

Religion in our Social World
SOC 246.5562 | Winter 2015
L220 | MTWRF 9:30-10:20pm

Instructor: Jennifer Lê
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Office Hours:
10:30-11:30pm Daily
and by appointment



Course Description and Goals

This course will focus on issues of religion from a sociological perspective including concepts of secularization and links between religion and culture, politics, and immigration. Critical thinking and discussion will be important components of the course.

To make appointments, please go to drle.youcanbook.me or scan the code above. Download a free QR Code Reader from your App Store to scan this as well as those in your textbook.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, successful students should be able to:

- Examine religion from a sociological viewpoint.
- Explain the differing perspectives in the sociology of religion.
- Think critically about the issue of religion in society by taking into account the many ways religion manifests in society.

Required Text and Readings

Monahan, Susanne, William Mirola, and Michael Emerson. 2011. *Sociology of Religion: A Reader*. 2nd Edition.

Attendance

Attendance is **required**. Students are allowed to miss TWO class periods without documentation. All other absences must be excused absences; please review the Bellevue College Student Rules on excused absences. More than two undocumented absences will result in a reduction of your overall grade, taken from your overall participation score for the course in direct proportion to the number of classes missed. If you miss zero to two classes, you will not be penalized. If you miss more than two classes, you will lose points for each day absent which can account for up to a full letter grade reduction. If you miss over one-third of classes, a further 1/3 letter grade deduction will be taken out of your grade. Notecards will be used to keep track of attendance (see course requirements).

Classroom Policies

Please silence cell phones before the beginning of class. Students whose cell phones ring in class or who I see using their mobile devices will receive no points for that day's class participation.

Students are permitted to use computers to take notes if they wish. However, note taking is the **only** activity allowed during class. If any students engage in other activities on their computers during class meetings they will receive a zero for that day's class participation after one warning.

Course Requirements

Quizzes

(100 points total, 10 points each)

Weekly quizzes will take place on the last day of a week five times in the quarter and cover the material from that week. They will be multiple choice in format. No makeup or late quizzes will be accepted.

Reading Worksheet

(20 points total)

A worksheet will be provided to you on the first day of the quarter. Follow the directions for the worksheet and submit by the due date.

Exams

(200 points total, 100 points each)

There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will be composed of multiple choice questions and potential short essay questions. However, there will be no scantron or bluebook needed. You may use your notecards (see below) on the exam.

Notecards

(150 points total, 15 points each)

For each reading, you will be required to submit a notecard with a summary of the main points and important concepts from the reading due for that day. If there are multiple readings, you must write on all readings assigned on a given day. This notecard (3x5 or 4x6 size) is due at the beginning of class each day. Late notecards (not turned in at the start of class at 9:30am) will not be accepted.

While you are required to turn in a card everyday, only 16 of them will be graded but will occur randomly. Your lowest scored notecard will be dropped. You will be notified at the beginning of class that your notecards will be graded that day. **You can use your notecards (and only your notecards) on your exams** - so spending some time now defining key terms, identifying major themes, and providing examples for yourself will help you when the exam comes. The assignment sheet for these notecards is available on Canvas.

Research Paper

(440 points total for 8 parts)

Students are required to write a research paper over the course of the quarter. The research, specifically, is library research.

The final paper will be a 4-5 page paper on a topic of your choosing relating to the sociology of religion, expanding on lectures or readings or a topic preapproved by the instructor. You should also consult the journals *Sociology of Religion* and *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* for ideas. And of course, you should come talk to me as well about your papers well before the due date. The final paper will be due in stages:

Proposal – Week 2

Annotated Bibliography – Week 4

Outline – Week 6

First Draft – Week 8

Peer Reviews – Week 9

Presentation – Week 11

Final Paper – Week 12

Each paper should follow proper citation guidelines using either MLA or APA style. This website contains helpful guidelines: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. The format for all papers should be double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and no title page or running header. Journal articles and books should be the main source of citations for each paper. Relevant websites and encyclopedias are to be used as secondary sources only. A grading rubric will be available for students to consult. Papers are to be uploaded on Canvas before the due date.

Attendance and Participation

(100 points total, 50 for attendance, 25 for participation, 25 for midterm check in meeting)

Participation includes answering questions when called upon, participating in discussions, and asking insightful and engaging questions related to course material. Active participation will help a borderline final grade.

Please keep in mind that you are expected to keep up with the readings through the term. All students are expected to have read the assigned material before each class meeting. Attendance is always helpful (and required) to get a better understanding of the material. Please note that a few points can make a *big difference*. I want you to do your very best in this course, and I will help all students as much as I can.

Grades

Your grade will consist of the following:

TOTAL: 1000 points

A = 930 - 1000+

A- = 900 - 929

B+ = 870 - 899

B = 830 - 869

B- = 800 - 829

C+ = 770 - 799

C = 730 - 769

C- = 700 - 729

D+ = 670 - 699

D = 630 - 669

D- = 600 - 629

F = 0 - 599

Reading Worksheet – 20 points = 2%

Quizzes – 100 points (10 points each) = 10%

Notecards – 150 points (15 pts each) = 15%

Midterm Exam – 100 points = 10%

Final Exam – 100 points = 10%

Research Paper – 440 points total = 44% total

Proposal – 20 points = 1%

Annotated Bibliog. – 40 points = 4%

Outline – 50 points = 5%

First Draft – 80 points = 8%

Peer Review 1 – 25 points = 2.5%

Peer Review 2 – 25 points = 2.5%

Presentation – 50 points = 5%

Final Paper – 150 points = 15%

Attendance/Participation – 100 points = 10%

Note: There will be no curve in this class, including for single assignments. Your grade is what you earn.

Extra Credit

There may be opportunities for extra credit throughout the quarter. These opportunities are generally events on campus which involve a lecture, documentary showing, debate, or a cultural event with an educational component. The requirements for the reflection paper are on Canvas. The papers will be due by 11:59pm one week after the event. Additionally, video links will be posted in the Canvas assignment link. These videos may be watched and analyzed similar to the events. Video link extra credit papers will be due by 11:59pm on the last regular course day. Students may complete TWO of these extra credit opportunities (one event or one video) for a possible 15 points each or 30 points total. These extra points are added onto a student's total points for the course. No late work will be accepted without a pre-approved reason.

Late Policy

All missed assignments and exams must be pre-approved by the instructor **PRIOR** to the due date. Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor and must occur **before** the due date. Any missed assignments or exams not pre-approved by the instructor must accompany an approved excuse in order for a make-up or extended due date to be given. Unapproved absences that result in missed assignments or zeros **cannot** be made up.

Tentative Schedule

HOW TO READ THE SCHEDULE BELOW:

Day of the Week
Topic
Reading Due Before Class
Assignment Due

<i>Week One – January 5-9</i>				
M	T	W	R	F
Intro to the class	Sociological Imagination	What is religion?	Foundations	Quiz
No reading		Monahan 2	Monahan 4 and Maltby & Lewis	No reading
		Reading Worksheet DUE		

<i>Week Two – January 12-16</i>				
M	T	W	R	F
Foundations	Foundations	Durkheim	Durkheim	Quiz
Stark	O'Dea	Monahan 1	Monahan 5	No reading
				Proposal DUE

<i>Week Three – January 19-23</i>				
M	T	W	R	F
NO CLASS	Marx	Marx	Weber	Quiz
	Monahan 3	Marx & Engels	Monahan 28	No reading

Week Four – January 26-30

M	T	W	R	F
Library Workshop	Secularization	Secularization	Secularization	Quiz
No Reading	Bruce	Monahan 25	Monahan 26	No reading
Midterm Meetings BEGIN				Annotated Bibliography DUE

Week Five – February 2-6

M	T	W	R	F
Secularization	Secularization	Secularization	Quiz and Exam Review	NO CLASS
Berger	Stepick	Smith	No reading	

Week Six – February 9-13

M	T	W	R	F
Midterm Exam	Culture	Culture	Culture	Quiz
	Gans	Geertz	Monahan 20	No reading
				Outline DUE

Week Seven – February 16-20

M	T	W	R	F
NO CLASS	Tension	War/Genocide	NO CLASS	Quiz
	Monahan 39 & 40	Monahan 41 & 42		No reading
				Midterm Meetings DUE

Week Eight – February 23-27

M	T	W	R	F
Politics Organizing	Politics	Civil Religion	New Religious Movements	Quiz
Monahan 35	Monahan 37	Bellah	Monahan 34	No reading
				First Draft DUE

Week Nine – March 2-6

M	T	W	R	F
Race	Race	Immigrants	Religious Nones	Quiz and Peer Review Workday
Monahan 10 & 11	Monahan 36	Monahan 8	Kosmin	No reading
				Peer Reviews DUE

Week Ten – March 9-13

M	T	W	R	F
Alternative Practices	NO CLASS	Gender	Gender	Quiz
Iwamura		Monahan 13 &15	Davidman & Greil	No reading

Week Eleven – March 16-20

M	T	W	R	F
Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	Exam Review
No reading	No reading	No reading	No reading	No reading
				Last day to submit extra credit

Week Twelve – March 23-27 – Final Exam Week

M	T	W	R	F
Final Exam	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
9:30a-11:20a				
Final Paper DUE				

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Disability Resource Center

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success

for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Copyright Notice

All documents disseminated by your instructor are under copyright by said instructor. Any re-use or distribution of these materials outside of our classroom without permission is copyright infringement and is considered a crime.

Final Comments

It is my goal to make this course worth your time and effort. Therefore, I will do all that is reasonable and within my power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with any aspect of this course please feel free to contact me.