TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

Proposed Topics SOCI 4390
Course: Sociology of Religion (SOCI 4390) Semester: Summer, 2012
Time: 6-9:45 p.m. Phone: 825-5980
Classroom: BH 234 Office: BH 346
Instructor: Bilaye R. Benibo, Ph.D. Office Hours: 5-6 p.m.

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REQUIRED TEXT


RECOMMENDED TEXTS


COURSE OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this course is to systematically and critically assess the role of religion in society. Using the theoretical contributions of classical sociological theorists such as Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx and Max Weber as searchlights, the course will explore, examine and attempt to explain the evolving relationships between the religious institution and other major social institutions such as the economic, political, and educational and family institutions. A secondary objective is to expose the student to how sociologists undertake empirical research in this subject area.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are expected at the end of this course to:

➢ **Distinguish** between Religion and Spirituality,
➢ **Explain** major theoretical perspectives in the Sociology of Religion,
➢ **Understand** research Method, including their strengths and limitations in Sociology of Religion,
➢ **Recognize** the reciprocal effects between Religion and other key social institutions such as economy, polity, family and education,
➢ **Appreciate** the role of religion in social order and social change.
**COURSE FORMAT**

This course will involve a weekly meeting between the instructor and students. The first half of each meeting period will be a lecture on the general area of the scheduled subject matter (e.g. Functionalist theories of religion). During the second half, the students will present and discuss his/her type-written reactions to specific reading assignments. A copy of the students’ reaction papers must be given to the instructor at the beginning of each meeting period.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is very important, and early departures from class without an advance notice to the instructor are strongly discouraged. Regardless of the reason(s) for missing a class, it is the student’s responsibility to find out and obtain relevant lecture notes on materials covered during his/her absence. Students are therefore advised to network with one or more other classmates from whom they can obtain class notes.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION**

This course requires, first and foremost, critical thinking. Therefore, assigned readings are to be studied carefully and thoughtfully. The student’s final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- First Exam -------- 25%
- Second Exam ------- 25%
- Final Exam ------- 30%
- Reaction Papers ----20%
- **Total--------------100%**

All exams require thoughtful analytical and comprehensive answers to essay questions. Study questions will be given to students one week before each exam. These questions should be viewed as study guides only, as actual exams may combine, split or even rephrase questions from this guides. Exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place, unless when validly supported medical and/or family emergencies make it impossible to do so. Lastly every exam is to be taken in a **Blue (Examination) book.**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**June 05-07**

   
   b. Thinking Critically about Religion.
   
   (Reading 1; RY Chap. 1)

02. Theoretical Perspectives in the Sociology of Religion:
a. Emile Durkheim – Structural Functionalism
b. Karl Marx – Social Conflict

(Reading 2)

03. Research in the Sociology of Religion:
   a. Methods
   b. Problems
   c. Remedies
   RY (chap. 2)

June 12 FIRST EXAMINATION
June 12-21
04. Religion and the economy (Reading 3)

05. Religion and politics MME(Chaps. 35&36)

06. Religion and Education (Reading 4)

07. Religion and the Media RY (Chap. 14)

June 25 SECOND EXAMINATION
June 25-July 05
08. Religion and Social Class RY(Chap9)

09. Religion and Race/Ethnicity RY(Chap. 10)

11. Religion and Sex/Gender RY (Chap. 11)

12. Religion and Globalization RY(Chap 15)

13. Religion and Deviance MME(Chaps. 39&40)

13. Religion and Social Change RY (Chap. 12)

15. July 06 FINAL EXAMINATION

Students with Disabilities
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, at 825-5816 for further instruction and/or guidance.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an
Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Additionally, students are encouraged to speak to the instructor before dropping the class.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he/she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2 Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeals Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty**

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, handing in another’s work as your own, using unauthorized notes in an exam, copying another’s answers for an exam, turning in the same papers for two different classes, purchasing or otherwise obtaining papers written by another and turning that work in as your own. It is expected that ideas and information used in your work, which are not part of your personal experience will, be appropriately referenced. Please check with the professor if you are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism because ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

**This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate the student’s and/or instructional needs.**