UNT Dallas

SOCI 3700

Sociology of Religion

Department: Sociology/Social Science
Division: Liberal Arts

Fall 2016
Instructor: James Harris
Phone: 214-860-8869
Office Hrs: MW 9:30 to 10:00
Division: Liberal Arts and Life Science
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Course Number: SOCI 3700
Section Number: 090
Class Meeting Times: MW 10:00 to 11:20am
Class Location: Building 2, 303-UNTD
Credit Hours: (3)

Required Materials:
Text: Religion In Sociological Perspectives
Author: Roberts and Yamane

Course Description:
A review of the common sociological dimensions of all religions such as moral definitions, group membership and dynamics, prescribed ritual practices and definitions of the sacred. An examination of sociologists contributing to the field such as Durkheim and Weber. Includes a sociological analysis of major world religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Course Objectives:

Students should illustrate a general understanding of sociology, sociological theorist, their contributions (theories), and how their theoretical perspectives attempt to explain society and social behavior. This may include how we define, understand, and incorporate religion into our society. Students should be able to generate conclusions and opinions toward current and controversial issues, while being socially and culturally sensitive, and respectful to other’s ideas, beliefs, customs, and attitudes.

Student Learning Outcomes

Outcomes: 1. Critical thinking 2011. Students will be able to:

1a. identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments.

1b. identify limitations of theoretical arguments.

1c. identify assumptions underlying particular research methodologies.

1d. identify limitations of particular research methodologies.

Intellectual Competencies

1. Reading – the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials (books, documents, and articles) above 12th grade level.

2. Writing – the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience above 12th grade level.

3. Critical Thinking – The ability to analyze information, both qualitative and quantitative. Identifying key components, examining each and synthesizing one’s own thoughts in written and spoken languages.

4. Speaking- Demonstrate the ability to speak to communicate orally in a clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience- above the 12th grade level.
5. **Listening** - Exhibit the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication—above the 12th grade level.

6. **Computer Literacy** - Demonstrate the ability to understand our technical society and use computer based technology in communicating, problem solving, and information acquisition.

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Course Calendar: A detailed course calendar will be provided on Blackboard

Test 1 (covering chapters 1 and 2)

Test 2 (covering chapters 3 and 4)

Test 3 (covering chapters 6 and 7)

Test 4 (covering chapters 8 and 11)

Written Assignment (group) **due ____________, no exceptions**

Final Exam/Test (comprehensive)__________, **no exemptions**

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**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend each class period and be prepared to discuss the topic for that day. Please do not contact the instructor to request notes for missed lectures.

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**Grading Scale:**

Final grades are based on total points. The following is the grade breakdown

450-400=A 399-350=B 349-300=C 299-250=D 249 and below= F

In the event a student's point total falls within 10 points of the next highest grade, attendance, participation and extra credit work will be taken into account.

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**Evaluation Procedures:**

**Testing:**
Grade assessment will consist of 5 tests, in which the lowest grade will be dropped. The test will be worth 100 points each. If a student misses a test, that will be the dropped grade. If a student misses 2 exams, they will be allowed to make up one of the test with a verifiable excuse. No exceptions. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

**Written Assignments:**

Student will have 1 required written assignments, one individual and one group project. The assignment will be worth up to 50 points each. Parameters for the assignment will be discussed in class.

**Extra Credit:**

Students will have a chance to earn extra credit during the semester by completing various class and individual interactive assignments. If missed, extra credit assignments cannot be made up. Students will forfeit any and all extra credit if the fail to submit all required assignments, or have too many absences. Students can only use extra credit to earn the next highest grade.

**Reminder:** The instructor has the exclusive right to amend, modify, or change the syllabus, if they believe it serves the best interest of the students, or to improve the learning experience for the entire class.

**University Policies and Procedures**

**Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at [http://www.untdallas.edu/disability](http://www.untdallas.edu/disability). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.
Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement: University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Student’s evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students’ evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University’s code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies
Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor’s discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled. Lecture based courses will follow a contingency plan implemented by the instructor.

Online “Netiquette:

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate
language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

**Technology Requirements:** In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- [http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements](http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements)
- [https://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oonm](https://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oonm)
- [https://learn.unt.edu/bbcdwebav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html](https://learn.unt.edu/bbcdwebav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html)

**Withdrawal Policy:**

If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s.

Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a "W". Please use the following dates to determine when, if you decide to, drop a class:

**Important Dates**

- Last Day to Drop a Class without a W ....................... September 9
- Last Day to Request Pass/No Pass Course Status........October 2
- Full-Term Session
- Last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of W ....November 6 (*Written Consent of Instructor Required*)
- Last day a student may withdraw from all classes for the semester .....November 20
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher.

Religious Holiday

Absences for observance of a religious holiday are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holiday is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time before the absence.

6 Drop Rule:

For students who enrolled for the first time Fall 2007, The Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. Students may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exception. Please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas institution of higher education.

Other Classroom Policies

Please turn off all electronic devices if not being used as a learning device

Please submit all written assignments on time (This included the due date and time)

Inclement Weather:

Bad weather can occur at any time during the school year. In the event of inclement weather, tune in to local television or radio stations for a report of possible closings or delays of UNT locations, or check the UNT website for possible early or late opening and closing.