



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER & AFRICAN STUDIES

COURSE: NAF 214 TRADITIONAL BELIEF SYSTEMS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. S. M. NANGENDO.

SECOND YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER, 2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR, BA IN ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Definition of terms and concepts; definition of religion and belief systems; theories of religion; differences between traditional religions and universal religions; Traditional belief systems and thoughts: The concept of God or Supreme Being; supernatural beings and status of ancestors; myths and mythology; possession cults, totemism, age-grade systems, sacred kingship and queen ship; religious practices: worship, offerings and sacrifices, healing divinations, rituals and rites of passage; cult officials or religious practitioners and sacred sites

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4. Muzorewa, G.H 1985 Origins and development of African theory.
5. Shorter, A 1973 African culture and the Christian church
6. Mbiti, J.S 1970 Concepts of God in Africa.
1987 African religions and philosophy.
1971 The crisis of missions in Africa.
7. Evans-Pritchard, E.E 1960 Religion and the anthropologist.
1965 Theories of primitive religions.
8. Shorter, A 1975 East African societies
Prayer in the religious traditions of Africa.
1973 African culture and the Christian church.

9. McCall, F. 1973 The old time religion in West Africa.
10. Fortes, M. and Dieterlen, G. 1965 African Systems of Thoughts.
11. Karp, I. 1984 African systems of thought.
12. Temples, P. 1959 Bantu philosophy.
13. Smith, E. W. 1961 African ideas of God.
14. Pettazzoni, R. 1954 Essay on the history of religions.
15. Radin, P. 1954 Monotheism among primitive peoples.
16. Idowu, E. 1973 African traditional religion.
17. Ray, B.C. African religion: Symbol, ritual and community.
18. Gill, S. D. 1982 Beyond "The Primitive": The religions of non-literate people.
19. Gehman, R.J. 1989 African Traditional Religion in Biblical perspective.
20. King, J.H. 1892 The Supernatural: Its origin, nature and evolution, 2 Volumes.
21. Schmidt, P.W. 1912–55 The origin of the Idea of God.
22. Wach, J. 1974 The sociology of religion.
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