



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER & AFRICAN STUDIES**

**COURSE NAF 413: UNIVERSAL RELIGIONS
FOURTH YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER, ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016**

INSTRUCTOR: DR. S.M. NANGENDO

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Definition of concepts

Monotheism, polytheism, henotheism, monolatry, theism, deism, atheism, monism, dualism, theocentrism, sociocentrism, fetish or fetishism, dynamism and mana, cult, rite, ritual, totemism, millennial and messianic movements.

2. Religion and anthropology.

Normative or orthodox universal religions: Salvation, revelation, expansionism, intolerance, exclusionism and Preparationism.

3. Universal religions and minimal categories of behavior.

4. Nativistic (nativity) and syncretic belief systems, millennial (and millinarianistic) and messianic religious movements.

5. Atheistic, non-mystic religions and esoteric (mystic) religions.

6. History (emergence) and factors influencing the spread and distribution of universal religions

7. The impact of universal religions on the cultures and personalities of non-western peoples.

8. Case studies of universal religions:

A. Near Eastern Universal Religions:

♣ Zoroastrianism

♣ Judaism

♣ Christianity

♣ Islam

B. Asian Universal Religions:

♣ Hinduism

♣ Buddhism

♣ Sikhism

♣ Jainism

- ♣ Taoism
- ♣ Confucianism.

READING LIST

- Bernard, B.
1990 *Mugwe: A blessed prophet*.
- Evans-Pritchard, E.E.
1960 Religion and the Anthropologist. In *Essays in Social Anthropology*.
1965 *Theories of primitive religion*.
- Forde, D. (Ed.)
1954 *African Worlds*.
- Fortes, M.
1965 (1972) *African Systems of Thought*.
- Mbiti, J.S.
---1970 *Concepts of God in Africa*.
---1971 *The crisis of Missions in Africa*.
---1987 *African Religions and philosophy*.
- Mbiti, J.S.
1986 *Bible and theology in African Christianity Anthropological perspectives*.
---. (Year?) *The Prayers of African Religion*.
- Fortes, M. and Dieterlen, G.
1965 *African systems of thought*.
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- Temples, P.
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- Gill, S.D.
1982 *Beyond "the primitive": The religions of non-literate peoples*.
- Smith, E.W.
1961 *African ideas of God*.
- Mbula, J.
1974 *The of penetration of Christianity into the Akamba family*.
- Okot, p'Bitek
1970 *African Religions in Western Scholarship*.
- Otto, R.
1958 *The Idea of the Holy*.
- Pettazzoni, R.
1954 *Essay on the History Religions*.
- Radin, O. Paul
1954 *Monotheism among primitive peoples*.
- Werbner, R.P. (Ed.)
1977 *Regional cults*.
- Barrett, D.B. (Ed.)
1971 *African Initiatives in Religion*.
- Ranger, T.O. and Kimambo, I.N.
1972 *The historical study of African Religion*.
- Jules-Rosette, B. (Ed.)
1970 *The New Religions of Africa*.
- Zahan, A.

1979 *The Religion, Spirituality and Thought of Traditional Africa.*
 McCall, D.
 1979 *The old time religion in West Africa.*
 Willoughby, W.C.
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 Herberg, W. (Ed.)
 1958 *Four existentialist theologians.*
 Nircea Eliade
 1959 *The Sacred and the Profane.*
 Karl Hammer
 1978 *World Mission and Colonialism: Notes and Quarries Anthropology.*
 Jung, C.G. and K. Kerényi
 1970 *Introduction to a science of mythology.*
 Durkheim, E.
 (YEAR?) *The Elementary forms of Religions life.*
 Banton, M. (Ed.)
 1966 *Anthropological approaches to the study of Religion.*
 Kings, J.H.
 1992 *The Supernatural: Its origin, nature and evolution, 2 Volumes.*
 Radin, P.
 1957 *Primitive Religion.*
 Schmidt, P.W.
 1912-55 *The origin of the idea of God.*
 Tylor, E.B.
 1877 *Primitive Culture.*
 Wach, J.
 1944 *Sociology of religion.*
 Mensching, G.
 (YEAR?) *The Sociology of Religion.*
 Thiel, J.F.
 1984 *Anthropology of Religion.*
 Hume, D.
 1948 *Dialogue concerning Natural Religion.*
 Lowie, J.S.
 1925 *Primitive Religion.*
 Turner, V.W.
 1978 *Image and pilgrimage in Christian culture: Anthropological perspectives.*
 Parrinder, G.
 1967 *A dictionary of non-Christian religions.*
 Malinowski, B.
 1958 *Magic, science and religion.*
 Banchofen, J.J.
 1973 *Myth, religion and mother right.*
 Wipper, A.
 1977 *Rural rebels.*
 Fashole-Luke, E. et al.
 1978 *Christianity in independent Africa.*
 Dupre, W. 1975 *Religion in primitive cultures: A study in ethnophilosophy.*
 Willis, R. (ed.)
 1975 *The interpretation of symbolism.*
 Eysenck, H. J.

1973 *The experimental study of Freudian theories.*

Jahoda, M.

1977 *Freud and the dilemmas of psychology.*

Phillips, D. Z.

1976 *Religion without explanation.*

Hick, J.

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Cox, J.L.

1992 *Expressing the sacred: An introduction to the phenomenology of religion.*

Sharpe, E. J.

1986 *A comparative religion: A history.*

---1983 *Understanding religion.*

Muhammad, (INITIALS?)

(YEAR?) *Islam: The misunderstood religion.*

Abdul Hamid M .U. Zein

1980 *The sacred meadows: A structural analysis of religious symbolism in an African form.*

Spiro, Melford

(YEAR?) *Buddhism and society: A great tradition.*

Rahula Walpole S.

1967 *What the Buddha taught.*

Schoffees, M.

1985 *Theoretical explorations in African religion.*

Creel, H.G.

(YEAR?) *What is Taoism?*

Boyce, M. (YEAR) *Zoroastrians.*

Murata, K. (YEAR) *Japan's new Buddhism.*

Zaehner, R.C.

1961 *The dawn and twilight of Zoroastrianism*

Peek, Phillip M. (eds.)

1991 *African divination systems: Ways of knowing*.

Appiah, Kwame Anthony

1992 *In my father's house: Africa in the philosophy of culture*.

Richards, A.I. (Year). *Chisungu*.

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- *Encyclopedia Britannica*
- *Encyclopedia of the social sciences*
- *Dictionary of religion and ethics*