

SOC. C112 (RELIGST. C182): SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Spring, 2008

Days/Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1-2 p.m.

Location: 3 Leconte

Instructor: Paula Nesbitt, Visiting Associate Professor

Office hours: Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Wednesdays, 2:15-3:00 p.m, 462 Barrows, and by appointment.

E-office hours: bSpace chat room, Mondays, 9:30-10:00 p.m.

Phone: 652-0888 (h); or 642-4766 (Sociology Dept., leave message)

E-mail: pnesbitt@berkeley.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary events locally and globally point to the continuing importance of religion as a variable in our collective social life. Religious perspectives and practices have often subtly, if not overtly, affected the norms, values, assumptions, and conflicts involving our social, economic, and political institutions, even where secular protections are in place. This course will explore differing theoretical understandings of the ways that religion generates both social cohesion and conflict. Emphasizing contemporary contexts and issues, the course will analyze different worldview frameworks; religion's relationship to culture, ethnicity, identity; and quests for meaning-making. Attention will be given to religion as a social force in both maintaining and challenging race, gender, and class inequalities. Religious movements, conflicts, the use of violence, and challenges of living in pluralistic societies will be studied within the context of broad globalization processes.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide different theoretical foundations for understanding religion in contemporary social life, its cultures, and institutions.
- To identify common themes across religious traditions, and to gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of political situations that have both religious and secular dimensions, as a means to thinking analytically and strategically about potential solutions and their outcomes.
- To gain broader insight into different understandings of religion, of those who practice religion, and how religious motivations and justifications affect our social world.

REQUIRED READINGS

Four books have been ordered for purchase. They are available at the Cal Student Store, and elsewhere:

- Dillon, Michele, ed. *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. Third Edition. University of California Press, 2003.
- Leonard, Karen I. et al., eds. *Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Life in America*. Lanham, MD: AltaMira, 2006.

A reader with the required readings not available online can be purchased at Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft.

All readings are on 2-hour reserve in Moffitt Library. Journal articles also can be accessed online through a campus gateway, or through a link on the course on bSpace site.

EVALUATION

Students have the option of writing two shorter papers (Track A) or doing a semester-long research project (Tracks B and C). These Tracks will be explained further in class.

Track A: Paper 1, 4-5 pp.,	due Friday, February 22	20%
Track B & C: Proposal and preliminary literature review, 3-4 pp.,	due Friday, February 22	10%
Midterm exam	Friday, March 7	25%
Track A: Paper 2, 8 pp.	due Friday, May 2	30%
Track B & C: Term project, 10 pp.	due Friday, May 2	40%
Take-home final exam	due 3:30 p.m., Friday, May 16	25%

- Assignments are due at class-time on the scheduled date. Final exam is to be turned into the Sociology Department office no later than 3:30 p.m., May 16.
- Assignments turned in after the deadline will receive a penalty of one grade fraction (e.g. B > B-) for each class session late. The take-home final exam, if turned in late, may result in a course grade not being turned in by the end of the semester. Late penalties also will apply.
- If you have an emergency, exceptions can be negotiated with the instructor prior to the deadline. There is no guarantee that an extension or make-up exam will be available.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE**Week 1 From the wide angle: A sociological view of religion**

Wednesday, January 18: Introduction and overview of the course

Friday, January 20: Religion as a variable in contemporary social life...or is it?

Read:

- Beyer, Peter, "Social Forms of Religion and Religions in Contemporary Global Society," pp. 45-60, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Davie, Grace. "The Evolution of the Sociology of Religion", pp. 61-66, in *Handbook...*, Dillon, ed.
- Zinnbauer, Brian J. et al. "Religion and Spirituality: Unfuzzifying the Fuzzy," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 36,4 (December 1997):549-551, 561-564. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8294%28199712%2936%3A4%3C549%3ARASUTF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F>

Recommended, but not required:

- Wuthnow, Robert, "Studying Religion, Making it Sociological," pp. 16-30, in *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, Michele Dillon ed. *Note: This is a good overview of what is a sociological approach to religion—especially recommended for students enrolled in ReligSt C182.*
- Davie, Grace. "The Evolution of the Sociology of Religion", pp. 66-75, in *Handbook...*, Dillon, ed. *Note: This is a good article for students with some social theory background and who want a more theoretical overview of the field.*
- Zinnbauer, Brian J. et al. "Religion and Spirituality: Unfuzzifying the Fuzzy." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 36,4 (December 1997):552-560. *Note: The full study will be especially interesting to students with a background in quantitative methods.*

Week 2 Perspectives on the sacred

Monday, January 23: The sacred as social cohesion

Read:

- Durkheim, Emile, "Definition of Religious Phenomena and of Religion," Chapter 1, pp. 37-63, and Conclusion, pp. 462-474, in *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, transl. Joseph Ward Swain. New York: Free Press (division of Macmillan), [1915] 1965.

Recommended, but not required:

Durkheim, Emile, "Origin of the Idea of the Totemic Principle or Mana" Part 1 235-236, Part 5, pp. 262-267, in *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, transl. Joseph Ward Swain. New York: Free Press (division of Macmillan), [1915] 1965.

Wednesday, January 30: The sacred as meaning-making

Read:

- Berger, Peter. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. New York: Anchor Books (Doubleday), 1969, pp. 25-32, 42-51.
- Wuthnow, Robert, "Sacredness and Everyday Life," Excerpt from Chapter 1, pp. 18-35, in *Rediscovering the Sacred: Perspectives on Religion in Contemporary Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992.

Friday, February 1: Other social forms of the sacred

Read:

- Rountree, Kathryn, "Goddess Pilgrims as Tourists: Inscribing the Body through Sacred Travel." *Sociology of Religion*, 63,4 (Winter 2002): 475-496. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1069-4404%28200224%2963%3A4%3C475%3AGPATT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C>.
- Jensen, Lori, et al. "Marked for Jesus: Sacred Tattooing among Evangelical GenXers," pp. 15-30, in *GenX Religion*. Richard Flory and Don Miller, eds. Routledge, 2000.

Week 3 Religious worldviews and social behavior

Monday, February 4: Religion and worldly orientations

Read:

- Swidler, Ann, "Forward, pp. ix-xvii, in Max Weber, *The Sociology of Religion*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.
- Weber, Max, "The Rise of Religions," p. 1, and "Asceticism, Mysticism, and Salvation Religion," pp. 166-183, in *The Sociology of Religion*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.
- McRoberts, Omar M. "Worldly or Otherworldly?" pp. 412-422, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.

Recommended, but not required:

Weber, Max, "The Rise of Religions," pp. 2-19, in *The Sociology of Religion*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

Wednesday, February 6: Religious orientations: Applied Weber

Read:

- Greeley, Andrew, "Protestant and Catholic: Is the Analogical Imagination Extinct?" *American Sociological Review*, 54, (August 1989):485-494, 499-502. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28198908%2954%3A4%3C485%3APACITA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F>
- Kim, Andrew Eungi. "Characteristics of Religious Life in South Korea: A Sociological Survey." *Review of Religious Research* 43,4 (June 2002):291-310. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0034-673X%28200206%2943%3A4%3C291%3ACORLIS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-3>.

Recommended, but not required:

Greeley, Andrew, "Protestant and Catholic: Is the Analogical Imagination Extinct?" *American Sociological Review*, 54, (August 1989):495-498. *Note: students with a background in quantitative methods should find the details of Greeley's study especially interesting.*

Friday, February 8: Worldviews and comparative perspectives

Read:

- Richman, Karen. "The Protestant Ethic and the Dis-Spirit of Vodou," pp. 165-187 in *Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Life in America*, Karen I. Leonard ed. Lanham, MD: AltaMira, 2006.

Week. 4 Religion through a cultural lens

Monday, February 11: Rituals as cultural markers

Read:

- Bellah, Robert. "The Ritual Roots of Society and Culture," pp. 31-32, 37-44, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Gubkin, J. Liora. "Friday Night Live: It's Not Your Parents' Shabbat," pp. 199-210, in *GenX Religion*, Richard Flory and Donald E. Miller, eds. Routledge, 2000.
- Oswald, Ramona Faith. "Religion, Family, and Ritual: The Production of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Outsiders-within." *Review of Religious Research*, 43,1 (September 2001):39-50.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0034-673X%28200109%2943%3A1%3C39%3ARFARTP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C>.

Wednesday, February 13: Quest culture and the spiritual marketplace

Read:

- Roof, Wade Clark. Excerpts from Chapter 3 "Spiritual Marketplace," pp. 79-81, 89-92, 100-110, in *Spiritual Marketplace*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.
- Clark, Lynn Schofield. "Baby Boomers and their Millennial Kids," pp. 183-203, in *From Angels to Aliens: Teenagers, the Media, and the Supernatural*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2003.

Friday, February 15: Culture and multicultural

Read:

- Nakasone, Ronald and Susan Sered. "Ritual Transformations in Okinawan Immigrant Communities," pp. 79-98 in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard, ed.

Week 5: Dynamics of religious communities

February 18: President's Day: No class

Wednesday, February 20: The quest for community

Read:

- Tönnies, Ferdinand, "The Argument" pp.17-21, in *Community and Civil Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Bellah, Robert, et al. Selection from "Religion," pp. 227-243, in *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1996.
- Wuthnow, Robert. Selection from Chapter 2, "Contemporary Spirituality," pp. 32-47, in *All in Sync: How Music and Art are Revitalizing American Religion*. University of California Press, 2003.

Friday, February 22: Religious communities as lived religion

Read:

- Edgell, Penny. "Defining 'The Good Family' in Local Congregations," pp. 164-178, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Marquardt, Marie Friedmann. "Structural and Cultural Hybrids: Religious Congregational Life and Public Participation of Mexicans in the New South," pp. 189-218, in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard ed.

Track A Paper 1 or Tracks B and C proposal due**Week 6 Religion and social identity**

Monday, February 25: Religious identity construction

Read:

- Ammerman, Nancy T. "Religious Identities and Religious Institutions," pp. 207-211, 215-224, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.

- Peek, Lori. "Becoming Muslim: The Development of a Religious Identity." *Sociology of Religion*. 66,3 (Fall 2005):215-242. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1069-4404%28200523%2966%3A3%3C215%3ABMTDOA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-7>

Wednesday, February 27: Identity constancy and change

- Kurien, Prema, "Becoming American by Becoming Hindu," pp. 37-70, in *Gatherings...*, Warner and Wittner, eds.
- Demerath, N.J. III and Yonghe Yang. "Switching in American Religion: Denominations, Markets, and Paradigms?" In *Religion in a Changing World*, Madeline Cousineau, ed., 3-10. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1998.

Friday, February 29: Identity: religious, ethnic, or both?

Read one or both:

- Davidman, Lynn. "Beyond the Synagogue Walls," pp. 261-275, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Dashefsky, Arnold, et al. "A Journey of the 'Straight Way' or the 'Roundabout Path,'" pp. 240-260, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.

Week 7 Religion and migration

Monday, March 3: Immigration: challenges and creativity for religious communities

Read:

- Ebaugh, Helen Rose. "Religion and the New Immigrants," pp. 225-239, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Stepick, Alex. "God is Apparently Not Dead: The Obvious, the Emergent, and the Unknown in Immigration and Religion," pp. 11-37, in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard ed.

Read either:

- Min, Pyong Gap. "Religion and the Maintenance of Ethnicity among Immigrants? A Comparison of Indian Hindus and Korean Protestants," pp. 99-122, in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard ed.
- Guest, Kenneth. "Religion and Transnational Migration in the New Chinatown," pp. 145-163, in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard ed.

Wednesday, March 5: Migration and religious transformations

Read:

- Douglas, Thomas J. "Changing Religious Practices among Cambodian Immigrants in Long Beach and Seattle," pp. 123-144, in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard ed.

Friday, March 7: Midterm exam

Week 8 Religion and American Society

Monday, March 10: Civil Religion: Basis for social cohesion?

Read:

- Bellah, Robert N. "Civil Religion in America," pp. 168-189, in *Beyond Belief*. New York: Harper & Row, 1970.
- Demerath, N.J., III. "Civil Society and Civil Religion as Mutually Dependent," pp. 343-358, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.

Wednesday, March 12: Religious diversity in America: A century of difference

Guest presenter: Professor Claude S. Fischer

Read:

Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, Chapter 8, "How Americans Prayed: Religious Diversity and Change," in *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. New York:

Russell Sage Foundation, 2006. *Note: This chapter will be available online through the course bSpace site. The book also is on reserve at Moffitt Library.*

- Friday, March 14: American religion as rational choice: A market perspective

Read:

- Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. "The Dynamics of Religious Economies," pp. 96-109, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.

Week 9 Religion and inequality

Monday March 17 Gender:

Read:

- Neitz, Mary J. "Dis/Location," pp. 279-285, 289-293 in *Handbook, ...*Dillon ed. *Note: For those interested in feminist theory, the entire essay is recommended.*
- Nesbitt, Paula D. "Tradition or Transformation," Chapter 1, pp. 9-26, in *Feminization of the Clergy in America: Occupational and Organizational Perspectives*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Kar, Mehranguiz. Excerpt from "Women's Strategies in Iran from the 1979 Revolution to 1999," pp. 180-190, in *Globalization, Gender, and Religion*, Jane H. Bayes and Nayereh Tohidi, eds. New York: Palgrave, 2001.

Wednesday, March 19: Race

Read:

- Emerson, Michael O. and Christian Smith. "Let's Be Friends: Exploring Solutions to the Race Problem," pp. 115-133, in *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Recommended but not required:

- Chang, Derk. "'Brought Together Upon Our Own Continent': Race, Religion, and Evangelical nationalism in American Baptist Home Missions 1865-1900," pp. 39-65 in *Immigrant Faiths*, Leonard ed.
- Calhoun-Brown, Allison. "While Marching to Zion: Otherworldliness and Racial Empowerment in the Black Community." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 37,3 (September 1998):427-452.
- Frigerio, Alejandro. "Outside the Nation, Outside the Diaspora: Accommodating Race and Religion in Argentina." *Sociology of Religion*. 63,3 (Fall 2002):291-315. *Note: this is a controversial thesis in a society where race is understood quite differently than in the U.S..*

Friday, March 21: Social class

Read:

- Wuthnow, Robert. Excerpt from Chapter 7 "The Poor and Economic Justice," and excerpt from Chapter 8 "Charitable Behavior," pp. 214-221, 245-249, in *God and Mammon in America*. New York: Free Press, 1994.

Recommended, but not required:

- Wood, Richard L. "Religion, Faith-Based Community Organizing, and the Struggle for Justice," pp. 385-399, in *Handbook...* Dillon ed.

SPRING BREAK

Week 10 Religious authority, charisma, and social change

Monday, March 31: Charisma and religious authority

- Weber, Max. "The Three Pure Types of Authority," pp. 215-216, in *Economy and Society*, Guenther Ross and Claus Wittich, eds., Vol. 1. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.
- Weber, Max. "Charisma and its Transformation," Chapter 14, Sections i and ii, pp. 1111-1128, in *Economy and Society*, Ross and Wittich, eds., Vol. 2.
- Hall, John R., "The Prophet," pp. 29-39, and excerpt from "The Collectivist Reformation," pp. 110-116, in *Gone from the Promised Land..* Transaction, 1987.

Wednesday, April 2: Charismatic authority and its routinization

- Poloma, Margaret M.. "The 'Toronto Blessing: Charisma, Institutionalization, and Revival.'" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 36,2 (June 1997):257-271. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8294%28199806%2937%3A2%3C257%3AT%27BAHM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-T>
- Berger, Helen A. "The Routinization of Spontaneity." *Sociology of Religion*. 56,1 (Spring 1995): 49-61. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1069-4404%28199521%2956%3A1%3C49%3ATROS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-N>.

Friday, April 4: Religious authority and crosscultural liaisons

Read:

- Kniss, Fred. "Mapping the Moral Order," pp. 331-347, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Nesbitt, Paula. Excerpt from "The Future of Religious Pluralism and Social Policy," pp. 250-261, in *Religion and Social Policy*, Paula Nesbitt. ed. Lanham, MD: AltaMira, 2001.

Week 11 Religion, politics, and social change

Monday, April 7: Religion and secular society

Read:

- Marx, Karl, Excerpt from "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction," pp. 53-57, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Robert C. Tucker, ed. Second Edition. New York: Norton, 1978.
- Marx, Karl, Excerpt from "On the Jewish Question," pp. 26-33, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Tucker, ed.
- Froese, Paul. "Forced Secularization in Soviet Russia: Why an Atheistic Monopoly Failed." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43,1 (March 2004):35-50. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1069-4404%28200421%2965%3A1%3C57%3AAAAAOR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>.

Wednesday, April 9: Social change through political behavior

Read:

- Williams, Rhys H. "Religious Social Movements in the Public Sphere," pp. 320-326, 329-330, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed. *For those interested in social movements, the entire article is recommended.*
- Espinosa, Gastón. "Latino Clergy and Churches in Faith-Based Political and Social Action in the United States," pp. 279-306 in *Latino Religions and Civic Activism in the United States*, Gastón Espinosa et al. eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Peña, Milagros. "Latina Empowerment, Border Realities, and Faith-Based Organizations," pp. 400-411, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.

Friday, April 11 Religion and politics in an election year

Read:

- Manza, Jeff and Nathan Wright. "Religion and Political Behavior," pp. 297-314, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Hout, Michael and Andrew M. Greeley. "A hidden Swing Vote: Evangelicals." *The New York Times*. http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/04/opinion/04greeley.html?_r=1&ref=slogin

- Green, John C. Corwin E. Smidt, James L. Guth, and Lyman A. Kellstedt. "The American Religious Landscape and the 2004 Presidential Vote: Increased Polarization." Pew Forum: Religion and the 2004 Election: A Post-Election Analysis. <http://pewforum.org/publications/surveys/postelection.pdf>. Also see the related Pew Forum site: <http://pewforum.org/docs/index.php?DocID=64>.

Week 12 Religion and violence

Monday, April 14: Violence turned inward, turned outward

Read:

- Hall, John R. "Religion and Violence," pp. 359-381, in *Handbook...*, Dillon ed.
- Juergensmeyer, Mark, "Terror and God," Chapter 1, pp. 3-15, in *Terror in the Mind of God*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Recommended but not required:

- Hall, John R. "The Apocalypse at Jonestown (with Afterward)," pp. 269-293, in *In Gods We Trust*, Thomas Robbins and Dick Anthony, eds. Second Edition. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 1991.

Wednesday, April 16: Violence and political change

Read:

- Juergensmeyer, "Soldiers for Christ," Chapter 2, pp. 19-43, "Theater of Terror, Ch. 7, pp. 121-147, in *Terror in the Mind of God*.

Friday, April 18: Comparative themes

Read:

- Juergensmeyer, "Zion Betrayed," Ch.3, pp. 45-60, Islam's 'Neglected Duty,'" Ch. 4, pp. 61-84, in *Terror in the Mind of God*:

Week 13 Religious violence in global context

Monday, April 21: Apocalypticism and totalism

Read:

- Juergensmeyer, "The Sword of Sikhism," Ch. 5, pp. 85-102, "Armageddon in a Tokyo Subway," Ch. 6, pp. 103-118, "Cosmic War," Ch. 8, pp. 148-166, in *Terror in the Mind of God*:

Wednesday, April 23: Ingroups, outgroups, and social inequality

Read:

- Juergensmeyer, "Martyrs and Demons," Ch. 9, pp. 167-189, "Warriors' Power," Ch. 10, pp. 190-218, in *Terror in the Mind of God*.

Friday, April 25: Social transformations, or not

Read:

- Juergensmeyer, *The Mind of God*," Ch. 11, pp.219-249, in *Terror in the Mind of God*:

Week 14 The dilemma of religious pluralism

Monday, April 28: Are there limits to tolerance?

- Eck, Diana. Excerpt from Chapter 6 "Afraid of Ourselves," 307-334, in *A New Religious America*. Harper San Francisco, 2001.
- Wuthnow, Robert. "Presidential Address 2003: The Challenge of Diversity." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43,2 (2004): 159-170. <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-5906.2004.00225.x>
- Machacek, David W. "The Problem of Pluralism." *Sociology of Religion*. 64,2 (2003): 145-161. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1069-4404%28200322%2964%3A2%3C145%3ATPOP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-7>.

Wednesday, April 30: Rethinking Berger and beyond

- Berger, Peter L. "The Desecularization of the World: A Global Overview." In *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, Peter L. Berger et al., eds, pp. 1-18. Washington DC: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1999.
- Smart, Ninian. "The Global Future of Religion." In *Global Religions*, Mark Juergensmeyer, ed., 124-131. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Friday, May 2: Operationalizing diversity

- Berman, Harold J. "Faith and Law in a Multicultural World." In *Religion in Global Civil Society*, Mark Juergensmeyer, ed., 69-89. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Term paper/project due

Week 15 Forums and Conclusion

Monday, May 5: Forum 1

Wednesday, May 7: Forum 2

Friday, May 9 Conclusion

Take-home final exam handed out

Friday, May 16 Take-home final exam due, 3:30 p.m., Sociology Dept. office