

Amen-Ra Theological Seminary

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Amen-Ra Theological Seminary is a non-profit online graduate institute owned and operated by Amen-Ra Community Assembly of California, Inc., a religious corporation founded and incorporated in California in 1996.

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Ownership, Accreditation and Validation

Amen-Ra Theological Seminary is owned and operated by Amen-Ra Community Assembly of California, Inc., a non-profit religious corporation founded and incorporated in the State of California in 1996; publisher of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*. The degree program and curriculum of Amen-Ra Theological Seminary meets all requirements pursuant to California Education Code 94739(b)(6) and has legal authority to grant all degrees listed in this document. However, in 2007, the Governor of the State of California signed AB 1525 (Cook, Chapter 67, Statutes of 2007) which enacted temporary measures to establish minimal oversight of private postsecondary institutions between July 1, 2007 and February 1, 2008. This bill provided that matters pending before the former BPPVE on June 30, 2007 are considered pending before a successor body, allowed for the payment of already-approved Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) claims by the Director of the Department, and permitted the Director to enter into voluntary agreements with institutions to comply with the inoperative Reform Act. The Governor of the State of California also signed SB 45 (Perata) which essentially extended provisions of AB 1525 until July 1, 2008. Therefore, Amen-Ra Theological Seminary will investigate the possibility of meeting the new requirements of the State of California for non-profit religious corporations operating post-secondary educational institutions.

In higher education, the measure of the quality of an academic institution is based on the credentials of its administration/faculty, the integrity of its courses and programs, and ultimately the professional accomplishments of its current students and graduates. Thus, the quality of Amen-Ra Theological Seminary is based on the credentials of our administration/faculty, the integrity of our courses and programs, and the professional accomplishments of our students and graduates (please see the credentials of our administration/faculty below).

Amen-Ra Theological Seminary is not accredited by a commission or accrediting member association; however, we adhere to the standards of theological education and institutional procedures established by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Inc., an accreditation association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Considering this, we have designed our degree programs, and selected our faculty so that they will match or exceed traditional standards of seminary education.

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MISSION

The mission of Amen-Ra Theological Seminary is to provide an education of distinction that leads to the pursuit of new knowledge and understanding in the area of African world religions, philosophy and spirituality. Our curriculum provides an opportunity for students to obtain a master or doctoral degree in African world religion and spirituality pursuant which encourages innovative discourse and originality in a non-authoritative learning environment in preparation for the ministry, and in careers involving religious education, teaching, research and writing.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum of Amen-Ra Theological Seminary consists of twenty-five core courses focused upon African social ethics, truths, epistemology, and theocentric paradigms. The instruction and curriculum is done in English.

METHODOLOGY

The educational methodology of Amen-Ra Theological Seminary encourages affirmative discussion, logic and critical thinking in a non-authoritarian student centered learning environment.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Amen-Ra Theological Seminary offers seven degree programs, the M.Div., M.R.E., Th.M., D.D., and Hon.D.D. Th.C. and the Th.D. The master degree program prepares one for the ministry, a career in religious education, or the Th.D. program. The doctoral program prepares one for theological research, teaching, writing, and other professional activities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to Amen-Ra Theological Seminary is based upon: (1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution for the masters degree programs, (2) a master's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution for the doctoral degree programs, (3) a written statement of intent addressing educational goals and interest, (4) a current resume, (5) three letter of recommendation, and (6) an official copy of all post-secondary transcripts (the seminary accepts transfer units/credits, for a transfer analysis consult the provost of instruction and curriculum).

Persons of exceptional ability over age 35 who do not hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, university or seminary may be granted special admission by faculty approval. Such persons (limited to 10 percent of enrollment) must provide: (1) an autobiographical essay of intent, (2) evidence of educational or professional achievement, (3) a current resume, (4) an official copy of all post-secondary transcripts if available, and (5) four letters of recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for admissions to Amen-Ra Theological Seminary should discuss intellectual ability, research ability and provide insight into the candidate's previous work, and general promise. Thus, the recommendation should (1) state how long the writer has known the candidate, (2) in what relationship they know the candidate, and (3) how they would rate the candidate's overall promise. All recommendations must be sent to the Amen-Ra Theological Seminary office of admission.

TRANSCRIPTS

Forward transcript request to the registrar or admissions officer of the institution(s) attended. Include the fee, your name (former if applicable), address, date of attendance or graduation. Request that the transcript be sent to the Amen-Ra Theological Seminary office of admission.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pursuant to the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students at Amen-Ra Theological Seminary may inspect and review their records upon request. All Amen-Ra Theological Seminary student records (transcripts, recommendations, grades, resume, and a statement of intent, admission essay, and related documents) are confidential, except as provided by State or Federal law, or upon consent of the student.

STUDENT LIFE

Amen-Ra Theological Seminary students are a select group of adults who desire a graduate education to enhance their personal or professional goals. Most hold responsible positions within their community upon enrollment, and welcome the intellectual challenge. Furthermore, students are encouraged to participate in local, regional, national, and international African centered activity relevant to their education.

EDUCATIONAL ETHICS

The administration, faculty and staff of Amen-Ra Theological Seminary request that students respect the ideas and integrity of others by only submitting work resulting from their own original efforts. Work submitted by students based on the work of others, or more that once for a grade will risk immediate expulsion.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Amen-Ra Theological Seminary admits students and employs persons of any race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, citizenship, ancestry, religion, age, disability, or medical condition to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to all at the seminary. Furthermore, the seminary does not discriminate on the basis of any of the above categories in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship, loan programs, grant programs, or any other seminary administered programs.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Every member of the Amen-Ra Theological Seminary community should be aware that the seminary is strongly opposed to sexual harassment and that such behavior is prohibited by State and Federal law, and seminary standards.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The Amen-Ra Theological Seminary academic year is divided into four academic quarters, Fall (October to December), Winter (January to March), Spring (April to June), and Summer (July to September).

COURSE LOAD

Students in the master's degree programs are expected to register for at least two courses per quarter the first four quarters to meet degree requirements in a timely fashion.

UNIT AND GRADING POLICY

Each course listed in the curriculum has a unit value of three or six units. The grading scale, meaning and points are:

The grade of **A** (4.0 points) indicates superior achievement, subject mastery, and intellectual initiative.

The grade of **B** (3.0 points) indicates above average achievement, excellence in aspects of the course, completeness and accuracy of knowledge, originality, and intellectual insight.

The grade of **C** (2.0 points) indicates fair performance, however, below graduate degree standards.

The grade of **I** (0.0 points) indicates an inability to complete course requirements owing to extenuating circumstances; the grade of **P** (0.0 points) indicates satisfactory completion of a course; the grade of **W** (0.0) indicates withdrawal from a course, and the grade of **EX** (0.0) indicates that a student has left the seminary.

TUITION AND FEES

Application.....	\$25.00.
Tuition (per unit).....	\$60.00.
Late enrollment.....	\$20.00.
Returned bank check.....	\$50.00.
Thesis or Dissertation binding.....	\$70.00.
ARTS Transcript.....	\$10.00.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The seminary is in the process of instituting a merit and need based scholarship program. For more information, contact the office of admission.

INSTALLMENT PLAN

Tuition and fees are due at the time of registration. Students who need time to meet their tuition and fee requirements may elect a 90-day, three postdated check payment installment plan. The first payment of 50% of the tuition and fees is due at the time of registration, the second payment of 25% of the tuition and fees is due 60 days after the start of the quarter, and the third payment, the remaining 25% is due 90 days after the start of the quarter.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Tuition and fees may be paid by check, money order, credit card, or via an authorized financial aid association. Make payment payable to Amen-Ra Theological Seminary.

TUITION REFUND: WITHDRAWAL

Should withdrawal be necessary, the seminary must be notified immediately in order to prepare a refund or the lack thereof. Tuition will be refunded 80% during the first and second week of the quarter, 40% the third and fourth week of the quarter, 5% the fifth and sixth week of the quarter, and 0% after the seventh week of the quarter.

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS:

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program is a professional service degree program related to the ministry of the initiated or ordained. Upon completion of the program, students are expected to hold a theoretical and working knowledge of theocentric history, leadership, and professional practice.

Graduation requirements for the degree involves: (1) a six month professionally supervised practicum, (2) ten courses, (3) a 3.00 grade point average or above in all course work, (4) completion of a faculty approved thesis or comprehensive examination, and (5) the completion of all work in three years, the program can be completed in a minimum of eighteen months.

The course of study for the degree requires eight (8), three unit courses and two (2), six unit courses. The three unit courses are: African World Religion and Spirituality, World Religion and Spirituality, Homiletic, Congregational Life, African Theology: Paradigm Synthesis, Theocentric Methodology, and an elective from the curriculum. The two six unit courses are: Hermeneutics A, and Religious and Spiritual Practice.

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) program is a professional degree program designed for adults engaged in or preparing for a career in religious education concerning African world religion, philosophy, leadership, and cognate theocentric paradigms.

Graduation requirements for the M.R.E. degree involves: (1) a six month professionally supervised practicum, (2) ten courses, (3) a 3.00 grade point average or above in all course work, (4) completion of a faculty approved thesis or comprehensive examination, and (5) the completion of all work in three years (18 month minimum).

The course of study for the degree requires eight (8), three unit courses and two (2), six unit courses. The three unit courses are: African World Religion and Spirituality, World Religion and Spirituality, Ecclesiastical Ministry Leadership, Congregational Life, Theocentric Knowledge, African Theology: Paradigm Synthesis, Theocentric Methodology, and an elective from the curriculum. The two six unit courses are: Hermeneutics A, and Religious and Spiritual Practice. The program can be completed in a minimum of eighteen months.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) program is an intermediate research and theory centered degree designed for students who plan to enter the Amen-Ra Theological Seminary Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) program.

Graduation requirements for the program involves: (1) selecting an area of specialization, (2) a three month supervised and evaluated teaching experience, (3) eight required courses, (4) an above average grade point average in all course work, (5) an examination demonstrating the ability to read and comprehend a foreign language, and (6) a faculty approved dissertation prospectus.

The dissertation prospectus for the Th.M. must contain: a full statement of a proposed topic, a historical discussion of literature on the proposed topic, a statement of methodology to be employed in the dissertation, a survey of sources sufficient to demonstrate the viability of the proposed topic, and an oral examination covering the proposed dissertation topic and area of specialization.

The course of study for the degree requires the completion of eight courses. The courses are: Prophets and Prophetess, Selected Questions in Theocentric Studies, Theocentric Methodology, Paradigm Synthesis, Religious and Spiritual Practice (six units), Ecclesiastical Ministry, Hermeneutics B, and Theocentric Issues Seminar. The program can be completed in a minimum of fifteen months.

THE MASTER'S THESIS

The Master's thesis is a post course work report on results of an original research question or investigation demonstrating subject mastery. Each master's candidate must have a thesis committee consisting of at least three faculty members. The committee approves the subject and plan, provides guidance, reads and approves the final manuscript, and unanimously agree to recommend to the full faculty that the degree be awarded. Each candidate is responsible for preparing the thesis in the proper form and meeting all degree program requirements.

THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

Following the completion of all course work in good standing, M.Div. and M.R.E. candidates may take a comprehensive examination administered by a committee of at least three faculty members. The examination will review candidate retention of course work, and allow an opportunity for an essay of specialization to demonstrate micro subject understanding and knowledge.

DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS:

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

The Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) program is designed for persons in leadership position who desire a degree in theology to accent their professional achievements and skill. Graduation criteria for the degree involves: (1) evidence of at least three years of successful leadership, (2) the completion of three required courses: African Theology: Paradigm Synthesis, Theocentric Methodology, Theocentric Issues Seminar, and three electives from the curriculum, (3) excellent academic progress, and (4) a faculty approved dissertation. The program can be completed in a minimum of nine months.

HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

The Honorary Doctor of Divinity (Hon. D.D.) is awarded to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the intellectual and social development of African world community religion, philosophy, and spirituality (the degree has been awarded to N. Joseph Tshawane, Runoko Rashidi, and Ra Un Nefer Amen, respectfully).

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

The Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) program is designed to prepare students for a career of teaching, writing and research in the dynamics of African world community religious history, theocentric wisdom, ethics, and spirituality.

Graduation criteria for the Th.D. degree involves: (1) the completion of four required courses: African Theology: Paradigm Synthesis, Theocentric Methodology, Theocentric Issues Seminar, and Theocentric Knowledge, (2) and six courses from the curriculum which may include World Religion and Spirituality, African World Religion and Spirituality, Divination: African Systems and Ways of Knowing, Homiletics, Hermeneutics B, African Theology: Paradigm and Synthesis, Selected Questions in Theocentric Studies, (3) excellent academic progress, (4) the ability to read and comprehend a foreign language, (5) a practicum, (6) completion of three qualifying examinations based on Amen-Ra Theological Seminary course work, (7) verbal defense of the dissertation topic, (8) a faculty approved dissertation, and (9) the completion of all work within six years.

CANDIDATE IN THEOLOGY

The intermediate degree of Candidate in Theology (Th.C.) is awarded to students enrolled in the Th.D. program. The Th.C. is not a terminal degree; however, it gives formal recognition to a definite state of progress toward the Doctor of Theology degree. Students may use the Th.C. designation until they earn the Th.D., or withdraw from the program.

THE DISSERTATION AND IT'S DEFENSE

The Dissertation involves an original study demonstrating the ability to do an independent investigation of a specialized topic within a general subject paradigm. Thus the dissertation encompass: (1) the completion of all course work, (2) formation of a five member faculty committee, (3) unanimous committee approval of dissertation topic and plan, and (4) unanimous faculty approval of the dissertation and recommendation that the degree be awarded. Each doctoral candidate is responsible for meeting all graduation requirements.

Verbal defense of the dissertation involves a formal presentation of an original research topic demonstrating in-depth organization and understanding of the subject to the satisfaction of at least five faculty members.

COURSE OF STUDY:

Classical African Religions

An examination of religion, values, and spirituality in Africa concerning ancient theocentric experience in Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, and Nigeria.

Ancient Kemetic Religion

An affirmative examination of ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) religion focused upon wisdom literature, spiritual initiation, and its contribution to world religion, and spirituality.

Principles of Maat: Ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) Ethics

An introduction to the ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) theocentric principles and attributes of order, truth, justice, balance, harmony, reciprocity, and righteousness.

Theocentric Knowledge

A critical examination of perplexing questions concerning the source of theocentric knowledge, and how it informs and constructs theological paradigms throughout the world.

World Religion and Theology

A survey of major world religions, theosophies and texts from ancient times to the present that complement African beliefs, values and ethical traditions.

African World Religion and Theology

An introduction to African world community belief systems and theocentric paradigms juxtaposing a progressive critique and analysis.

African Religions in the West

An examination of the manifestations of African religion outside the continent of Africa focused upon Rastafari, and Yoruba centered traditions in Europe, and the Western Hemisphere.

Afrocentricity and Religion

An examination of the historical and contemporary intersection of religion, theology, and African centered spirituality.

Sankofa: Ancestors and Epic Memory

A theocentric examination of the African experience of enslavement and response to the destruction of African civilization via ancient and modern sacred text and ecclesiastical images.

Divination: African Systems and Ways of Knowing

An examination of how truth and knowledge is generated in Africa and throughout the African world community via the process of divination.

Womenist Theology

An examination of the identity, image and representation of women in theocentric systems of belief, and the construction of women centered theological paradigms.

Theocentric Aestheticism

A theocentric examination of the question of aesthetic value and reality in ancient and modern African religious and spiritual traditions.

Ecclesiastical Ministry

An examination of the principles and methods of ecclesiastical ministry, effective communication, conflict resolution, and related topics.

Homiletics

A theoretical and practical examination of the art of speech, conversation, public speaking, and preaching in the African tradition in relationship to language, thought and action.

Theocentric Guidance

An introduction to theocentric guidance and communication techniques that seek alternatives, or solutions to family and individual challenges.

Congregational Life

An examination of formal and informal relationships in the African religious and spiritual community.

Congregational Challenge and Solution

An examination of how religious/spiritual congregations organize, sustain themselves, and thrive in challenging environments.

Theocentric Methodology

An investigation of discovery methodology and paradigms relevant to scholastic theocentric inquiry.

Hermeneutics: A

A seminar in the genres of hermeneutic study and communication for M.Div. and M.R.E. students preparing for the thesis or comprehensive examination.

Hermeneutics: B

A seminar in the genres of hermeneutic study and communication for Th.M. and doctoral students.

African Theology: Paradigm and Synthesis

An examination of key ideas, concepts and theoretical formations in African world community religious, spiritual and ethical studies.

Selected Questions in Theocentric Studies

An opportunity for students to pursue an in-depth study of a particular theological questions or subjects with faculty guidance.

Prophets and Prophetess

An examination of the ideas and concepts of ancient and modern master teachers (prophets and prophetess) who have influenced human thought concerning the origin of the universe, reality and experience.

Religious and Theological Practice

A supervised theocentric experience designed to evaluate student ability to: (1) discuss, appropriate and explicate theoretical ideas, (2) communicate in speech and print, (3) function in a professional manner, (4) teach, (5) and implement programs/paradigms related to the theological experience of the African world community.

Theocentric Issues Seminar

A forum for doctoral and pre-doctoral (Th.M) students to present, analyze and discuss current theocentric issues, research questions, and projects with faculty guidance.

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

R. I. MUTOPE A-ALKEBU-LAN

Vice Provost, Research, Development and Instruction.

Th.D. (1999) Amen-Ra Theological Seminary; Graduate Certificate: Economic Development (1996), M.L.I.S. (1993), Graduate Certificate: Archival Administration (1992), B.A. (1977), Wayne State University, Detroit.

MOLEFI KETE ASANTE

Distinguished Professor of Africology.

L.H.D. (1991), Sojourner-Douglass College; L.H.D. (1976), University of New Haven; Ph.D. (1968), University of California, Los Angeles; M.A. (1965) Pepperdine University, Los Angeles; B.A. (1964), Oklahoma Christian College.

THERESA TAIWO ASOJO

Professor, Philosophy of Religion.

Ph.D. (1995), M.Phil. (1990), M.A. (1986), B.A. (1983), Diploma (1976), University of Ibadan (Nigeria); Teachers Grade II Certificate (1966), Mary Immaculate Teacher's College (Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria).

FIRPO W. CARR

Professor, Etymology and World Religion.

Ph.D. (1991), Pacific Western University; M.A. (1989), University of Redlands; B.S. (1984), University of San Francisco.

IBRAHIM ABDURRAHMAN FARAJAJE

Professor, Cultural Studies, Islamic Studies: Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion.

Th.D., University of Bern (Switzerland); M.Div., St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary; B.A., Williams College; B.A., Vassar College.

SALIM FARAJI

Vice Provost and Professor, African Religions, Ancient and Modern Christianity.

Ph.D. (2005), M.Div. (1997), Claremont Graduate University; B.S.S. (1993), Pennsylvania State University.

ARTHUR J. GRAHAM

Professor, Language Arts and Literature.

Ph.D. (1980), University of California, San Diego; B.Sc. (1967) San Diego State University.

EARL GRANT

Professor, Ancient Egypt: Mathematics and Astronomy.

Ed.M. (1978), Harvard University.

EREBKA L. HENRY

Professor, Law and Social Ecology.

J.D. (1993), University of California, Los Angeles; B.A. (1989), University of California, Irvine.

SABINE JELL-BAHLEN

Professor, Anthropology, Aesthetics and Cosmology.

Ph.D. (1980), The New School for Social Research; M.A. (1974), Freie University Berlin (West Germany).

E.J. JOSEY (1924-2009)

Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Library Science.

L.H.D. (2001), Clarion University of Pennsylvania; Litt.D. (1995), Clark Atlanta University;

H.H.D. (1989), North Carolina Central University; D.P.S. (1987), University of Wisconsin,

Milwaukee; L.H.D. (1973), Shaw University; M.S.L.S. (1953), The State University of New

York, Albany; M.A. (1950), Columbia University; A.B. (1949), Howard University.

KOFI LOMOTÉY

Executive Vice Provost, Administrative and Academic Affairs.

Ph.D. (1985), MA (1981), Stanford University; Ed.M. (1978), Cleveland State University; B.A. (1974) Oberlin College.

PHILLIP McABEE

Professor, Dance and Technology.

M.A. (1995), University of California, Los Angeles; Diploma (1990), New York University;

B.A. (1979), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

MAUREEN SILOS

Associate Professor, Comparative Education and Caribbean Studies.

Ph.D. (1997), University of California, Los Angeles; Doctoral (1983), Erasmus University, Rotterdam (Holland).

DELANEY E. SMITH, JR.

Professor, Ancient Biblical and Ecclesiastical History.

M.D. (1978), Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine; Pharm.D. (1974),

University of Southern California; B.S. (1971), Xavier University of Louisiana.

FABUNMI WEBB-MSEMAJI

Professor, African Traditional Systems and Psychology.

Ph.D. (1996), California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles; M.A. (1984), B.A. (1979), California State University, Los Angeles; A.A., Los Angeles City College.

CLYDE A. WOODS

Visiting Professor, Thesis and Dissertation Construction.

Ph.D. (1993), University of California, Los Angeles; M.C.R.P. (1986), Morgan State University; B.A. (1979), Oberlin College.

ITIBARI M. ZULU

Provost and Professor, Administrative and Academic Affairs;

Senior Editor, *The Journal of Pan African Studies*.

Doctorial Studies: Union Institute & University; Th.D. (1999), Amen-Ra Theological Seminary; M.L.S. (1989), San Jose State University; B.A. (1976), California State University, East Bay; A.A. (1974), Merritt College.

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P.O. Box 24194

Los Angeles, California 90024-0194