

Spring 2014 Syllabus SOCY 4121-001

Sociology of Religion

Class Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:15 Hellems 141

Liane Pedersen-Gallegos, Ph.D., Instructor

Office Hours (in Ketchum 8D): Tuesdays 10:00 - Noon and by appointment.

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Course Description & Outcomes

This course examines complex interactions between religious and other social structures, such as the economy, government, and the family, and how globalization is affecting religious traditions across the globe. Includes discussion of how various religions are used or misused to justify terrorism and other acts of violence. Prereqs., SOCY 1001, and SOCY 3001 or 3011. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: ideals and values. Prerequisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Sociology (SOCY) majors only.

Students will learn about the social forms and functions of religious organizations, including the social dynamics that enliven, challenge, and shape participation in religious social activities. The successful student will come to understand normative religious actions in a sociological context and learn to recognize social factors and dynamics in religious institutions and actions.

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Describe and discuss specific sociological theories of religion
- Apply sociological theory to analyses of contemporary controversial issues such as globalized religion and religiously-inspired terrorism.

Required Texts

Roberts, Keith A. and Yamane, David, *Religion in Sociological Perspective* 5th Edition, Pine Forge Press, Los Angeles, 2012. 978-1-4129-8298-6 (*This is the main textbook for the course.*)

Prothero, Stephen, *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't*, Harper Collins, San Francisco, 2007. 978-0-06-084670-1. (*About half of this book will be assigned reading.*)

Juergensmeyer, Mark, *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2003. 0-520-24011-1 (*Selected chapters from this book will be assigned.*)

Term Paper

Each student is assigned one term paper for the course. Topics for the paper need to be approved by the instructor by the week of the midterm exam. Term paper requirements:

- Topics/thesis statements are to be approved by the instructor by the time of the midterm exam. An original sociological analysis of any topic relating to religion will be considered. An analysis of the field trip (see syllabus for more information) is one potential topic. The intention of the assignment is to provide students with a forum in which to demonstrate mastery of sociological concepts and theories addressed in the class.
- Length of papers is expected to range from 5 to 7 pages, including a bibliography. Word count is a better guide for paper length: between 2,000 and 3,500 words can be used as a guide. Papers are not graded according to length—grading is determined by content, as described below.
- Grading: 70% of the paper grade is based on depth of critical thinking evidenced; 10% is based on sociological focus of the analysis; 10% on the research/bibliography requirements; and 10% is based on writing mechanics.
- Research requirements: A minimum of three citations from assigned sources is required and a minimum of three scholarly citations in addition to the assigned readings is required.
 - A scholarly source is one found in an academic publication such as a professional peer-reviewed journal (for example, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*), books published by a university press or textbook publisher such as those used by your text book authors, or a religious text such as the Christian Bible or the Muslim Qur'an.
 - Original student-conducted interview data are not accepted, as this requires approval from the Institutional Review Board of the university and time is not available for this process.
 - Any currently recognized citation format is acceptable so long as the references include author, title, publication source in the case of a book, volume and edition information in the case of a journal, and page numbers. The format used in any of your assigned textbooks is acceptable. All references used must be cited, even if they do not qualify as “scholarly sources,” in keeping with anti-plagiarism law and school policy. D2L drop box software routinely submits assignments to anti-plagiarism screening.

Note that papers written for this class may be eligible for entry in annual paper award competitions. Please consult with the instructor if interested in such competitions.

Presentation

Students will attend a religious service of their choice (must be approved by instructor) in small groups of 3 – 5 students. (To be discussed in more detail in class.) These groups will make a presentation to the class, describing their field trips and relating it to concepts learned in the class. Individual students will each have ~5 minutes for their portion of the presentation and receive individual grades. Presentation grades will be based on the following:

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| • Analysis of experience, relating it to concepts learned in the class | 20 points |
| • Clarity, organization of presentation | 20 points |
| • Cohesion of presentation with other presenters | 5 points |
| ○ Includes equitable sharing of time as well as contextual fit | |
| | 45 points total |

Exams

There will be two exams over the course of the semester: a midterm and a final exam. See the calendar below for these dates. If you have a conflict with an exam date, you are expected to speak with the instructor within the first six weeks of class. Make-up exams are only available by pre-approval.

Student Engagement in the Class

The “student engagement grade” is based on more than speaking in class. This grade will reflect the attention paid to lecture and class discussion. Surfing the web, checking email, texting, conversing with classmates other than in-class discussion, etc. are considered incompatible with engagement in class (as well as rude behavior), and will effect this grade. Because it is necessary to be present in order to be engaged in the class, attendance will be taken and considered in the “student engagement” grade. Attendance will be documented by “one minute papers” students are to submit at the end of each class. These are to be about a paragraph in length and will be based on a specific question asked at the end of the class each day. As a courtesy, please let the instructor know ahead of time if it is necessary to leave class early. Leaving class early constitutes an absence for the day.

Communication with the Instructor

Students are expected to check both their individual CU email and the Desire2Learn course site a minimum of every two days, Monday through Friday.

You may contact Dr. Li via email at: liane.gallegos@colorado.edu or by phone at: (303) 818 4839 (phone Dr. Li in case of emergency only please). Her preferred method of contact is meeting during office hours or by email. No text messages please. The best time to reach her is during office hours (Tuesdays 10:00 - noon). She will make every attempt to respond to questions/messages within 48 hours Monday through Thursdays. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and after 9 PM all other days are “off-line” times for Dr. Li when she will not be available.

Grading Criteria

Letter grades are assigned only at the end of the semester as final grades for the course. Individual assignments and exams will receive points, as outlined below. Final grades will be determined by a curve (individual assignments will not be curved—only the final, letter grade will be curved.)

Term Paper	100 points	40 %	Top 10% of grades =	A
Presentation	45 points	18 %	Next 20% of grades =	B
Midterm	40 points	16 %	Next 30% of grades =	C
Final Exam	40 points	16 %	Grades below 60% of class, but passing =	D
Engagement in the Class	25 points	10 %		
<i>Total</i>	<i>250 points</i>	<i>100%</i>		

Course Calendar

Dr. Li reserves the right to adjust the course calendar and will alert students if any changes are made. Reading assignments are due on the first day of the class each week.

1 Week of January 12 Reading Assignment:	Introduction Roberts & Yamane Chapter 1
2 Week of January 19 Reading Assignment:	Macro Perspectives of Religion Roberts & Yamane Chapter 2
3 Week of January 26 Reading Assignment:	Macro Perspectives of Religion Roberts & Yamane Chapter 3
4 Week of February 2 Reading Assignment:	Religious Experience and Ritual Roberts & Yamane Chapter 4
5 Week of February 9 Reading Assignment:	Becoming and Being Religious; Socialization, Conversion, and Switching Roberts & Yamane Chapter 5 and 6
6 Week of February 16 Reading Assignment	Forms of Religion: Cult, Sect, Denomination, Ecclesia Roberts & Yamane Chapter 7
7 Week of February 23 Reading Assignment	The Protestant Reformation; The Protestant Work Ethic Roberts & Yamane Chapter 9
8 Week of March 2 No new reading assignment this week	Midterm Week
Midterm Thursday, March 6 on material covered through Week 7	
9 Week of March 9 Reading Assignment	Religion and Race; Religion and Sex/Gender Roberts & Yamane Chapters 10 and 11
10 Week of March 16 Reading Assignment	Religion, Inequality, and Social Action Roberts & Yamane Chapter 12

Spring Break Week of March 23 No Assignments

11 Week of March 30
Reading Assignment

The Social Costs of Religious Illiteracy
Prothero Parts 1 and 2 (Chapters 1 through 4)

12 Week of April 6
Reading Assignment

Secularization and Globalization
Roberts & Yamane Chapters 13 and 15

13 Week of April 13
Reading Assignment

Religion and Terrorism
Reading Assignment: Juergensmeyer Chapters 1, 7 and one TBA

14 Week of April 20
Reading Assignment

Religion and Terrorism
Reading Assignment: Juergensmeyer Chapters 8, 9, and 10

Papers Due Thursday, April 24 Midnight via D2L Drop-Box (no paper copies please)

15 Week of April 27

Synthesis

No New Reading Assigned

Final Exam Saturday, May 3 1:30 – 4:00 PM

University Policies

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices.

Honor Code: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. I will report all incidents of academic misconduct to the Honor Code Council. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Honor code:

On my honor, as a University of Colorado at Boulder student,
I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.

See www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

Discrimination and sexual harassment: The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information and campus resources see www.colorado.edu/odh.