DM 745 DECOLONIZING SPIRITUALITIES
(ONLINE- SYNCHRONOUS)

Instructor: Rev. Esther E. Acolatse, Ph. D

In what ways have spiritualities, how people experience themselves and make meaning as spiritual beings in relation to God, been colonized since Christendom and the exploratory voyages that are the result of the errant Doctrine of Discovery? What ways were the spiritualities of indigenous peoples suppressed, demonized and jettisoned and replaced with a faith by which many could not find meaning resulting in ill-fitting syncretistic spiritualities in private and public life whether in the form of shamanistic Christianities (e.g., Candomblé and strands of Afro-Brazilian Religions or the Afrikania Mission) or Christian Nationalism and its various strands?
The ways in which assumed orthodoxy, tied to colonialism, occupies and determines the spiritual ethos of other people's religious experience and expression largely through what is presented as true knowledge of God or proper theology, will be analyzed and critiqued. Ultimately the course aims at disrupting the unequal production of knowledge and thus power that continues to occupy cultures and by extension various spiritual spaces in order to help people reclaim their spiritual narratives as legitimate and equal partner in creating sustainable spiritualities for a global world.

Learning Objectives
Students will be able to *articulate* the character and nature of decolonial and indigenous thought, its history, intellectual trajectories, and concerns.
Students will be able to *analyze* the status of the Christian theological structures of decolonial and indigenous theologies and spiritualities.
Students will be able to *outline* a theological method that draws from decolonial and indigenous frameworks of thought to aid in the practice of ministry in various settings.

COURSE SECTIONS

Day 1 HISTORICAL EXCURSES
Overview of the course
Brief history of colonialism, slavery and structuring of contemporary world
Readings:
Required: De La Tore *Decolonizing Christianity*
Recommended: Willie J. Jennings, *Christian Imagination* (Selections)

Day 2 DECOLONIZING METHODOLOGIES
Mapping Methodologies: Disrupting Meta-Narratives
Beyond "Christiancentrism": Christianity and other Religions
Readings:
***** Ezigbo, V. "Jesus as God's Communicative and Hermenutical Act: African Christians on the Person and Significance of Jesus Christ" in Green Pardue and Yeo *Jesus without Borders* (Langahm 2015)
*Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. 1988. «Can the Subaltern Speak?» In: *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory*, edited by Patrick Williams, and Laura Chrisman, New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 66–111.
*Tom Greggs "Bringing Barth's criticism of Religion to interfaith table."
*Pobee, John "African Instituted Churches" in *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement* ed. Lossky, Nicolas. et. al; (Geneva : WCC Publications), 2002; 2nd ed.

Day 3 REMAPPING SPIRITUALITY AND LEADERSHIP IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE
What Spirituality?
What Leadership?

Readings:
Stafford Gil., *When Leadership and Spiritual Direction Meet*
Miles, Bernadette., *Strengthening Spirit-Releasing Potential* (Wipf &Stock) 2021

Day 4 GROWING AND LEADING PEOPLE GOD'S WAY
Readings:
Reese Randy and Robert Loane, *Deep Mentoring*

Day 5 Acquiring Wisdom for Global Spirituality and Leadership
Readings:
Michael Rothberg, *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators* Part I & 2.

Group Work –
(Love, Compassion and Forgiveness in creating decolonizing spaces)

*** Kits and Prompt will be provided; additional resources on Moodle**

Readings (Required)
*Acolatse E. "The Gods as Didactic Tools: Writing African Religions with the Right Hand"

_____, "Pastoral care and counseling in independent evangelical charismatic churches in Ghana : a Barthian theological perspective" in *Pastoral bearings* : *lived religion and pastoral theology* (eds) Jane Maynard et al., Lanham, Md. : Lexington Books (2010).

Carvalhaes, Cláudio *Liturgies From Below: Praying With People at the Ends of the World* (Abingdon Press), 2020

* Ezigbo, V. "Jesus as God's Communicative and Hermeneutical Act: African Christians on the Person and Significance of Jesus Christ" in Green Pardue and Yeo *Jesus without Borders* (Langahm 2015)

* Pobee, John "African Instituted Churches" in *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement* ed. Lossky, Nicolas. et. al; (Geneva : WCC Publications), 2002; 2nd ed

Miles, Bernadette., *Strenghtening Spirit Releasing Potential* (Wipf &Stock) 2021

Rothberg, Michael *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators* (Standford University Press, 2019) Part I & 2.

Reese , Randy and Robert Loane, *Deep Mentoring* (IVP 2012)

*Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. 1988. «Can the Subaltern Speak?» In: *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory*, edited by Patrick Williams, and Laura Chrisman, New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 66–111.

Stafford Gil., *When Leadership and Spiritual Direction Meet* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014)

*Tom Greggs "Bringing Barth's criticism of Religion to interfaith table."

Recommended

(Some of these books will be available on Moodle via the Library Page in the Course Resources since we will draw on insights from them in lectures)

Jennings , Willie J. *Christian Imagination* (Yale University Press)
Paris, Peter *Spirituality of African Peoples* (Fortress 19195)
Lartey Emmanuel, E. Y *Postcolonializing God* (SCM 2013)
Kwok Pui-Lan, *Postcolonial Imagination and Feminist Theology* (WJK Press, 2005)
Mann, Barbara Alice, *Spirits of Blood, Spirits of Breath: The Twinned Cosmos of Indigenous America* (Oxford University Press, 2016)
Oduyoye, Mercy Amba, *Beads & Strands: Reflections of an African Woman on Christianity in Africa* (Orbis 2004)
Deloria Jr.Vine, *God is Red: A Native View of Religion* (30th Anniversary Edition, Fulcrum Pub., 2003)
Tuhiwai, Linda *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (2nd Edition, Zed Books, 2012)

Readings marked by asterisks will be posted in course documents on Moodle.

COURSE FORMAT
This is a seminar built on reading, brief class presentations, and discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES

1. Attendance and Participation
Attendance, promptness, and participation in class are required. My expectation is that there will be no missed days, late arrivals, or poor participation. Should you have personal or family emergencies, please let me know. You will not be penalized for such matters, but I require **notification and a conversation.**

2. Class Presentations
Each member of the class will make two very short presentations reviewing the assigned reading for the day. Each presentation (approximately 2 pages max!). Usually, two people will be assigned to make presentations for each assigned book and/or essay.

FINAL PROJECTS

You will write a research paper 25-35 pages.) The topic of the paper will be determined in consultation with me. It will take one of the following three forms that focus on decolonizing spiritualities:
With special attention to insights from decolonizing spiritualities gleaned from readings and course work, design a creative spiritual direction tool kit for your particular context that frees and empowers people toward spiritual maturity.

Articulate a theologically contextual, biblically grounded, culturally relevant understanding of the nature and purpose of leadership anchored in a commitment to social justice with a decolonized spirituality prong.

Critically reflect upon social and theological diversity and the complexities of leadership in a multiethnic and religiously plural world. How may decolonized spiritual practices lead to forming citizens for the common good?

Due Dates and Percentages

Participation	15%	
Presentations	35%	
Research Paper	**50%**	**Due end of November**