

## Course Syllabus

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Course Information

SOC 3333 Religion in Society

Section 001

Spring 2013

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### Professor Contact Information

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**PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.**

Office: GR 2.532

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. and by appointment

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### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

No pre-requisites or co-requisites.

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### Course Description

This course examines timely topics in religion in the United States using sociology and sociological research to interpret and explain general trends and patterns surrounding the topics. This semester we will examine the prevailing religious views of Protestants and members of other religions and how these influence their attitudes toward and participation in government, the economy, education/science, morality, and other public institutions and areas of public life. We also will examine the role immigrants' religious organizations play in their assimilation into U.S. society and its public institutions (the economy, governance, education, and others). Here the focus will be placed on Muslim immigrants and Muslim Americans.

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### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objectives are to gain a sociological understanding of how the religions help shape the views, attitudes, and behaviors of Americans and immigrants, and how these influence their participation in the various social institutions and in society.

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### Required Textbooks and Other Readings

Two texts are required: 1) *America's Four Gods: What We Say about God – ? And What That Says about Us*, by Paul Froese and Christopher Bader (Oxford University Press, 2010), and 2) *Religion and the New Immigrants: Continuities and Adaptations in Immigrant Congregations*, edited by Helen Rose Ebaugh and Janet Saltzman Chafetz (AltaMira Press, 2000). Both are

available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Readings on electronic reserve through McDermott Library will supplement these texts. Students will do further reading in scholarly sources as part of a literature review assignment.

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## **Assignments and Academic Calendar**

Students will write two take-home exams, one at mid-term and the other at the end of the course. Both will be in short-answer/essay format. Exam questions will be handed out one week before the exams are due.

Students also will write three 2½-page literature reviews of scholarly sources on a topic related to religion and U.S. society students will choose. Students will choose topics that both interest them and have significance for U.S. society.

Instructions for all course assignments will be available on eLearning. The instructor will go over all instructions in class.

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January 14

### **Orientation to the Course**

January 16 and 23

**Note: No Class January 21<sup>st</sup> Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

### **American Religious Views and Their Influence on Participation in U.S. Social Institutions**

Read: *America's Four Gods*:  
Introduction: "Why God?" and  
Chapter 1 "America's Four Gods"

**Note:** On **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** Ms. Susie Kutchi with McDermott Library will give a demonstration of searches in the library's electronic databases for sources to review for the literature review assignment.

January 28 and 30

### **Four Views of God**

Read: *America's Four Gods*:  
Chapter 2 "God, Self, and Society"

**Topic for literature reviews due January 28<sup>th</sup>**

February 4 and 6

### **Public Morality**

Read: *America's Four Gods:*  
Chapter 3 "God and Morals"

February 11 and 13

**Education/Science**

Read: *America's Four Gods:*  
Chapter 4 "God and Science"

February 18 and 20

**The Economy**

Read: *America's Four Gods:*  
Chapter 5 "God and Mammon"

**First Literature Review due February 20<sup>th</sup>**

February 25 and 27

**Good and Evil**

Read: *America's Four Gods:*  
Chapter 6 "God and Evil"

**Mid-Term Exam Questions handed out February 27<sup>th</sup>**

March 4 and 6

**Present and Future Views of God**

Read: *America's Four Gods:*  
Chapter 7 "God – Present and Future"

**Mid-Term Exam due March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Note: No Class March 11 and 13 Spring Break**

March 18 and 20

**Newest Immigrants and the Changing U.S. Demographic and Religious Landscape**

Read: *Religion and the New Immigrants:*  
Chapter 3 "Environmental Impacts: Opportunities and Constraints"

March 25 and 27

**Newest Immigrants and the Changing U.S. Demographic and Religious Landscape  
continued**

Read: *Religion and the New Immigrants*:  
Chapter 4 “Structural Adaptations to the Immigrant Context”

April 1 and 3

### **Immigrant Congregations as Agents of Assimilation**

Read: *Religion and the New Immigrants*:  
Chapter 5 “Providing for the Needy: Social Services and Immigrant  
Adaptation”

**Second Literature Review due April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

April 8 and 10

### **The Second Generation**

Read: *Religion and the New Immigrants*:  
Chapter 8 “Passing it On: The Second Generation”

April 15 and 17

**Note: April 15<sup>th</sup> Guest Speakers** UTD Baha’i Club

**Note: April 17<sup>th</sup> The Future of Immigrant Religion**

Read: *Religion and the New Immigrants*:  
Chapter 9 “Is the Past Prologue to the Future?”

April 22 and 24

### **Muslim Americans and Immigrants**

Read: Electronic Reserve: *Religion and Immigration*:  
Chapter 9 “Islam in America: The Mosaic”

**Note: April 24<sup>th</sup> Guest Speakers** UTD Intercultural Women’s Association

**Third Literature Review due April 24<sup>th</sup>**

April 29 and May 1

### **Muslim Americans and Immigrants continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve: *Religion and Immigration*:  
Chapter 10 “Constructing the American Muslim Community”

**Final Exam Questions handed out May 1<sup>st</sup>**

May TBA

### **Final Exam due**

**Note: Students will turn in their exams in the instructor's office (GR 2.532) at 2:30 p.m. during the scheduled final exam period.**

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### **Grading Policy**

The percentage distribution (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

65%: the two exams combined  
25%: the three literature reviews combined  
10%: attendance

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100  
A = 94-96  
A- = 90-93  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 84-86  
B- = 80-83  
C+ = 77-79  
C = 74-76  
C- = 70-73  
D+ = 67-69  
D = 64-66  
D- = 60-63  
F = 59 and below

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### **Course and Instructor Policies**

**Attendance is required. Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss more than two classes will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide documentation.**

The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.

**Students must submit hard copies of all assignments on the due dates.** Electronic submissions will not be accepted, unless the student is absent from class and has a legitimate reason for being absent. Late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor.

This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness, since students work hard to submit work on time.

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## **University Policies**

**To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.**

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

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