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PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CRS 404: CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

This is **Unit CRS 404: Christian Theology in Africa**.

The unit is sub-divided into four main sections.

Section One deals with the nature, scope and relevance of the Unit. It has three Lectures: **Lecture One** handles the explanation of terms which is inevitable in understanding the Unit; **Lecture Two** discusses former and prevailing situations with regard to Christian Theology in Africa. This provides a good setting in African Christian Theology (ACT); **Lecture Three** examines the pluriformity of Christian Theology in Africa. Here you will be made to understand that Christian Theology in Africa is not monolithic but multi-dimensional. As such, awareness will be created that it requires a multi-faceted approach.

Section Two tackles liberation perspective of Christian Theology in Africa. It will have three lectures: **Lecture Four** which will examine and elaborate explanation of terms, divergence cum convergence of LT (Liberation Theology), levels at which LT is done and the methodology thereby; **Lecture Five** which will provide and discuss South African Black Theology with accentuation on Jesus seen as the “Black Messiah/Liberator”; **Lecture Six** which will tackle feminist theology in Africa with emphasis on gender issues, women empowerment and modes of feminist theology triggering different approaches to this manner of LT.

Section Three will examine and explicate Inculturation approach to Christian Theology in Africa. It will consist of four inter-related lectures namely: **Lecture Seven** which will examine the nature and six main undertakings in this orientation; **Lecture Eight** which will indicate some prominent African Christian theologians from West Africa and elaborate exemplary Inculturational works in this region; **Lecture Nine** which indicates some prominent African Christian theologians from East Africa and elaborates exemplary Inculturation works in East Africa; and **Lecture Ten** which indicates some prominent

African Christian theologians from French speaking Africa and discusses some outstanding Inculturation works in Francophone Africa.

Section Four focuses on some moral/ethical themes within Christian Theology in Africa. These are issues that are of great concern and interest in ACT. It will have the following three lectures: **Lecture Eleven** which will examine and explain salvation and liberation/redemption by some African Christian scholars; **Lecture Twelve** which will peruse and discuss fascinating controversial euthanasia subject as a challenge to African Christian medical ethics; and **Lecture Thirteen** which dwells on Third Millennium African Single Mothers. These will be essentially within the context of FAMILY SOLIDARITY that is highly accentuated in ACT.

The Unit is expected to provide you with a strong rooting, or rather, spring-board into a more comprehensive related Units at post-graduate level namely, CRS 560: African Christian Theology; and CRS 561: Modern Trends in Christianity.



Unit Objectives

For its goal, this Unit **CRS 404: CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN AFRICA** is designed to acquaint you with the understanding, genesis, growth, pluriformity and diversity of Christian Theology in Africa (henceforth CTA). For practical purposes, you will be exposed to the three fundamental orientations in CTA namely, LIBERATIONAL perspective, INCULTURATIONAL orientation and the merger of the two i.e., LIBERATIONAL CUM INCULTURATIONAL. An effort will also be made to initiate you into getting involved in participating in scientific realization of CTA and engaging yourself reasonably in some related ethical/moral issues that are in vogue. Several renowned African Christian Theologians will be investigated and examined. For specificity sake, the objectives of the Unit may be articulated as follows:

At the end of this Unit, therefore, you should be able to:

1. Explain the terms “**African Theology**” and “**African Christian Theology**”.
2. Discuss the former and prevailing situations with regard to Christian Theology in Africa.
3. Examine the pluriformity of Christian Theology in Africa.
4. Elaborate the explanation of terms, divergences and convergences of Liberation Theology,
5. Provide and discuss South African Black Theology which asserts Jesus as “**Black Messiah**”.
6. Discuss feminist theology in Africa and the divergences thereby owing to diverging perception of “**feminism**”.
7. Examine the nature and the six main undertakings in Inculturation Theology.
8. Know some prominent African Christian theologians from West

Africa and elaborate exemplary Inculturation works in this region.

9. Know some prominent African Christian theologians from East Africa and explicate exemplary Inculturation works in this region.
10. Know some prominent African Christian theologians from Francophone Africa and discuss some remarkable Inculturation works in this French speaking region.
11. Examine and explain salvation and liberation/redemption by some African Christian scholars.
12. Peruse and discuss the exciting/fascinating controversial euthanasia subject as a challenge to African Christian Medical ethics.
13. Examine and explain Third Millennium African Single Mothers within the context of FAMILY SOLIDARITY as an African Christian theologian.