

## *Course Syllabus*

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**Course Information****SOC 4388 Religions in Global Societies****Section 001****Fall 2016**

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**Professor Contact Information****Bobby C. Alexander, Ph.D.****Office Phone: 972-883-6898****E-mail: [bcalex@utdallas.edu](mailto:bcalex@utdallas.edu)****PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead  
of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.****Office: GR 2.532****Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-2:15 p.m., and by appointment  
if these times do not fit your schedule**

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**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**None

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**Course Description**

This course examines how religions in global societies, in which social and cultural pluralism are prominent in social institutions, reflect and help shape globalization processes of interconnectivity, multiculturalism, and assimilation and integration of new social groups (immigrants and others) that are related to the economy (workforce), government (law/legislation), education, and healthcare.

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

The course objective is to gain a sociological understanding of how adherents of world religions in global societies interact with processes of globalization related to the economy (transnational migration, settlement, labor, and consumption encouraged by networks of religious organizations), politics (both democratization and political/armed conflict), and other areas, such as communication (through technology, including the Internet and transportation, shared across global religious communities) and social and cultural change (demographic, cultural, and that related to religious diversity and religious pluralism).

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**Required Textbooks and Other Readings**

Course readings include *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*, by Peggy Levitt (New Press, 2007), which is available at the UTD

Bookstore and Off Campus Books, and other readings placed on Electronic Reserve in the UTD McDermott Library. The password for E-Reserve is **global**. Students will select further readings from scholarly sources for course assignments.

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### **Assignments and Academic Calendar**

- **Exams.** Students will write two 4-to-5-page take-home exams, one a Mid-Term Exam and the other a Final Exam. The first exam will cover the first half of the course and the second the second half. Both exams will be short answer and essay. Exam questions will be handed out one week before the exams are due.
- **Written Reports.** Students also will write two 1½-page reports on a single topic related to religions in global societies incorporating a review of scholarly literature on the topic. Students will submit a proposed topic to the Instructor for approval.
- **Class Exercises.** Students will participate in Class Exercises, which will be written and turned in for a grade. Students must be present to receive credit for Class Exercises, with the exception of students who absence is excused. See policy on excused absences below.
- **Class Presentations.** Students will make two brief Class Presentations based on their Written Reports.

The Instructor will provide and go over all instructions. All instructions will be posted on eLearning.

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August 23

### **Orientation to the Course**

August 25

### **Globalization Defined**

Read: Electronic Reserve: DeTemple, "Home is My Area Code: Thinking About, Teaching, and Learning Globalization in Introductory World Religions Classes," *Teaching Theology and Religion*, 2012

### **Class Exercise #1**

August 30

### **Globalization Defined continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve: Osterhammel and Petersson, "Globalization: Circumnavigating A Term," from *Globalization: A Short History*, Princeton University Press, 2005

### **Class Exercise #2**

September 1

**Globalization Defined continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve: Osterhammel and Petersson, "Globalization: Circumnavigating A Term," from *Globalization: A Short History*, Princeton University Press, 2005 (continued), and Esposito, Fasching, and Lewis, "Introduction: World Religions in Historical Perspective" from *Religion and Globalization*, Oxford University Press, 2007

**Proposed Topic for Written Reports due September 1<sup>st</sup>**

September 6

**Globalization Defined continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve: Esposito, Fasching, and Lewis, "Introduction: World Religions in Historical Perspective" from *Religion and Globalization*, Oxford University Press, 2007 (continued)

**Class Exercise #3**

September 8 and 13

**Considering Religions in Global Societies**

Read: Electronic Reserve: Richter, Rapple, Modschiedler, and Peterson from *Understanding Religion in a Global Society*, Wadsworth, 2004, and Remey, "Critiquing Border: Teaching About Religions in Postcolonial World," *Teaching Theology and Religion*, 2006

**Class Exercise #4**

September 15 and 20

**Religions, Globalization, and Politics**

Read: Electronic Reserve: Thomas, "A Globalized God: Religion's Growing Influence in International Politics," *Foreign Affairs*, 2010, and

**Class Exercise #5**

**First Written Report due September 20<sup>th</sup>**

September 22 and 27

**Religions, Globalization, and Politics**

Read: Electronic Reserve: Ben-Nun Bloom, Arikan, and Sommer, "Globalization, Threat and

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Religious Freedom,” *Political Studies*, 2014, and  
Blair and Bardsley, “Faith and Globalization,” *Liberal Education*, 2013

### **Class Exercise #6**

September 29 and October 4

Read: Electronic Reserve: Garcia-Ruiz and Michel, “Neopentecostalism in Latin America: Contribution to a Political Anthropology of Globalisation,” UNESCO, 2011

### **Mid-Term Exam handed out September 29<sup>th</sup>**

October 6 and 11

### **Class Presentations**

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

October 13 and 18

### **Class Presentations**

October 20 and 25

### **Immigrant Religions in Global Societies**

Read: Levitt, Prologue and  
Chapter 1 “Redefining the Boundaries of Belonging” from *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing Religious Landscape*

### **Class Exercise #7**

October 27 and November 1

### **Immigrant Religions in Global Societies continued**

Read: Levitt, Chapter 2 “Transnational Ties” and  
Chapter 3 “Between the Nation, the World, and God” from *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing Religious Landscape*

November 3 and 8

### **Immigrant Religions in Global Societies continued**

Read: Levitt, Chapter 4 “Values and Practices: ‘You Do Your Best and You Leave the Rest’” and Chapter 5 “A New Religious Architecture” from *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing Religious Landscape*

### **Class Exercise #8**

**Second Written Report due November 8<sup>th</sup>**

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November 10 and 15

**Immigrant Religions in Global Societies continued**

Read: Levitt, Chapter 6: “Getting to the Other Side of the Rainbow with Faith as the Car” and  
Conclusion: “Tolerance in the Face of Terrorism” from *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing Religious Landscape*

**Class Exercise #9**

November 17

**Class Presentations**

**November 22 and 24: No Class: Fall Break and Thanksgiving Holiday**

November 29 and December 1

**Class Presentations**

December 6

**Class Exercise #10**

**Final Exam handed out December 6<sup>th</sup>**

December 13

**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.**

**Grading Policy**

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

- 40%: the two Exams combined
- 20%: the two Written Reports combined
- 15%: Class Exercises combined
- 15%: Two Class Presentations combined
- 10%: Attendance and Class Participation

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; no documentation is required if students miss only 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 has a legitimate reason for being absent from class to turn in assignments. Late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor, with the exception of emergencies. This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness among students who submit their work on time.

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### **University Policies**

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

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

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