

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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**TITLE:** Global African Christianity

**TERM:** Spring 2024-2025

**PROFESSOR:** R. Drew Smith

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

During the last century, especially the last few decades, African Christianity has experienced historic levels of numerical and geographical expansion. According to reliable estimates, the Christian population of Africa increased from approximately 10 million in 1900 to 500 million in 2000, and African Christians are expected to number one billion by 2050. African Christianity is also having a notable impact beyond the African continent as increasing numbers of Africans have emigrated to Europe, Asia, and North America, establishing vibrant churches with demonstrative reach and influence among African immigrant populations and also among non-African host populations.

While touching briefly on the development of Christianity on the African continent, this course focuses mainly on the Christianity of African immigrants residing in the global North. The course examines: (1) globalizing forces and other social factors contributing to African presence in global North contexts; (2) cross-cultural challenges and opportunities experienced within global North contexts by African immigrant populations and churches; (3) theological, cultural, and socio-political bearings of African immigrant churches; (4) local and transnational networks from which African immigrant churches may derive resources and inspiration; (5) the ecclesial, missiological, and socio-cultural impact in-general of African immigrant churches within global North host contexts; and (6) implications of these globalizing patterns for the future of Christianity.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- To strengthen student capacities for cross-cultural awareness and analysis;
- To immerse students in literatures and academic dialogue that cut across disciplinary boundaries;
- To increase student understanding of intersections and cross-fertilization between the Christianity and cultures of the global North and the Christianity and cultures of the global South; and
- To emphasize the interrelationship between socio-historical forces and religious and ecclesial formation.

### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:**

- Jehu Hanciles, *Beyond Christendom: Globalization, African Migration and the Transformation of the West*, Orbis Books, 2009, ISBN: 978-1570757907, \$27.37
- Harvey C. Kwiyani, *Sent Forth: African Missionary Work in the West*, Orbis Books, 2014, ISBN: 978-1626981010, \$22.00

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

Four 5-page discussion papers

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.