

**COURSE CODE TRS101 (M) 2017**

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER 2017**

**THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**B.A / B.ED IV / IDE**

**TITLE OF PAPER: PHENOMENOLOGY OF RELIGION**

**COURSE CODE: TRS101**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION MUST BE ATTEMPTED FROM EACH SECTION.

2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

**TOTAL MARKS : 60**

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

## SECTION A

1. "Accurate, objective accounts of religious phenomena and religious traditions simply do not exist in their own right. All accounts of religion are accounts by people who approach their study from a particular stating-point" (Connolly 1999:p). Explain this statement and illustrate it with reference to psychological and anthropological definitions of religion,
2. What do we learn from sociology of religion about the influence of religion in society and the influence of society on religion? Give relevant examples to illustrate your answers.
3. "The notion of a phenomenological study of religion was really an attempt to justify the study of religion on its own terms rather than in terms of the theologian or the social scientist" (Erricker 1999:p). Discuss this statement and explain whether ~~or not~~ it is possible to study religion on its own terms.

## SECTION B

4. "African Religion is entirely a lived religion . . . it involves the whole of life, whatever one thinks, says, or does is religious or, at least, can have religious implications" (Magesa 1997:p). Explain this statement and ~~describe~~ give a phenomenological description of the main beliefs and practices of African Religion.
5. What is a Hindu? Give a phenomenological description of the main beliefs and practices of Hinduism.
6. Select **one** of the following questions (i, ii, iii) and ~~are~~ answer the respective questions that follow:
  - i. What is meant by *Nirvana* in Buddhism? Describe from a Buddhist perspective, the steps that lead to *Nirvana*.
  - ii. Describe from a Muslim perspective what it means to be a Muslim.
  - iii. "The basic teaching of the Baha'i Faith is that there is only one God who is the source of all religion" (Ndlovu 1997:p). Give a phenomenological description of the main doctrines of the Baha'i Faith.