course studies the inter-relationships between religion, culture and communication; the concept, definition, and characteristics of culture; understanding of religion in the face of cultural change; religious communication in cultural and generation gaps; the nexus between religion and the modern mass media.

***ZRE 3125: Critical Thinking**

Sources of knowledge: perception and testimony; thinking outside the box, persuasion, propaganda, stereotypes; paradigms of truth, moral responsibility towards truth, pluralism, relativism; language, meaning, terms, references; research, reasoning and analysis; thinking tools; writing good arguments and making sound decisions; analysis and synthesis; deconstruction and critical thinking.

ZRE 3126: Religion and Science

Relationship between religion and the natural sciences; the meaning and function of specific concepts, theories, and paradigms in science and religion. Complementarities of science and religion; Religious and scientific methods of investigation; Fact vs Value; the origin and nature of man and the universe; God and the Universe; Islamic contribution to scientific development; contemporary questions of ethics and public policy; religion and modern scientific & technological advancement.

ERP 3121: Social Ethics and Integrity

Definitions and concepts, categories of ethics, national cohesion, peace, integrity, unity, structural injustices, ethnicity, positive ethnicity, negative ethnicity, peacemaking, peace building, peace transformation, stakeholders in national cohesion.

SLB 3121: Development Studies

Development studies as an autonomous discipline, the concept of development, an overview of the theories and paradigms of development, the relationship between economic growth and development, science and technology in development, developed and developing countries, issues in development, social, economic and political, actors in development, the state, national and international NGO's, bilateral multilateral institutions, Multinational Corporations (MNC's) and social movements.

YEAR TWO: SEMESTER ONE

ZRE 3211: Hinduism

The problem of defining 'Hindu' and 'Hinduism.' The place of Hinduism in world religions. The Hindu scriptures - the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas, the Brahmanas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Bhagavad-Gita. The Hindu doctrines of Brahman, Isvara, Karma, Samsakara, Maya, and Moksha; Hindu Worship, rituals and festivals; Hinduism in East Africa.

ZRE 3212: The Life and Teaching of Prophet Muhammad

The life and teaching of the Prophet Muhammad; general life in Makka, the birth and early life of Muhammad, the call, Risalah and Revelation; the early Muslim community and persecution in Makka, grant of asylum by the King of Abyssinia, Isra Wal Miraj The Hi Ira, the Muslim Umma,

the Battle of Badr and Khanda the truce of Hudaibiyya, conquest of Makka. Teaching on specific issues such as brotherhood of man, racism, slavery, status of women, tolerance for adherents of other religions.

***ZRE 3213: Foundations of Ethics**

Meaning of ethics; Ethics and morality: origin, nature, and method; Ethics and other disciplines; Theories of ethics: Value ethics, virtue ethics, Deontological-Kantian theory, Utilitarianism, ontological ethics, ethical relativism and pluralism, African traditional ethics, Natural law; pedagogy of moral formation; types of normative moral judgements; subjective and objective factors of morality; Theories of moral development: the moral agent – understanding ourselves, fundamental option, free will and determinism; conscience, sin and reconciliation; Human Rights, Civil Rights and Justice; the four species of justice: legal justice, Distributive justice, Commutative justice, and social justice.

***ZRE 3214: Epistemology**

Theories of Knowledge: episteme, doxa, common sense, and scientific; formation of concepts and ideas; veracity of knowledge: truth, reliability, validity; Baconian method and tables of investigation; Descartes' clear and distinct ideas; Hume's denial of causality; Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: noumenon and phenomenon; notion of pre-understanding in Heidegger; Lonergan's cognitional theory, immanently generated knowledge and knowledge from belief, realism, naïve- realism, critical realism; competing paradigms of truth: coherence, correspondence, performative, pragmatic, relativism, objectivism, fusion of horizons; epistemology and religious knowledge.

***ZRE 3215: The Modern Worldview**

Philosophical figures and movements from the Renaissance to Kant; Reformation, Scientific Revolution, and Enlightenment; religious reaction to Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo; Forging of Newtonian Cosmology; philosophical revolution in the works of Bacon and Descartes; the apparent triumph of secularism and early concord between religion and science; changing image of the human person from Copernicus through Freud; Self critique of the Modern mind: Locke, Hume, and Kant; Crisis of Modern Science; Romanticism and its fate: divided worldview of the two cultures; attempted synthesis: from Goethe and Hegel to Jung.

***ZRE 3216: Religion in Literature**

Religious motifs in works of novelists, play writers, and genres of African oral literature: Sacred scripture as sources of inspiration; analogical reference to major figures of religion, appropriation of the notion of freedom and liberation; depiction of challenge of inculturation and syncretism; ambiguity and tension between western civilization, 18th Century christian missionary agenda and African Traditional Religions. The above topics will be studied using a selection of works of African writers, artists, and poets; for example, Okot p'Bitek, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Chinua Achebe, Elechi Amadi. The study of Religious symbology in contemporary works of fiction will use either Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* or *Angels and Demons* or any other relevant text.

***ZRE 3217: African Philosophy**

Definition of African Philosophy and its connection to African Traditional Religions; Modern and Contemporary trends in African Philosophy; Ethno-philosophical approach, Cheikh Anta Diop on *Precolonial Africa*, Placide Temples on *Bantu Philosophy*, Leopold Sedar Senghor on *Negritude*, John Mbiti on *African Religions and Philosophy*; Universalist approach: Lansana Keita, Kwame Appiah, Kwasi Wiredu, and Paulin Hountondji; Philosophic Sagacity approach: Henry Odera Oruka and Sage Philosophy; Hermeneutic orientation of Tsenay Serequeberhan, Marcien Towa, Okonda Okolo; Political Ideological trend of Kwame Nkurumah, Julius Nyerere, and Nelson Mandela; Negritude, Nationalism, and Nativism; Concept of Person; African Cosmologies; Ubuntu, the basis of Peace Justice and Reconciliation initiative of South Africa;

Connection of African philosophy to African-American and feminist philosophies; Justice and Restitution in African Political thought.

ZRE 3218: Elementary Latin

Fundamentals of Latin grammar and vocabulary. Morphology and syntax; pronunciation; linguistic structure; grammatical analysis; parts of speech; declensions; conjugation, gender; cases; sense; voices; pronouns; prepositions; infinitives; adjectives; adverbs; numerals; negatives; questions; relative clauses; conjunctions; moods; elementary Latin-English and English-Latin translations.

YEAR TWO: SEMESTER TWO

***ZRE: 3221: History of Early Christianity**

The origin and development of Christianity up to 1500 CE; Jewish background; Peter and the Apostolic Church; Hellenistic and Gentile Christianity; Paul of Tarsus and the Council of Jerusalem; persecutions; the Apologists; primacy of Rome; Constantine and the Edict of Milan; Gnosticism and Marcionism; Christological and Trinitarian controversies, the early Church Councils; rise of western monasticism; Augustine of Hippo; Monastic and Papal Reforms; East-Western Schism, Thomas Aquinas and medieval Christianity; encounter with Islam; Inquisition; Avignon Papacy, The Great Western Schism and Conciliarism.

***ZRE 3222: Christology**

Theological distinction between Jesus of history and the Christ of faith; historical-critical method of Christology; the birth, life, ministry, passion, crucifixion and death of Jesus; significance of the resurrection and Easter event; categories and titles used by the Apostolic community to refer to Jesus; classical-Conciliar Christological controversies; 21st century Christological trends: African Christology, Christological manifestations in art, architecture, theology, music, literature, and creeds.

ZRE 3223: Eastern Religions

The religions of the Far East: Confucianism, Taoism, Sikhism, Shintoism, later Buddhism; The religions of the Near East: Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Bahai, and the present prospects of these religions in society.

ZRE 3224: Life and Teaching of Gautama Buddha

The Heavenly Council – background, birth, early life of Siddhartha, his marriage to Yasodhara, and birth of Rahul. The four visions of Siddhartha (sickness, old age, death, Sanyasi) and early wanderings; the early disciples of Buddha; the teachings of Gautama Buddha – the three virtues, the four noble truths, the eightfold path; the Buddhas' teaching on Nirvana; the death of Buddha, the spread, and expansion of Buddhism.

ZRE 3225: Psychology of Religion

Definitions and methodology issues; relation of psychology of religion to phenomenology of religion and comparative religion; religious phenomena both of individuals and groups based on our relationship to God; the contents of revelation; the psychology of conversion; fundamental human experiences; observations of individuals and group manifestations of the religious spirit and the present state of psychology of religion.

ZRE 3226: Hermeneutics

The need for and meaning of hermeneutics; the tools for Biblical interpretations: Exegesis, eisegesis, hermeneutics; General and regional hermeneutics; Historical schools of interpretation: allegorical, literal, devotional, liberal interpretation, neo-orthodoxy, heilsgeschichtliche school; the protestant system of hermeneutics; Catholic system of interpretation; principles of interpretation; the doctrinal use of the Bible; the problem of inerrancy and secular science; prophesy and parables.

***ZRE 3227: Postmodernism**

Postmodernism as shaped by pluralism, complexity, ambiguity; critical consciousness the only postmodern absolute; intellectual currents associated with postmodernism: post-structuralism, pragmatism, existentialism, Marxism, Nihilism, Psychoanalysis, feminism, hermeneutics, deconstruction, post-empiricist philosophy of science, and post-Christianism; selected major thinkers of postmodernism: Nietzsche, Jean Francois Lyotard, Charles Jencks, Wittgenstein, Husserl, Heidegger, Gadamer, Derrida, Foucault, Sandra Harding, Susan Bordo, Hanna Arent, Richard Rorty, Emmanuel Levinas, Alasdair Macintyre, Jurgen Habermass, and Cornel West.

***ZRE 3228: Elementary Koine Greek**

Greek alphabet, Fundamentals of Greek grammar and vocabulary. Morphology and syntax; pronunciation; linguistic structure; grammatical analysis; parts of speech; declensions; conjugation, gender; cases; tenses, the definite article; voices; pronouns; prepositions; infinitives; adjectives; adverbs; numerals; negatives; questions; relative clauses; conjunctions; moods; oarist, elementary Greek-English and English-Greek translations. Reading and comprehension in Koine Greek.

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER ONE

ZRE 3311: Philosophy of Religion

Questions related to religion; the nature of religion, the traditional arguments for the existence of God, the critiques of the arguments, the nature and attributes of God; the problems of evil; faith and reason; the 'question of providence and freewill.

ZRE 3312: Hebrew Prophets

Background of Prophecy: Spirit possession, cultic prophets, prophets and politics, prophetic symbolic actions; function of Prophets in Israel; exegesis of major prophets: Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel; life and message of prophets of Social Justice: Amos, Micah, Hosea.

***ZRE 3313: Post-Reformation Christianity**

The development of Christianity from 16th Century to 21st Century; The spirit of the Renaissance and Humanism; Forerunners of the Reformation: John Wycliffe, John Huss, Desiderius Erasmus; Three major reformers: Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin; Catholic Counter-reformation; Carmelite Renewal in Spain; Jesuits and the Council of Trent; English Puritans, Pietism, Methodism; Radical reformation movements: Anabaptists, Mennonites, Amish; rise of Evangelicalism and American revivalism; 19th Century American cults: Mormons, Adventists, Christian Science, Jehovah Witnesses; Age of Discoveries and Missions; 20th Century Pentecostalism and the Charismatic movement.

ZRE 3314: Qur'an and Hadiths

The Origin and composition of the Qur'an, its divine authority, and total infallibility. Its major divisions; the approach to Qur'anic translation by liberal conservative scholars. The Qur'anic doctrine of Allah, justice, worship, and man's social responsibility. The origin and development of Hadith; the principal Hadiths and their teachings.

***ZRE 3315: Jainism**

Continuity and discontinuity with Hinduism; the first and last of the 24 Tirthankaras; life and teachings of Vardhamana Mahavira; survey of Jain history; Jain scriptures; doctrines and practices; two branches of Jainism: Svetambaras and Digambaras; Jainism and its contribution to Indian and world cultures.

***ZRE 3316: Marriage and Family in Africa**

Types of marriages and families in Africa and their structure and purpose. Family needs, relationships, rights and responsibilities in modern society. Socialization process and gender roles. Moral and social education in the family. Contemporary trends affecting the family e.g. domestic violence, child abuse, poverty. The ethics governing customs and options on sex, marriage and reproduction. Property and inheritance rights, roles, responsibilities, mutuality, commitment and accountability of stake-holders.

***ZRE: 3317: Johannine Writings**

Distinctiveness of Johannine writings from the synoptics; the life and struggles of the communities that originate them; theological world of John, authorship, sources, composition; structure of the Gospel of John: the Book of Signs and the Book of Glory; exegesis of the Gospel of John: John 1:1-51, prelude to Jesus' ministry; John 2:1-5:47, Jesus' words and works; John 6:1-10:42, conflict and opposition; John 11:1-12:50, prelude to Jesus' Hour; John 13:1-17:26, the farewell meal and discourse; John 18:1-19:42, Jesus' arrest, trial, and death; John 20:1-31, first resurrection appearances; John 21:1-25, Jesus' resurrection appearances at the Sea of Tiberius; main Johannine concepts; exegesis of texts frequently used in main-stream christian lectionary and in the Lenten and Easter catechisis; finality of John's Gospel (Jn: 20: 30-31); Johannine epistles as commentary to John's Gospel, Christology, Ethics, Pneumatology.

***ZRE: 3318: Elementary Hebrew**

Hebrew alphabet, Fundamentals of Hebrew, grammar and vocabulary. Morphology and syntax; pronunciation; linguistic structure; grammatical analysis; parts of speech; declensions; conjugation, gender; cases; tenses, voices; pronouns; prepositions; infinitives; adjectives; adverbs; numerals; negatives; questions; relative clauses; conjunctions; moods; tetragrammaton, elementary Hebrew-English and English-Hebrew translations. Reading and comprehension in Biblical Hebrew.

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER TWO

***ZRE 3321: Applied Ethics**

Relevance of ethics on day-to-day issues of culture and development: the family, liberation, violence, nonviolence, economy; Ethics and accountability; Ethics in politics; Ethics in business; Ethics and Mass media; Cyber ethics: digital technologies, internet, email, face book privacy, responsible postings in YouTube; environmental ethics: ecology, climate change, global warming, green house effect; Ethics and technology; Bioethics: scientific advancement, genetically modified organisms, food security, stem cell research, cloning, medical technology, right to life, euthanasia, dying in dignity, Hippocratic oath; Marriage and sexual ethics: abortion, test tube babies, surrogate motherhood; Just war ethics; Hospitality ethics.

***ZRE 3322: New Testament Epistles**

The life of Paul in the Acts of the Apostles, his conversion narratives, his missionary methods, his journey to Rome; life and concerns of Christians who lived after the deaths of the first witnesses to Christ as reflected in the Pastoral Epistles; synthesis of Pauline theology in the Letter to the Ephesians; Genuine Pauline Epistles; Pseudo-Pauline epistles. The Catholic Epistles: Peter, James, John, Jude; Letter to the Hebrews.

***ZRE 3323: Research Methods in Religion**

Theories relating to the need and functions of research methods in religion and the humanities; classical science, scientific methods, and theological method; ethnographic method and methods of inculturation; Phenomenological-Hermeneutical method; Bernard Lonergan's Transcendental Method and Method in Theology; preparation for research practicum, internship, and pastoral fieldwork placement.

ZRE 3324: Chinese Religions

The life of Lao-Tzu; scriptures of Taoism: The Tao Te Ching; teachings of early Taoist philosophers; rival schools to the Taoists: the Confucians, the Legalists, the Mohists; life and teaching of Confucius; the basic tenets of Chinese religions: polytheism and spirits, the Yin and the Yang, animism and ancestor worship, divination; development of belief in the Shang Ti.

ZRE 3325: History of Christianity in Kenya

Kenya in pre-colonial times; the coming of missionaries to Africa, especially to East Africa; African Martyrs; growth and development of mainstream churches in Kenya: Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, African Inland Church, Seventh Day Adventist, Friends Church, Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Salvation Army; emergence of African Independent Churches, African Charismatic movements and their effects on mainline churches; Church and State relations: the churches and the 3rd liberation struggle, Ufungamano initiative, Pastoral letters to the President and Peoples of Kenya; separation of religion from state in the New Constitution.

ZRE 3326: Belief Systems in Kenya

The commonality and diversity of beliefs and practices among the peoples of Kenya; the cosmologies (worldviews) of particular ethnic groups; the interaction of these world views with the teaching of the major religions which have been planted in Kenya; the inculturation of these world views and teachings within the new and indigenous religious movements.

ZRE 3327: History of Islamic Civilization & Culture

The Pre-Islamic background in Arabia; the rise and expansion of Islam both within and outside Arabia; its development into one of the world religions; the political history of Islam, the Umayyad and Abbasid periods; doctrinal controversies and various movements in Islamic contribution to the development of science; modern development in Islam.

ZRE 3328: Arabic

The language of the Quran and Hadith; Arabic alphabet, Fundamentals of Arabic, grammar and vocabulary; Morphology and syntax; pronunciation; linguistic structure; grammatical analysis; parts of speech; declensions; conjugation, gender; cases; tenses, voices; pronouns; prepositions; infinitives; adjectives; adverbs; numerals; negatives; questions; relative clauses; conjunctions; moods; elementary Arabic-English and English-Arabic translations. Reading and comprehension in Quaranic Arabic.

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER THREE

ZRE 3331: Industrial Attachment

YEAR FOUR: SEMESTER ONE

ZRE 3411: Contemporary Religious Thought

Historical survey of religious thoughts from the mid-twentieth century to the present; major issues in contemporary religious debate; Secularization, religion and science; existentialism, humanism, neo-marxism and liberation theologies, contemporary religious movements such as ecumenism; evangelical revivalism; models of inter-religious relationship.

ZRE 3412: Religion, Education and Development

The role of religion in education and development of Africa in the pre-colonial, colonial, and postcolonial periods in Kenya. African traditional modes of education and socialization, both formal and informal; religion and religious texts as the substantive content of education in the process of Christianization and the educational institutions; religion and the health institution; religion and communication institutions; co-operation between religious institution and the state in modern development.

***ZRE 3413: Human Rights Justice and Peace**

Historical evolution of issues concerning human rights, injustice in the society, the quest for peace in the light of violence and other inhuman acts, human rights charter, justice and peace as a pre-requisite for human development in Africa. Religion as a source of human rights. Role of religion in the formulation of international and regional documents: the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, Charter on the Rights of Family, Charter on Human rights of Women; the Convention on Children's Rights; Case study of religious and secular institutions concerned with human rights.

***ZRE 3414: Indian Philosophy**

The Basic features of Indian Philosophy; meaning and scope of Indian Philosophy; place of authority and reasoning in Indian Philosophy; schools of Indian Philosophy; how the Indian Systems developed; common characteristics of the Indian systems; space-time background; The nine systems of Indian philosophy: C rv ka System; Jaina System; Bauddha System; Ny ya System; S khya system; M m msa system; Ved nta system.

ZRE 3415: Women in Religion

Interpretation of Female images and symbols in various religious traditions; women in the Bible, women in Christianity and Islam, women in Buddhism, Hinduism, and African Religions; Changing role of women in religion and leadership role of women in the New Religious Movements; problems arising from women's role in religion; ordination of women; rise of feminist movements.

ZRE 3416: History of Islam in Africa

The coming of Islam to Africa in the seventh century; the emergence of Islam in North Africa, the conquest of Egypt, the Maghreb and Nubia, the spread of Islam in West Africa, its expansion in East Africa; co-existence of Islam with Christianity in some parts of Africa. Islam and slave trade, the impact of resistance movements in the spread of Islam, Islam in contemporary coastal, rural and urban areas in East Africa; various sects found in Kenya.

***ZRE 3417: Religion and Health in Africa**

Concepts of healing and health in Africa; interpretation of causes of illness; curative and preventive measures; types of indigenous healers. Religious dimension in healing and well-being, equilibrium between natural and supernatural forces, spirit world and the world in-between, taboos and curses, the evil-eye phenomenon, faith healers, Indigenous systems of healing vis-à-vis contemporary patterns of healing. The future of quasi-religious indigenous healing systems.

ZRE 3418: Elementary Sanskrit

The language of Indian philosophy, religions, and key to Indian languages; Sanskrit alphabet, Fundamentals of Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary; Morphology and syntax; pronunciation; linguistic structure; grammatical analysis; parts of speech; declensions; conjugation, gender; cases; tenses, voices; pronouns; prepositions; infinitives; adjectives; adverbs; numerals; negatives; questions; relative clauses; conjunctions; moods; elementary Sanskrit-English and English-Sanskrit translations; reading and comprehension of a selection of easier Sanskrit classical texts.

YEAR FOUR: SEMESTER TWO

ZRE 3421: New Religious Movements

Typology of New Religious Movements – Nationalists; Ethiopian, Spiritual, Zionist, Prophet-healing, Messianic, New African Traditional Movements, Nativistic, Neo-Pentecostal, Charismatic, Millennial. Characteristics of New Religious Movements – Healing and Deliverance, Community, Women, Inculturation, Worship, Christology, Mission, Use of the Bible, fundamentalism, Salvation, Socio-economic and political concerns, Mass media use in AICs. Doctrines of the Movements: seeds of extremes of fanaticism or materialism – gospel of prosperity. Life and Practice of the movements and churches. Organizational structures of the Movements. Future of the Movements.

ZRE 3422: African Theology

Definition of African theology; the idea of God; writings of African ideas of God in western eyes; the worship of God; God and the human person in Africa; God and the community, God and nature; relationship between African theology and Systematic Theology, Biblical Theology, Quranic Theology; African theologians: John Mbiti, J.K. Mugambi, Vincent Mulago, Adeolu Adegbola, Charles Nyamiti and their theological scholarship.

ZRE 3423: Liberation Theology

Essence of Liberation Theology; liberation theology in Latin America; origins and meaning of Black Theology; Black theology in the contests of Christian traditions and theological debate; indigenous African expressions of the Christian faith; Christian ecclesiology as related to traditional beliefs; place and method of theology in African Context.

ZRE 3424: Ecumenism

Definition of Ecumenism; Division and the search for unity in the history of Christianity; the roots of the ecumenical movement; major challenges after World War II; structures and the work of the World Council of Churches (WCC); opposition to the WCC; the significance of Vatican II; ecumenism in East Africa; ecumenical co-operation in Kenya; National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK); Kenya Episcopal conference (KEC); All Africa Council of Churches (AACC); Associate Members of Episcopal Conference of Eastern Africa (AMECEA); ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue.

***ZRE 3425: Inter-religious Dialogue**

Definition and Significance of Inter-faith Dialogue. Objectives of Interfaith Dialogue. Forms of dialogue such as: the dialogue of life, dialogue of action, dialogue of discourse and dialogue of religious experience. Historical development of inter-faith dialogue, Religious pluralism; initiatives towards interfaith relations. Principles of interfaith dialogue, interfaith dialogue and development in Africa: case studies. Challenges and prospects; the future of inter-faith dialogue. The role of inter-religious dialogue in development and peace building.

***ZRE 3426: Religion and African Customary Law**

Sources of customary law. The place of social institutions in the formulation and enforcement of customary law. Application of customary law in settling disputes. Purification, reconciliation and, restoration. Comparison between customary law and statutory law. The role and place of religion in ensuring fair and just laws. Influence of religion in interpretation of customary laws.

ZRE 3427: Islamic Mysticism

The Sufi tradition from early Islamic asceticism to the present; the mystical philosophy of Muni-Din Ibn Al-Arabia; contribution of Sufism to the formation of modern Islamic theology; comparison of Sufism to mysticism in other religions.

ZRE 3428: Peace and Conflict Resolution

Definition of terms: conflict, violence, conflict management, conflict resolution and conflict transformation. Signs and indicators of conflict, causes of violent conflicts; types of conflicts: interpersonal, cultural, environmental, ethnic and religious conflicts, organizational, regional, international conflicts and international terrorism. Conflict paradigms: strategist paradigm, peace research, and conflict research. Theories of conflicts: biological theories, nature Vs nurture theory, psychological theories and the just war theory. Theories of peace, Peace building approaches: detection and prevention of conflict, direct negotiations, mediation, legal redress, African traditional paradigms. Importance of forgiveness and reconciliation, obstacles to reconciliation, aids towards reconciliation and healing. Strategies of conflict resolution and the act of reconciliation itself.

***ZRE 3429: Research Seminar**

A peer guided research seminar; the student will do a seminar presentation and write a paper of between 5000 and 8000 words (excluding appendices) on a selected problem in religion, aimed at helping the student acquire and develop skills in writing scholarly papers and theses. This paper will be submitted in lieu of an examination.