

PROGRAM GUIDE

Master of Arts in Religion and Culture

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Master of Arts (MA) in Religion and Culture at IUDI is designed to equip leaders with tools to engage the diverse religious and cultural landscapes of Africa from a Christian foundation. Learners will be equipped to enter cross-cultural work with openness and respect through classes in communication, ethical leadership, comparative religion, anthropology, and contextualization. The program integrates IUDI's distinctive development focus to prepare learners to work for effective and sustainable good in their communities.

ABOUT US

IUDI's Vision

IUDI's vision is to be a catalyst for transformational development in Francophone Africa.

IUDI's Mission

IUDI provides accessible and innovative distance education in key areas of development, empowering leaders to address the holistic needs of their communities.

IUDI's Educational Model

IUDI offers fully online education following an asynchronous model, enabling learners to study flexibly and at their own pace. With no rigid class schedules, our approach allows for seamless integration of studies with life, family, and work commitments.

IUDI's Curriculum

At IUDI, we focus our curricula on empowering leaders with all the tools they need for transformational impact. Our carefully crafted programs provide a strong foundation in academic writing, research principles, and development tools. Our coursework is highly engaging and puts you in the driver's seat of your learning journey. Dive into great texts, dissect relevant case studies, and unleash your potential through hands-on capstone projects. Our curricula foster critical thinking, servant leadership, and a vision for transformational development.

Accreditation

IUDI is accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education in Cameroon, a recognition of our commitment to maintaining high academic standards. We collaborate closely with the University of Maroua to ensure that our programs meet rigorous academic requirements. This partnership enables us to leverage our combined expertise and resources, delivering a comprehensive and enriching educational experience for our learners.



ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

IUDI's Credit and Grading System

Our grading system is based on the model from Cameroon's Higher Education Ministry, which is similar to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). In this system, each credit equals about 25-30 hours of coursework, including time spent in tutorials, doing practical work, studying by yourself, and preparing for exams. This credit system is flexible and makes it easier for learners to move between universities in Cameroon and other countries.

At IUDI, we grade learners on a 4.0 GPA system. This is a standard grading system used both in Cameroon and abroad. A 4.0 GPA means excellent work, while a 2.0 GPA is usually the minimum grade needed to pass.

Continuous Enrollment

IUDI enrolls learners on a continuous basis. Learners can start their program at any time. With no fixed application deadlines or enrollment cycles, prospective learners have the flexibility to start their educational journey when it suits them best. This approach promotes accessibility, accommodating individuals with diverse schedules and commitments. It also streamlines the admission process, ensuring efficient evaluation and enrollment.

Academic Progress

Learners are expected to make consistent academic progress in their courses. Learners must contact their mentor if they need to make adjustments to their degree plan. If a learner needs to pause their studies for an extended period, they must contact their mentor to put their studies on hold until they are able to restart again.

Financial Policy

At IUDI, we prioritize a financially accessible education. Tuition fees are calculated per credit unit, reflecting the workload and value of each module. This flexible approach empowers learners to manage their financial commitments based on their course load. Payment is expected at the start of each module, ensuring continuous access to course materials. We provide multiple payment options, including online portals, bank transfers, and installment plans. Late payments may result in financial holds impacting resource access and module registration. Our aim is to support learners in their educational journey while maintaining a fair and sustainable financial system.

Note: This policy is subject to periodic review and revision to meet the needs of our learners and institution.

YOUR EXPERIENCE

Technology Requirement

At IUDI, we emphasize the integration of technology in our educational environment, necessitating learners to have a personal computer or laptop meeting basic specifications, as well as a webcam and microphone for online engagement. Furthermore, a stable and reliable internet connection is required for seamless participation in our online learning environment.



Technical Support

At IUDI, we are dedicated to providing timely technical support to assist learners with their technology-related challenges. Our online learning management systems serve as a central hub for accessing course materials, submitting assignments, and engaging in meaningful discussions with instructors and peers. We are committed to creating a technologically inclusive environment that empowers learners to thrive.

Communication

As part of our commitment to fostering effective communication, learners are provided with an IUDI email, exclusively for educational purposes and internal communication within the university community.

Digital Campus

At IUDI, Moodle serves as our digital campus, enabling us to deliver dynamic and interactive online education. It provides a centralized interface for accessing course materials, engaging in discussions, submitting assignments, and interacting with mentors and peers. With Moodle, learners can navigate their courses, track progress, and communicate effortlessly within a secure and supportive virtual environment. To ensure a smooth experience, IUDI offers a comprehensive orientation on how to effectively use Moodle, empowering learners to maximize their online learning potential.

Transferability of Prior Coursework

At this time IUDI does not accept coursework or credit transfers.

Module Progression

At IUDI, our learning modules are thoughtfully designed groups of courses that provide a comprehensive educational experience. Learners can start with any course within the module and must complete all courses to unlock the next module with a new set of courses. Completion of a module prompts payment for the subsequent module, ensuring a seamless progression through the program. Each module focuses on a specific area of study, fostering critical thinking and practical skills under the guidance of our dedicated faculty.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following is an outline of the courses required for the Master of Arts in Religion and Culture degree program. IUDI retains the right to change or modify its curriculum as needed.



MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION AND CULTURE DEGREE PROGRAM

Modules	Courses	Credit Units	Total Credit Units
Orientation	Orientation	0	0
Foundations	Introduction to Online Studies	3	
	Survey of Post-Colonial Africa	5	
	Introduction to Critical Thinking	5	
	Introduction to Development	4	17
Academic Writing	Academic French or Academic English	5	
	Citation Styles and Formatting	5	10
Core	Conflict and Peacemaking	4	
	Ethnomusicology	5	
	Ethical Leadership	3	
	Effective Communication	3	
	Islam in Africa	4	19
Advanced	Islamic Theology	5	
	Theology and Culture	4	
	Quranic Arabic 1	5	
	Quranic Arabic 2	5	
	Ethics and Apologetics	5	24
Application	Issues in Cultural Contextualization	5	
	Development Integration	5	10
Academic Research	Ethical Research	5	
	Research Methods	5	10
Capstone	Thesis or Practicum	30	30

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MODULE 1: ORIENTATION

Orientation

Course Description:

This orientation seminar introduces learners to the central values, mission, and tenets of IUDI education. Learners will gain tools to use IUDI's online platforms, learning systems, and resources effectively.

Course Objectives:

- Understand IUDI's mission, vision, and history.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using IUDI's online platforms, learning systems, and resources.
- Understand IUDI's university policies.

MODULE 2: FOUNDATIONS

Introduction to Online Studies

Course Description:

This course prepares learners for success at online, asynchronous education. Learners will gain vital study skills, mobilize technological tools, and apply communication skills to online platforms to equip them for their studies. Furthermore, learners will develop a personalized learning plan and set goals for educational success.

Course Objectives:

- Define online learning and explain its benefits and challenges.
- Select and use appropriate technologies and resources for online learning.
- Understand online safety and ethics.
- Develop effective strategies for time management and staying motivated in online studies.
- Apply communication skills in online settings, such as email and discussion platforms.
- Develop a personalized learning plan.
- Reflect on personal goals and dreams for education and beyond.

Survey of Post-Colonial Africa

Course Description:

This course dives deep into understanding the concept of colonialism, its profound impact on Africa, and its enduring legacy shaping the socio-political and cultural landscape of the continent. Learners will engage in critical analysis of the political, economic, and social challenges in post-colonial Africa, influenced by colonial rule. The course fosters a deeper comprehension of the complex interplay between colonialism, African culture, identity, and the pathways towards sustainable growth and development in Africa's future.

- Define colonialism and explain its impact on Africa.
- Understand the nature and legacy of colonialism in Africa.



- Analyze the political, economic, and social challenges and opportunities facing post-colonial Africa.
- Evaluate strategies for sustainable development in post-colonial Africa.
- Reflect on the impact of colonialism on African culture and identity.

Introduction to Critical Thinking

Course Description:

This course empowers learners with robust critical thinking skills, enhancing their ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate information effectively. It delves into the fundamental role of critical thinking across an array of personal and professional settings. The course fosters lifelong learning and the ability to evaluate information with a thoughtful and informed manner.

Course Objectives:

- Define critical thinking and explain its importance in work, research, and daily life.
- Understand the impact of biases and fallacies in thinking processes.
- Apply critical thinking skills to a variety of tasks, including reading, writing, and problem solving.
- Evaluate the quality of information and arguments.
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively.

Introduction to Development

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the key principles and theories of international development. Learners will explore the historical evolution of development work, evaluate strategies used by various entities, and examine the impact of development on social factors. This course will provide learners with the knowledge and skills they need to make a difference in the world.

Course Objectives:

- Define the key principles and theories of international development, including development economics, globalization, poverty reduction, and sustainability.
- Understand the historical evolution of the concept and practice of development.
- Evaluate the strategies and approaches used by various entities (nations, NGOs, international bodies) in promoting development.
- Analyze the impact of development on social factors and the role of technology in development work.
- Reflect on the ethical considerations in development work and the future trajectories of development in light of current global trends and challenges.

MODULE 3: ACADEMIC WRITING

Academic French*

Course Description:

This course equips learners to gain proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking French. Learners will also focus on academic writing skills for graduate studies, mastering the writing process. Learners will leave this course well prepared for the writing assignments at IUDI.



Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate proficiency in French grammar, vocabulary, and writing mechanics.
- Read and understand French texts.
- Write and speak French fluently.
- Understand the academic writing process of outlining, summarizing, drafting, and editing.
- Reflect on personal learning experiences in French.

Academic English*

Course Description:

This course equips learners to gain proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English. Learners will also focus on academic writing skills for graduate studies, mastering the writing process. Learners will leave this course well prepared for the writing assignments at IUDI.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate proficiency in English grammar, vocabulary, and writing mechanics.
- Read and understand English texts.
- Write and speak English fluently.
- Understand the academic writing process of outlining, summarizing, drafting, and editing.
- Reflect on personal learning experiences in English.

Citation Styles and Formatting

Course Description:

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of various citation styles and formatting methods. Through hands-on exercises, learners will apply citation rules accurately and consistently in their academic writing. By the end of the course, learners will emerge proficient in applying citation styles and formatting rules accurately to their academic papers.

Course Objectives:

- Understand rules and conventions of the Chicago (Turabian) citation style and apply them appropriately and consistently in academic writing.
- Explore citation management tools and software and use how to use them responsibly.
- Define and recognize plagiarism and understand how to avoid it.
- Problem-solve common citation and formatting scenarios.

MODULE 4: CORE

Conflict and Peacemaking

Course Description:

This course provides an in-depth examination of the nature of conflict and the various approaches to peacemaking. The course will examine the key theories, principles, and practices of conflict resolution, as well as the challenges and opportunities associated with peacemaking efforts. The course will draw on

^{*}Students will choose to take one of these courses.



interdisciplinary approaches, including psychology, political science, sociology, and peace studies, to develop a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics of conflict and peacemaking.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the nature, causes, and dynamics of conflict at different levels.
- Analyze and apply different conflict resolution approaches and assess their strengths and limitations.
- Acquire essential skills for effective negotiation and mediation, including communication and problem-solving.
- Understand and apply the principles and processes of peacebuilding, post-conflict reconciliation and community engagement.
- Consider ethical considerations and cultural sensitivity in conflict resolution and peacemaking efforts.

Ethnomusicology

Course Description:

This course invites learners to explore the world of Ethnomusicology through the study of its historical development, theoretical foundations, and key concepts. Through an interactive journey across diverse cultures and regions, learners will experience the rich diversity of musical traditions and practices across the world. Learners will analyze the cultural, social, historical, and political contexts of musical pieces and traditions, and will gain practical skills in fieldwork, documentation, transcription, and analysis of musical expressions. The course examines the impact of globalization, migration, and diaspora on music and musical communities, examining the dynamic processes of adaptation, preservation, and transformation. Learners will reflect on the intricate relationships between music, identity, and cultural representation, developing a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted world of ethnomusicology.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the field of ethnomusicology, including its historical development, theoretical foundations, and key concepts.
- Explore the diversity of musical traditions and practices across different cultures and regions, analyzing their cultural, social, historical, and political contexts.
- Investigate the methodologies and research techniques employed in ethnomusicology, including fieldwork, documentation, transcription, and analysis of musical expressions.
- Analyze the impact of globalization, migration, and diaspora on music and musical communities.
- Examine the processes of musical adaptation, preservation, and transformation.
- Reflect on the relationships between music, identity, and cultural representation.

Ethical Leadership

Course Description:

This course equips learners with actionable insights in the practice of ethical leadership. It intertwines the theoretical and the practical, allowing learners to explore key principles of moral philosophy and ethics and apply them directly to leadership contexts. The curriculum emphasizes the transformational impact of ethical leadership on organizational culture, behavior, and decision-making, while imparting strategies to navigate complex ethical dilemmas and intercultural dynamics. The course will hone



communication skills, enabling learners to effectively convey ethical considerations and leadership strategies.

Course Objectives:

- Define ethical leadership and articulate its importance in shaping organizational culture, influencing behavior, and guiding decision-making processes.
- Understand and apply key principles and theories of moral philosophy and ethics in leadership.
- Evaluate and respond to ethical dilemmas in leadership, considering multiple perspectives, communication styles, and intercultural dynamics.
- Communicate effectively about ethical issues and leadership strategies.
- Reflect on personal leadership styles and practices, identifying areas for growth and self-awareness in ethical decision-making.

Effective Communication

Course Description:

In this course, learners will delve into the world of communication, discovering its importance in personal and professional settings. The course covers the essentials of verbal, non-verbal, written, and digital communication, preparing learners for a range of communication situations. The course focuses on active listening, empathy, and cultural sensitivity as well as conflict resolution and negotiation skills. The course encourages learners to improve their communication style and grow in self-awareness.

Course Objectives:

- Define effective communication and articulate its importance in various contexts.
- Understand and apply key principles of verbal, non-verbal, written, and digital communication.
- Understand and apply conflict resolution and negotiation skills.
- Demonstrate active listening skills, empathy, and cultural sensitivity in communication scenarios.
- Reflect on personal communication styles and practices, identifying areas for improvement.

Islam in Africa

Course Description:

This course offers a comprehensive study of the history and impact of Islam in Africa, detailing its spread through trade, migration, and Islamic empires, and examining the rich diversity of Islamic practices across the continent. Learners will investigate Islam's influence on various aspects of African cultures, including language, art, architecture, literature, music, and social customs. The course will evaluate the interactions between Islam and African societies, exploring dynamics of coexistence, syncretism, and tensions with other religious and cultural traditions. Learners will assess the role of Islam in African politics, identity construction, and the experiences of African Muslims.

- Examine the historical spread of Islam in Africa, including the role of trade, migration, and Islamic empires.
- Understand the diversity of Islamic practices across different regions of Africa.
- Explore the influence of Islam on African cultures, including language, art, architecture, literature, music, and social customs.



- Analyze contemporary Islamic movements and organizations in Africa and their role in shaping socio-political landscapes.
- Evaluate the interactions between Islam and African societies, including the dynamics of coexistence, syncretism, and tensions with other religious and cultural traditions.
- Evaluate the role of Islam in African politics, identity construction, and the experiences of African Muslims.

MODULE 5: ADVANCED

Islamic Theology

Course Description:

This course guides learners through the foundational concepts, principles, and sources of Islamic Theology, including the Quran and Hadith. Delving into core Islamic beliefs, creeds, and major theological schools, the course facilitates understanding of diverse theological perspectives and debates. The curriculum fosters critical analysis of key theological concepts, as well as contemporary theological issues. The course culminates in comparative theological analysis, where Islamic theology is juxtaposed with other religious traditions to discover areas of convergence and divergence.

Course Objectives:

- Understand and explain the foundational concepts, principles, and sources of Islamic theology, including the Quran, Hadith, and scholarly interpretations.
- Understand the core beliefs and creed of Islam, and the major schools of Islamic theological thought.
- Analyze key theological concepts in Islam, such as God's nature, free will and determinism, theodicy, eschatology, and the role of reason and revelation.
- Explore contemporary theological issues within the Islamic context, including the interpretation of scripture, gender and sexuality, pluralism, and interfaith dialogue.
- Engage in comparative theological analysis, comparing Islamic theology with other religious traditions to find areas of convergence and divergence.

Theology and Culture

Course Description:

This course explores the relationship between Christian theology and culture. The course provides tools to analyze Christian engagement with societal norms and evaluates cultural trends using theological perspectives. Learners will learn to apply these insights to address cultural challenges effectively. The course invites learners to consider the impact of their cultural experiences on their theological understanding.

- Understand the dynamic relationship between Christian theology and culture.
- Analyze the theories and beliefs of how Christians ought to engage with cultural constructs and norms.
- Evaluate cultural trends and phenomena through a theological lens.
- Apply theological perspectives to engage constructively with contemporary cultural challenges.



 Reflect on personal cultural context and experiences and consider their impact on theological understanding.

Quranic Arabic 1 and 2

Course Description:

These comprehensive courses aim to provide learners with a solid understanding of classical Arabic and Quranic texts. Starting with foundational knowledge in Quranic Arabic, learners develop skills in reading, pronunciation, and interpretation of Quranic passages. The advanced course builds on this foundation, expanding vocabulary and deepening comprehension through the study of grammar, syntax, and figurative language. Learners also gain the ability to contextualize Quranic verses within historical, cultural, and religious frameworks, enabling a nuanced understanding of the intended meanings. Through basic exegesis and engagement with interpretive sources, learners unravel the layers of meaning contained within the text.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the grammatical rules and structures of classical Arabic.
- Build a foundational and expanded vocabulary for comprehending a wide range of Quranic texts.
- Develop accurate reading and pronunciation skills, including diacritical marks.
- Comprehend basic and complex Quranic sentence structures and syntax.
- Analyze Quranic verses for grammatical structures, linguistic features, and themes.
- Interpret figurative language, rhetorical devices, and allegorical meanings in Quranic passages.
- Contextualize Quranic verses within historical, cultural, and religious contexts.
- Engage in basic exegesis of selected Quranic verses using classical and contemporary sources.

Christian Ethics and Apologetics

Course Description:

This course explores the practical application of Christian ethics and apologetics in the world today. Throughout the course, learners will explore foundational principles of Christian ethics, applying these tenets to contemporary moral issues and dilemmas. Parallelly, the course introduces various approaches to Christian apologetics, providing learners the skills to confront contemporary challenges to Christian faith. This course integrates ethical reasoning and apologetic skills into practical Christian witness and service.

- Understand key principles of Christian ethics and apply them to contemporary moral issues and dilemmas.
- Understand different approaches to Christian apologetics and apply them to contemporary challenges to Christian faith.
- Integrate ethical reasoning and apologetic skills in the practice of Christian witness and service.
- Communicate effectively about issues in Christian ethics and apologetics in written and oral forms.
- Reflect on the personal and societal implications of Christian ethics and apologetics.



Issues in Cultural Contextualization

Course Description:

This course imparts vital ideas about cultural contextualization and its importance across various fields. Learners will understand the intricate dynamics and potential challenges in cross-cultural communication, as well as the complexities of cultural identity formation. The course addresses strategies for managing intercultural conflict, fostering negotiation skills, and promoting collaboration within multicultural settings. Learners will critically evaluate the processes of cultural adaptation, ponder on ethical dilemmas, and address social justice issues within the lens of cultural contextualization. The ultimate goal of the course is to equip learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage effectively with varied cultural contexts, and to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity, adaptability, and respect.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the concept and significance of cultural contextualization in various fields.
- Analyze cultural dynamics and challenges in cross-cultural communication.
- Explore the complexities of cultural identity formation and its intersectionality.
- Address intercultural conflict, negotiation, and foster collaboration in multicultural contexts.
- Evaluate processes of cultural adaptation, reflect on ethical dilemmas, and address social justice in cultural contextualization.
- Apply knowledge and skills to effectively engage with cultural contexts and navigate cultural differences.

Development Integration

Course Description:

The course reviews the fundamental principles, theories, and concepts of development work and invites learners to examine various strategies and interventions used to combat global poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment. Learners will conduct research on pertinent topics in international development, highlighting the relevance and contributions of their major to this critical work. In addition, the course fosters reflective thinking on how development principles can be effectively applied to professional endeavors, thereby integrating theory and practice.

- Review the key principles, theories, and concepts of international development.
- Examine the diverse strategies and interventions used to address global poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment.
- Conduct research on a relevant topic in international development, demonstrating the relevance and contributions of your major to development work.
- Reflect on how development principles and concepts may be applied to your professional work.



MODULE 7: ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Ethical Research

Course Description:

This course invites learners to delve into the fundamental principles and guidelines that govern research methodologies across diverse disciplines. Learners will explore complex ethical dilemmas and considerations that arise during the research process. Learners will navigate and resolve challenges encountered in research, enabling them to ethically conduct their own research. By engaging in this course, learners will emerge with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to uphold ethical standards and integrity in their research practices.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the ethical principles and guidelines governing research methodologies.
- Develop awareness of ethical dilemmas and considerations that arise during the research process.
- Apply ethical decision-making strategies to resolve ethical challenges in research.
- Demonstrate ability to apply ethical guidelines and regulations to real-world research scenarios.
- Exhibit responsible and ethical behavior throughout the research process.
- Reflect on personal values, biases, and assumptions that may impact research.

Research Methods

Course Description:

In this course, learners will gain a comprehensive understanding of various research methods, such as quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and their applications across academic disciplines. Learners will explore the intricacies of designing research methods and approaches. They will master crafting hypotheses and research proposals, collecting data, and presenting research findings. Furthermore, learners will discover tools to analyze and interpret data and refine their oral and written communication skills. This course equips learners for successful research endeavors and prepares them to make a meaningful impact in their chosen field.

- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of various research methods, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and their application in different academic disciplines.
- Develop the ability to design research studies, formulate research questions or hypotheses, and select appropriate research methods and approaches.
- Develop a well-structured research proposal.
- Learn and apply data collection techniques relevant to different research methods.
- Analyze and interpret research data using appropriate analytical techniques.
- Learn how to conduct a comprehensive literature review to identify existing research, theories, and gaps in knowledge.
- Develop effective oral and written communication skills to present research methods, and findings.



Thesis or Practicum

Course Description:

The capstone is the culminating course in the Master of Arts program. Learners will complete a significant paper or project that demonstrates mastery of theological concepts and applies them to a specific problem. Learners may choose to write a final thesis or complete a practicum. Learners will work with a professor to design a research project, paper, or internship experience.

Course Objectives:

- Propose a research paper or project, demonstrating the ability to apply research methodologies and ethical considerations.
- Prepare a scholarly paper that demonstrates deep understanding of the topic.
- Reflect on the contribution of the research paper or project on one's field of study and how it addresses societal challenges.

For More Information

IUDI's team is dedicated exclusively to helping you achieve your academic goals. We are committed to excellence service and continuous improvement. If you have inquiries or concerns, please email us at support@iudi.org.