

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER : LIBERATION THEOLOGY

COURSE CODE : IDE-T4P4

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. QUESTION ONE MUST BE ATTEMPTED BY ALL CANDIDATES.
2. THEN CHOOSE ANY **THREE** FROM QUESTIONS TWO TO EIGHT.
3. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.
4. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.
5. PARTS OF A QUESTION MAY BE ANSWERED ON THE SAME PAGE, ALLOWING FOR A SPACE OF THREE LINES IN BETWEEN.
6. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

“...that Pope John Paul 11 and Cardinal Ratzinger of the Congregation of Doctrine of the Faith have condemned the theology of liberation is *simply not true*” (A. Nolan and R. Broderick, 1987:2).

How far do you agree with this assertion? Discuss. Your answer should also take into consideration what some scholars have identified as contradictions in the Vatican response to Liberation Theology.

{25}

QUESTION TWO

Demonstrate how Liberation Theology represents the emergence of a new paradigm in contemporary Christianity, as opposed to Western Theology.

{25}

QUESTION THREE

Drawing from the works of Alan Boesak and other Black Theologians, explain why Black Theology is viewed as a “Contextual Theology.”

{25}

QUESTION FOUR

Give a theological critique to the arguments that equate Liberation Theology to Marxism.

{25}

QUESTION FIVE

“This country of late has been infested with such bogus priests from countries with dire economic hardships but overnight their lips shine wealth...while the follower hardly has anything to bluff the belly....The mere fact that Jesus Christ’s mission was for liberation for all,...did not mean that he had to suck the very lifeblood of the poor for his gospel to make sense” (Zwane, A. *The Swazi Observer* Friday November 24, 2006).

In a careful assessment of the role the Church plays in Swaziland in relation to “preferential option for the poor,” react to the above statement.

{25}

QUESTION SIX

What concerns do African Women Theologians share with White Feminists in their attempt to liberate women from poverty and oppression? Identify their divergences.

{25}

QUESTION SEVEN

Discuss the uniqueness of the methodologies for Asian theologies, in comparison with other Theologies of Liberation.

{25}

QUESTION EIGHT

Consider the socio-political and economic context in Israel (Northern Kingdom) during the mid 8th century. In what way did God show his special concern for the poor? Justify your answer with well thought-out Bible references.

{25}

THE END