

RECU 70970
Decolonizing Christian Discourse:
Approaches to Liberating Theology and Church
Practice

3 hours

Instructor: Dr. Oluwatomisin Oredein

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content

Colonialism has marked much of the modern world in various ways, including within theological ideas and assertions. But outside of having a sense of awareness of colonialism's impact, how does one break away from this systematic specter? How does one begin to repair its social, cultural, and theological fissures? One must commune with resistance, learning the language of the affected and oppressed—and commit to them through courageous practice. Liberation from specters necessitates learning from and practicing decolonial approaches. This class centers voices, ideas, and responses that embody a decolonial response in their approach to Christian discourse, or how Christianity's reach, influence, and values have been historically articulated. Such a response magnifies liberation in its commitment to resisting multiple modes of supremacy.

Objectives

In this course students will:

- 1) Actively identify where colonialism and its residual ideas are embedded in Western Christian theological values, social ideas, and practice;
- 2) Explore how various voices and communities have resisted and subverted colonialism's efforts to mark and make certain identities, and;
- 3) Experiment with creating and articulating a decolonial theological framework grounded in liberative discourse that they believe will be helpful for a current or future church or religious organizational setting.

Class Procedures

Class will consist of class discussions, reflexive dialogue, and productive debates.

Requirements

1. Attendance
2. Active participation in each class session
 - Includes starter questions

3. Graded Assignments
 - Contextual Inventory
 - Final Project

Texts

Articles to be supplied on TCU Online.

Grading Procedures

Attendance: 15%

Class Participation: 30%

Contextual Inventory: 20%

Final Project: 35%