

**Fayetteville State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Sociology  
Fall 2011**

**1. Locator Information**

Instructor: Dr. Druann Heckert  
Course name and number: Sociology of Religion (Sociology 362)  
Semester Credit Hours: 3  
Day and Time Class Meets: MWF 2:00-2:50  
Office Location: Taylor 210D  
Office hours: M 11-1; T 12-2; W 4-6; and F 11-1  
Office phone: 672-1503  
Email Address: [dheckert@uncfsu.edu](mailto:dheckert@uncfsu.edu)

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**II. Course Description**

Sociology 362 is a study of the nature of religion, including the societal and cultural dimensions of religion, the role of religion in social change, and the status of religion in contemporary society.

*“For most people, religion is a faith to be lived – or perhaps to be neglected – but for a few, it is also a phenomenon to be studied ... The student of society must be a student of religion; and the student of religion must be a student of society.” – J. Milton Yinger*

**III. Disabled Student Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor); 910-672-1203.

**IV. Textbook**

Johnstone, Ronald L. *Religion in Society: A Sociology of Religion*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Pearson/Prentice-Hall.

## V. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the study of the sociology of religion.
2. Identify and describe the major concepts and theories in the sociology of religion.
3. Describe the patterns and form of religion that are likely to develop under given social, cultural, and political conditions.
4. Discuss the impact of religion on society.

## VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

First Exam.....20 percent

Second Exam.....20 percent

Homework (online).....20 percent

(The homework dates will correspond with the week on the syllabus and open the Monday of that week)

Term paper.....25 percent

Brief presentation of term paper..... 5 percent

Class Participation.....10 percent

**All exams are to be taken with the class. A make-up exam can be granted by the professor for exceptional circumstances such as death in the family or illness.**

**Make-up exams will only be given on the last day of class – December 2 – from 9:30 – 12.**

**Term Paper:** Each student will write a research paper with ASA documentation based on academic resources. The topic will be chosen by the student and can represent the gamut of potential topics. For example, a student can write on the relationship of some aspect of religion to another societal institution or a particular religious. However, the choice of particular topics is unlimited as long as it maintains a relationship to the Sociology of Religion.

**Any disruption of the class – including answering cell phones, texting, acting in a disrespectful manner to fellow students or the professor, talking with neighbors, etc – will result in a zero for the participation portion of the grade**

## Numerical Scale

- A.....90-100
- B.....80-89
- C.....70-79
- D.....60-69
- F.....0-59

## **VII. Academic Support Services**

The University College Learning Center is available. The instructor holds 8 hours of office hours per week. If you have any trouble understanding the material – either the class notes or the text – I encourage you to ask during my office hours.

## **VIII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule**

The sections listed for reading assignments are meant as a guide to facilitate your completion of the text. The calendar is subject to change or adjustment as needed throughout the semester.

Week 1 (August 18-19)

Chapter 1—The Sociological Perspective

Week 2 (August 22-26)

Chapter 1—The Sociological Perspective

Week 3 (August 29-September 2)

Chapter 2—The Sources of Religion

Week 4 (September 6-September 9)

Chapter 3—Religion as a Group Phenomenon

Week 5 (September 12-16)

Chapter 4—The Church-Sect Continuum of Religious Organization

Week 6 (September 19-23)

Chapter 5—Becoming Religious

Week 7 (September 26-30)

Chapter 6—Religious Conflict

Week 8 (October 3-October 7)

Chapter 7—Religion and Politics

**Test 1—October 7**

Week 9 (October 10-14)

Chapter 8—Religious Fundamentalism

Week 10 (October 19-21)

Chapter 19—Religion and the Economy

Week 11 (October 24-28)

Chapter 10—Religion and the Class System

Week 12 (October 31-November 4)

Chapter 11—Women and Religion

Week 13 (November 7-November 10)

Chapter 12—Major Historical Developments

**Term Papers due—November 9**

Week 14 (November 14-18)

Chapter 13—Black and Native American Religion in America

Week 15 (November 21-23)

Chapter 14—Denominational Society

Week 16 (November 28-December 2)

Chapter 15—The Future of Religion

**Test 2—Final Exam**

## **IX. Teaching Strategies**

The teaching strategies used in this class will include a combination of lecture, discussion, and class exercises. Audio and visual material will be used as appropriate.

## **X. Selected References**

Bellah, Robert. 2003. "The Ritual Roots of Society and Culture." Pp. 31-44 in *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, edited by M. Dillon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Durkheim, Emile. 1995. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Tr. By Karen Fields. New York: The Free Press.

Lugo, Luis. 2008. "Religious Beliefs and Practices." Pp. 21-63 in *U.S. Religious Landscape Survey*. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Miller, Donald E. and Tetsunao Yamamori. 2007. *Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of Christian Social Engagement*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press.

Patillo-McCoy, Mary. 1998. "Church Culture as a Strategy of Action in the Black Community." *American Sociological Review* 63:767-784.

Weber, Max. [1930]2001. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Tr. By Talcott Parsons. Routledge.

