

COURSE CODE TRS121 (M) 2016

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER 2016

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A / B.ED

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCING THE STUDY OF RELIGION

COURSE CODE: TRS121

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION MUST BE ATTEMPTED FROM EACH SECTION.
2. YOU MUST SPECIFY THE AUTHOR OR AUTHORS OF FACTS, IDEAS AND OPINIONS THAT YOU REFER TO IN YOUR ANSWERS.
3. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

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

SECTION A

1. What do religious scholars mean by the concept “religion”? Give examples of three definitions of religion formulated by scholars who represent three different approaches to the study of religion.
2. Explain the distinctive features of theological approaches to the study of religion. Give relevant examples to illustrate your argument.
3. What do we mean by “social scientific approaches to the study of religion”? Select one of the classical social scientific approaches to the study of religion, and explain its contributions to knowledge and understanding of the place of religion in human life.

SECTION B

4. Explain the importance of phenomenological descriptions of religion. What, if any, are the weaknesses of phenomenological approaches to the study of religion?
5. Discuss the value of feminist approaches to the study of religion. What, if any, are the weaknesses of phenomenological approaches to the study of religion?
6. What do we mean by hermeneutic approaches to the study of religion? Explain their contributions to knowledge and understanding of the place of religion in human life.