

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: SO 4231 RELIGION AND SOCIETY

(Updated Spring 2022)

**UK LEVEL:6
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS:3/0/3****PREREQUISITES:**

SO 1000 Introduction to Sociology OR
SO 1001 Sociology of Modern Life
and one additional course in sociology

**CATALOG
DESCRIPTION:**

Religion as a social phenomenon in individual and collective terms: group cohesion, institutional structures and organizational parameters, religious conflict, social inequality. Its impact on public discourse and the lives of individuals. Social change, religious adaptation in (late) modernity and the impact of globalization. Sociological theories from the classics to contemporary thinkers.

RATIONALE:

Due to its diachronically universal presence and its impact as a collective phenomenon, religion has been one of the most important topics of sociological inquiry from the classics to contemporary thinkers. Through theoretical and empirical studies, the course focuses on religion's role as a social institution, its diversity as a system of beliefs, its significance as the sacred foundation of social order, its power for individual behaviour. Being intellectually interwoven with the ideational corpus of sociological discourse, its study is pedagogically indispensable for sociology majors. At the same time, religion continues to be relevant to critical issues (politics, the economy, culture, communications) confronting today's globalized world. Thus, the course is expected to attract students from other academic disciplines.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of taking this course, student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate solid knowledge of major theoretical approaches and studies in the sociology of religion.
2. Interpret religious behaviour as an individual and collective phenomenon and evaluate the cultural significance of religion and its social/political implications.
3. Demonstrate understanding of and critically evaluate the importance of contemporary debates relating to the impact of secularization and globalization
4. Develop the capacity of reflective analysis of religious phenomena and present them in an articulate piece of empirical study.

**METHOD OFTEACHING AND
LEARNING:**

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures and class discussions on theories or recent sociological studies on religion (relevant course material is assigned by the tutor).
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues pertinent to the course material and seek guidance on their research paper.

	<p>➤ Use of a blackboard site, where the instructor posts lecture ppts, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.</p>						
<p>ASSESSMENT:</p>	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 306 1409 480"> <tr> <td data-bbox="667 306 1230 411">First Assessment: Take-home midterm exam (critical responses based on assigned readings)</td> <td data-bbox="1230 306 1409 411">40</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="667 411 1230 480">Final Assessment: Research Paper (4,000 words +/-10%)</td> <td data-bbox="1230 411 1409 480">60</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 552 1409 657"> <tr> <td data-bbox="667 552 1230 657">Class Exercises and research project -related assignments</td> <td data-bbox="1230 552 1409 657">0</td> </tr> </table> <p>The first assessment (take- home exam) tests Learning Outcomes 1,2,3</p> <p>The final assessment (research project) tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 4, and writing skills</p> <p><i>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</i></p>	First Assessment: Take-home midterm exam (critical responses based on assigned readings)	40	Final Assessment: Research Paper (4,000 words +/-10%)	60	Class Exercises and research project -related assignments	0
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Final Assessment: Research Paper (4,000 words +/-10%)	60						
Class Exercises and research project -related assignments	0						
<p>INDICATIVE READING:</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Roberts, K. A. & Yamane, D. 2021) <i>Religion in Sociological Perspective</i>, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (7th or latest edition)</p> <p>Indicative Reading List <i>(Additional book chapters /journal articles will be assigned by The lecturer in order to complement the textbook)</i></p> <p>Aldridge, A. (2007) <i>Religion in the Contemporary World: A Sociological Introduction</i>, Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>Bell, C. (2009) <i>Ritual: Perspectives and Dimensions</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Bruce, S. (1999) <i>Religion in the Modern World: From Cathedrals to Cults</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Christiano, K. J. Swatos, W.H. & Kivisto, P. eds (2016) <i>Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments</i> (3rd ed.), Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.</p> <p>Clarke, P. B. ed. (2009) <i>The Oxford Handbook on Sociology of Religion</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Day, A. (2020) <i>Sociology of Religion</i>, London: Routledge.</p> <p>Davie, G. (2013) <i>The Sociology of Religion</i>, London: Sage.</p> <p>Dillon, M. ed. (2003) <i>Handbook of the Sociology of Religion</i>, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.</p>						

Durkheim, E. (1995) *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, Free Press

Flanagan, K. & Jupp, P. eds (2007) *A Sociology of Spirituality*, London: Routledge.

Furseth, I and Repstad (2021) *Modern Sociologists on Society and Religion*, London: Routledge ISBN 9781032020006

Hamilton, B. M. (2001) *The Sociology of Religion: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives, 2nd ed.*. London, Routledge

Kurtz, L. (2015) *Gods in the Global Village: The World's Religion in Sociological Perspective*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Lukes, S. (1972) *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work*, New York: Harper & Row.

Marx, K. (1964) "Theses on Feuerbach" in Marx, K & Engels, F. *On Religion*, N.Y: Schoken Books.

Monahan, S. Mirola, W. A. and Emerson, M. O eds. (2016) *Sociology of Religion: A Reader (2nd ed.)*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Mirola, W.A, Emerson, M.O. & Monahan, S. C. (2018) *Sociology of Religion: A Reader (3rd ed.)*, NY: Routledge.

Morrison, K. (2007) *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formations of Modern Social Thought*, London: Sage.

Nisbet, R. (1966) *The Sociological Tradition*, NY: Basic Books. (Ch. 6 The Sacred)

Pals, D. L. (1996) *Seven Theories of Religion*, Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press- Ch.4 "Religion as Alienation"

Singleton, A. (2014) *Religion, Culture and Society: A Global Approach*, Los Angeles: Sage.

Tucker (2002) *Classical Sociological Theory: A Contemporary Approach*, Oxford: Blackwell

Turner, B. ed. (2016) *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*, Wiley-Blackwell

Weber, M. (2003) *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Dover Publications.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Ammerman, N. T. (2007) *Everyday Religion: Observing Modern Religious Lives*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Beckford, J. and Richardson, J. T. (2003) *Challenging Religion*, London Routledge.

Beckford, J. (2003) *Social Theory and Religion*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bender, C. Cadge, W. Levitt, P. & Smilde, D. eds (2012) *Religion on the Edge: De-centering and Re-centering the Sociology of Religion*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Berger, P. (1967/2011) *Sacred Canopy: Elements of Sociological Theory of Religion*, Open Road

Bruce, S. (2000) *Fundamentalism*, Cambridge: Blackwell.

Bruce, S. (2002) *God is Dead: Secularization in the West*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Beyer, P. (1997) *Religion and Globalization*, London: Sage.

Emerson M. O. Mirola, W.A. and. Monahan, S.A. (2010) *Religion Matters: What Sociology Teaches Us About Religion in Our World*, Prentice Hall.

Fenn, R. K. ed. (2003) *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology of Religion*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Lofland, J. and Skonovd, N. (1983) *Of Gods and Men: New Religious Movements in the West*, Mercer University Press

Foley, M. W. & Hoge, D. R. (2007) *Religion and the New Immigrants: How Faith Communities Form Our Newest Citizens*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kivisto, P. (2014) *Religion and Immigration: Migrant Faiths in North America and Western Europe*, Cambridge: Polity.

Levitt, P. (2007) *God Needs no Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*, NY: The New Press.

Lofland, J. and Skonovd, N. (1983) *Of Gods and Men: New Religious Movements in the West*, Mercer University Press.

Robbins, T. (1988) *Cults, Converts and Charisma*, London: Sage.

Ruthven, M. (2007) *Fundamentalism: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wilson, B. and Cresswell, J. eds (1999) *New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response*, London: Routledge.

Swatos, W. H. and Kaelber, L. (2005) *The Protestant Ethic Turns 100: Essays on the Centenary of the Weber Thesis*, Boulder: Paradigm

	Publishers.
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: Ppts and specific videos/ reports posted on BB each time</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: Videos, interviews, newspaper articles, reports posted on BB each time</p>
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Verbal skills using academic / professional English.
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Word, ppt
WWW RESOURCES:	<p>Max Plank Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ https://www.mmg.mpg.de/85288/about-the-institute ✓ https://www.mmg.mpg.de/projects-rdd <p>Pew Research Center https://www.pewforum.org/</p> <p>ARDA: The Association of Religion Data Achieves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ https://www.thearda.com/ ✓ https://thearda.com/MaWizard/Concepts/MW_44.asp ✓ Religion Dictionary <p>Useful specialized journals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology of Religion https://academic.oup.com/soarel/issue • Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion • Social Compass • Journal of the American Academy of Religion • Journal of Religion and Society (electronic journal) • The Journal of Religion • Fieldwork in Religion • International Journal for the Study of New Religions
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Why study Religion (sociologically)?</i> 2. <i>Religion in (Late) Modernity: The Global Religious Landscape</i> 3. <i>Defining Religion: What Do We Mean by the Term Religion?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Substantive, functional, symbolic definitions o Conceptual problems: invisible religion; lived Religion; spiritual but not religious 4. <i>Religion, Social Stability, and Social Conflict</i> 5. <i>The Historical Development of Sociology of Religion: From the Classics to the Secularization Thesis advocates and beyond; future prospects</i> 6. <i>The Cultural Construction of Religion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Social Construction of Reality and the role of religion o Religion as a Cultural System 7. <i>The Social Importance of Rituals</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Religious and secular rituals in a post-traditional world

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The case of Civil Religion <p><i>8. Organizing Religion: Church, Denominations, Sects, "Cults"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Formation, maintenance, types of religious organizations New Religious Movements. o The routinization of charisma, the dilemmas of institutionalization; contemporary developments) <p><i>9. Religion in the Lives of Individuals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Socialization and Commitment; the case of religious "nones"; conversion, switching and apostasy <p><i>10. Religion and Globalization</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The globalization of religion and the impact of globalization on religion o Transnational religious connections; glocalization of Religions o Religion in global affairs