

SOCIOLOGY of RELIGION
Sociology 3333; Section 001

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Objectives for the Guidelines:

This course is a sociological assessment of religion and its relation to and impact on other social institutions. This course considers religion's role in the socialization of persons and its role through out the life course of individuals. In turn, the impact of politics, economics, science, education, technology, and related forces on religion will be considered. Specific examples for the course will be drawn from the history of American society. Religious and religious-like movements, and their charismatic leaders, that have shocked and threatened established social values and norms will be studied. Charismatic leaders of religious and quasi-religious movements will be a focus of consideration as well. The institutionalization of once threatening movements and other new groups is considered as is the decline of established denominations.

Examination Requirements for the Course: There is One, Take-Home, Essay-style Mid-Term examination as well as a Take-Home Essay-style Final Examination. These questions will be distributed at least one week in advance of their due date.

Books for the Course:

Ronald L. Johnstone. 2007. "Religion in Sociology: A Sociology of Religion" 8th Edition.
Person Prentice Hall

John Corrigan and Winthrop S. Hudson. 2004. "Religion in America." 7th Edition.
Pearson Prentice Hall

Max Weber. 2008. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. Edited by
3rd Edition

Schedule of Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments, Take-Home Examination, and Religious Experience Report Due Dates:

Sociological Perspectives of the Religious Experience

August 20th: Johnstone, Chapters 1

Aug. 25th to 27th: The Sources of Religion

Johnstone, Chapters 2

September 1st and 3rd: Religion as a Group Phenomenon

Johnstone, Chapters 3

Sept. 8th and Sept. 10th: Modes of Religious Organization

Johnstone, Chapters 4

Sept. 15th and Sept. 17th: Becoming Religious

Johnstone, Chapter 5

Sept. 22 and Sept. 24th:

Sept. 29th and October 1st:

Oct. 6th and Oct. 8th:

Oct. 13th and Oct. 15th:

Oct. 14th Mid-Term Examination Grades Due

Oct. 20th and Oct. 22nd:

Oct. 22: Last Day to Drop Class with WP/WF

Oct. 27th and Oct. 29th:

November 3rd and Nov. 5th:

Nov. 10th and 12th:

Nov. 17th and Nov. 19th:

Nov. 24th.

Nov. 26th and 27th: Thanksgiving Day Holiday

December 1st and Dec. 3rd

December 8th and 9th: Reading Days

December 10th to Dec. 16th: Final Examination Period

December 23rd: Final Grades Due On Line at 10 am.

Corrigan and Hudson, Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4

February 13 and Feb. 15th Religion in the American Republic, 1789 to 1865

Corrigan and Hudson, Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8

February 20th and Feb. 22nd: Years of "Middle Passage", 1865 to 1918

Corrigan and Hudson, Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12

February 27th and March 1st: Religion in Modern America Since 1918

Corrigan and Hudson, Chapters 13, 14, and 15

MARCH 1st: MID-TERM EXAMS DUE in CLASS or in GR 3.822 by 2:15 PM

March 6th and March 8th : SPRING BREAK

March 13th to March 15th: Religious Experiences of Women, African Americans, and Hispanics

Johnstone, Chapters 11 and 12

Corrigan and Hudson, pages 294-312; 124; 216-220; 362-366;

Pages 25-34; 405-410

March 20th and March 22nd: What are New Religious Movements?

Johnstone, Chapter 4

Dawson, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, and 3

March 27th and 29th: Who Joins Cults and Why? Are Recruits "Brain Washed"?

Dawson, Chapters 4 and 5

April 3rd: Cults in Conflict with Society: Sexual Deviance and Violence

Dawson, Chapter 6 and 7

April 5th: What is the Significance of Cults?

Dawson, Chapter 8

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April 10th and 12th: Religion in the 21st Century

Johnstone, Chapter 15

Corrigan and Hudson, Chapter 16 and the Epilogue

April 17th and 19th: Religious Experience Reports Presentations In Class

April 24th: REPORTS DUE in GR 3.822 at 12 NOON

Students Religious Experience Reports Final, Written Versions of their Experiences of a Faith or Denomination's Worship Service Are Due in Dr. Armour's Office, GR 3.822, at 12 NOON.

April 26th: FINAL EXAMS DUE at 12 NOON in GR 3.822

ADDENDA