

September 2, 2009

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
RELS 339 L01
TRANSFORMATION OF RELIGION IN AFRICA
FALL TERM 2009**

Instructor Irving Hexham
Class time and room 9:30-10:45 TR in MS 205
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Objectives of Course:

This course deals with African traditional religion and society, the coming of European settlers, and the impact of Christian missions upon African society and New Religious Movements in Africa. In particular it examines the religions of Southern Africa and concentrates on Zulu religion and society.

How the Course Will Work:

The course is divided into three basic components. These are: 1) lectures; 2) films; and 3) readings.

Textbooks and required readings:

Irving Hexham, ed., *Texts on Zulu Religion*
Electronic and online articles given out or found at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~nurelweb/africa.html>

Other texts:

a. Students are asked to read the chapters on the history of African societies in South Africa in *The Oxford History of South Africa*.

b. In addition, students are advised to read one of the following books:

Chidester, David	<i>Religions of Southern Africa</i>
Sundkler, Bengt	<i>The Bantu Prophets in South Africa</i>
Sundkler, Bengt	<i>Zulu Zion</i>
Soga, J.H.	<i>The Ama-Xosa Life and Customs</i>
Krige, E.	<i>The Social System of the Zulus</i>
Kuper, H.	<i>An African Aristocracy</i>
Pauw, B.A.	<i>Christianity and Xhosa Tradition</i>
Walsh, P.	<i>The Roots of Segregation</i>

Journals:

Many academic journals carry articles on South Africa. In particular you should look at: *African Affairs*, *Journal of African History* and *Social Dynamics*.

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Films:

Students are required to watch a series of films about African life and society in class. Many of these films are very slow moving and may appear boring and irrelevant to the course. Nevertheless it is important to view them because they capture the pace of traditional African life which is very different from life in modern Canada. Therefore, they provide the necessary context for understanding traditional African religion and society.

Course requirements and grading

The assignments will be based on the films, lectures, and readings. The weighting for these course components is as follows:

First Test worth 20% of the final grade will be held on Tuesday 20 October.

Second Test worth 20% of the final grade will be held on Thursday 19 November.

Third Test worth 10% of the final grade will be held on Thursday 3 December.

Research assignment worth 50% of the final grade is due Thursday 3 December.

Students are required to type their papers and use the Harvard system of references, i.e. in text notes e.g. (Hexham, *Zulu Religion*, 1987, p.6) then subsequent references (Hexham, 1987:71). Also, remember to add a full bibliography. Late papers are accepted but will automatically be deducted 10% per day. This rule also applies to anyone who requests to sit the test on a different date without a doctor's note.

**There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

A letter grade will be assigned for the course on the basis of the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

COURSE COMPETENCIES

At the end of this course students ought to be able to:

- a) understand the dynamics of traditional religions in Africa
- b) understand the impact of missionary movements on traditional religions
- c) think critically about religious texts
- d) appreciate the importance of seeing religious beliefs in specific social contexts
- e) be able to make informed judgements religion and society in Southern Africa

Academic honesty

Students should be familiar with the University regulations regarding academic honesty. See University Calendar, p. 49-52 and know how to avoid plagiarism by reading: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~hexham/study/plag.html>

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Course Outline:

In addition to the above readings supplementary books are listed in the following course outline under each week's topic.

Week One – 8 and 10 September - Introduction to the Study of African Religion

Further reading:

Barley, Nigel	<i>Adventures in a Mud Hut</i>
Cesara, Manda	<i>Reflections of a Woman Anthropologist</i>
Horton, Robin	<i>Patterns of Thought in Africa and the West</i>
Fortes, M. and Dieterlen, G.	<i>African Systems of Thought</i>

Film:

XMV5998701	<i>Ashanti Kingdom</i> (14 minutes)
XMP0199901	<i>amaZulu: People of the Sky</i> (23 minutes)

Week Two- 15 and 17 September - African and the World

Further reading:

Isichei, Elizabeth	<i>The Religious Traditions of Africa</i>
Hastings, Adrian	<i>The Church in Africa: 1450-1950</i>
Ehret, Christopher	<i>The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800</i>
Davenport, Rodney	<i>South Africa: A History</i>

Film:

XMP0223301	<i>Masai Women</i> (52 minutes)
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Week Three – 22 and 24 September - The Structure of African Religions and Society

Further reading:

Roscoe, John	<i>The Baganda</i>
Middleton, John	<i>Lugbara Religion</i>
Evans-Prichard, E.E.	<i>The Nuer</i>
Clarke, Peter B.	<i>West Africa and Christianity</i>

Film:

XMP0223401	<i>Masai Manhood</i> (52 minutes)
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Week Four -29 Sept. 1 October - The Pre-Colonial Societies of Southern Africa

Further reading:

Thompson, Leonard	<i>African Societies in Southern Africa</i>
Wilson, M. & Thompson L.	<i>The Oxford History of South Africa, Vol.1</i>
Ranger, T.O. & Kimambo, I., eds.	<i>The Historical Study of African Religion</i>

Film:

XMP003911	<i>The Nuer</i> (75 minutes)
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Week Five – 6 and 8 October - Themes in African Religion: The Natural/Supernatural

Further reading:

Evans-Pritchard, E.E.	<i>Theories of Primitive Religion</i>
Fortes, M. Dieterlen G. eds.	<i>African Systems of Thought</i>
Hammond-Tooke, W.D.	<i>Bantu-Speaking Peoples of Southern Africa</i> , cp. 10 and 11
Krige, E.J.	<i>The Social System of the Zulu</i> , cp. XIII, (cf. X and XI)

Films:

XMP003911	<i>The Nuer</i> (75 minutes)
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Week Six – 13 and 15 October - Themes in African Religion: Kings, Chiefs and Ancestors

Further reading:

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Soga, J.H. *The Ama-Xosa Life & Customs* cp.11
Hunter, Monica *Reaction to Conquest*, cp.V and X
Bryant, A.T. *The Zulu People*, cp.11 and 12
Kuper, Hilda *The Swazi*, cp.2, 3 and 6

Film:
XDV0201 01 *Spirits of the Rocks* (79 minutes)

**Week Seven – 20 and 22 October - Themes in African Religion: Witchcraft and Sorcery
20 October - First Test - 50 minutes - multiple choice.**

Further reading:
Ngubane, Harriet *Body and Mind in Zulu Medicine*
Hunter, Monica *Reaction to Conquest*, cp.VI and VII
Behrend Heike. & Luig Ute *Spirit Possession, Modernity and Power in Africa*
De Rosny, Erioc *Healers in the Night*

Film:
XDV0201 01 *Spirits of the Rocks* (79 minutes)

Week Eight – 27 and 29 - Themes in African Religion: God, Gods and High Gods

Further reading:
Callaway, H. *The Religious System of the Ama-Zulu*, pp.1-126
Berglund, A.I. *Zulu Thought Patterns and Symbolism*
p'Bitek, Okot *African Religions in Western Scholarship*
Fernandez, James W. *Bwiti: an ethnography of the religious imagination in Africa*

Film:
XMV5532501 *Witchcraft among the Azande* (52 minutes)

Week Nine - 3 and 5 November - The Coming of the Missionaries

Further reading:
du Plessis, J.A. *History of Christian Missions in South Africa*
Welsh, D. *The Roots of Segregation*
Warren, Max *Social History and Christian Missions*
Galbraith, John S. *Reluctant Empire*

Film:
XMP0116801 *Duminea: Festival for Water Spirits* (20 Minutes)

Week Ten – 10 November - African Converts – 12 Nov. is a reading day

Further reading:
Pauw, B.A. *Christianity and Xhosa Tradition*
Hunter, Monica *Reaction to Conquest*, cp.VIII
Elphick R. & Davenport R. *Christianity in South Africa*
Oduyoye, Mercy *The Will to Arise: Women, Tradition, and the Church in Africa*

Week Eleven – 17 and 19 November - "Ethiopeanism"

Second Test 19 November

Further reading:
Sundkler, Bengt *Bantu Prophets in South Africa*
Oosthuizen, G.C. *Post-Christianity in Africa*
Welbourn, F.B. *East African Rebels*
Daneel, M. L. *Zionism and faith-healing in Rhodesia*

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Film:

XMV5845201

New Gods (60 minutes)

Week Twelve – 24 and 26 November - African Independent Churches

Further reading:

Sundkler, Bengt

Zulu Zion

West, Martin

Bishops and Prophets in a Black City

Oosthuizen, G.C.

The Theology of a South African Messiah

Muller, Carol Ann

Ritual of Fertility and the Sacrifice of Desire

Film:

XMV5845201

New Gods (60 minutes)

Week Thirteen – 1 and 3 December - African Religions as World Religion

Final test 3 December.

Further reading:

Poewe, Karla

Charismatic Christianity as a Global Culture

Brouwer, Steve, Gifford, Paul

And Rose, Susan D.

Exporting the American Gospel

Anderson, Allan

African Pentecostals in South Africa

Pillay, Gerald

Religion at the Limits

Film:

XMV6019301

African religions: Zulu Zion (52 minutes)

Week Fourteen 8 December – Final Discussion