

Syllabus
Psychology of Religion

This course examines religions and religious phenomena from the point of view of empirical psychology. This is a Level III (Advanced) Psychology course that assumes some sophisticated background in either psychology or religious studies.

Course goals:

1. To learn about some of the ways in which religious beliefs and practices influence psychological functioning, and the ways in which psychological functioning influences religious beliefs and practices.
2. To improve your written communication skills. This is a writing-intensive course. One focus of the writing assignments will be on constructing arguments.
3. To improve your oral communication skills.
4. To improve your library and electronic research skills as a citizen-scholar; to learn to distinguish among and critically evaluate the quality of different sources of information.

Required readings will be online in the Learn@UW course website. You might also be assigned to locate some research articles yourself for presentation in class and you will find all materials for your term paper.

Grading

Class attendance and participation is required. Course grades will be based on completing the short written assignments and oral presentations (40%), a midterm paper (20%) and on a term paper (40%). Unexcused late assignments will be penalized. Unexcused late short assignments will be given a maximum of half credit. Unexcused late major assignments will be penalized 10%.

The term paper will be on a topic chosen by the student, but must: a) be relevant to the course and on a topic approved by me, and b) make use of original publications of scientific literature. An oral term paper presentation is required. The term paper presentations will allow the whole class to share the new knowledge created through the term paper assignment. The term paper presentations are usually very interesting.

Course Procedures

The course will be a seminar type of class in which we discuss the readings and analyze their implications. I will present brief overviews of each area that we cover to give the class a broader view than is provided by the readings alone. Occasionally each of you will be responsible for brief oral summaries of and commentaries on original research articles.

Course Content

We will probably cover topics 1-5 in the order listed below. After that, we will have a class meeting to decide the remainder of the topics. We will not read everything on this syllabus. The list of articles on the syllabus provide an excellent resource for ideas for term papers and personal explorations.

Course themes

1) *Approach*. I approach the course from the perspective of psychology as a science. We will not have time to read depth psychology approaches to religiousness such as Jung, Freud, Fromm, or Maslow. The term papers must be based on social *science* research.

2) *Role of assumptions and values of the researcher*. The study of religions, religious beliefs, and spirituality are topics that are easily influenced by the assumptions and values of a scholar. Because I am interested in how values and assumptions interface with aspects of the conduct of scientific research, this is a fascinating part of the course for me. I believe it is essential that students learn to think about the assumptions that are embedded in any research.

3) *Are religions and religious beliefs good or bad for people, or both?* This question hovers implicitly behind much of the research on psychology of religion, and takes many forms. Even if we tried to avoid the question, it would come up.

4) *How valid are measures of religiousness?* In many of your courses you have simply been told “Questionnaire X measures personality trait X”. It isn’t that simple. This course will illustrate how psychological measurements are embedded in theory, and how research controversies often center on the way concepts are measured.

5) *How general are the findings?* Because many of us have strong ideas and opinions about religious beliefs or spirituality, it is easy for us to ask whether results generalize across a variety of religious groups or belief systems. Because religions are embedded in cultures, the question of generalizing across cultural and ethnic groups also comes readily to mind. Because much of the research uses majority ethnic and religious groups in the US and North America, we won’t always be able to answer this question, but the nature of the material does lead us to think seriously about ethnic and cultural differences.

Reading List

1. What is religion?

University of Minnesota Human Rights Library (2010). Study Guide: Freedom of Religion or Belief.
Accessed on January 12, 2010.

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/studyguides/religion.html>

Demerath, N. J. III. (2000). The varieties of sacred experience: Finding the sacred in a secular grove.

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, vol#, 1-11.

- Zinnbauer, B. J., Pargament, K. I. & Scott, A. G. (1999). The emerging meanings of religiousness and spirituality: Problems and prospects. *Journal of Personality*, 67(6), 889-919.
- Kilbourne, B. K. & Richardson, James T. (1984). Psychotherapy and new religions in a pluralistic society. *American Psychologist*, 39(3): 237-251.

2. How do social scientists measure religiousness – a grab-bag of examples

- Hill, P. C. & Pargament, K. I. (2003). Advances in the conceptualization and measurement of religion and spirituality. *American Psychologist*, 58, 64-74.
- Gorsuch, R. (1984). Measurement: The boon and bane of investigating religion. *American Psychologist*, 39(3), 228-236.
- Feagin, J. R. (1964). Prejudice and religious types: A focused study of Southern fundamentalists. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 4, 3-13.
- Watson, P. J. et al. (1986). Religiosity and social desirability. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 25(2), 215-232.
- Tarakeshwar, N. et al. (2003). Measures of Hindu pathways: Development and preliminary evidence of reliability and validity. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 9(4), 316-332.
- Pena, M. & Frehill, L. M. (1998). Latina religious practice: Analyzing cultural dimensions in measures of religiosity. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37(4), 620-635.
- Vandecreek, L. & Nye, C. (1993). Testing the death transcendence scale. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32(3), 279-283.
- Seidlitz, L. et al. (2002). Development of the spiritual transcendence index. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(3), 439-453.
- Genia, V. (1993). A psychometric evaluation of the Allport-Ross I/E scales in a religiously heterogeneous sample. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32(3), 284-290.

3. Prejudice and discrimination

- Batson, C. D. (2005). Religion and prejudice. In *On the nature of prejudice: Fifty years after Allport*, (pp. 413-427), J. Dovidio, P. Glick, & L. Rudman (Eds.), Malden: Blackwell Publishing.
- Donahue, M. J. (1985). Intrinsic and extrinsic religiousness: Review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 48, 400-419.
- Batson, C. D., Naifeh, S. J. & Pate, S. (1978). Social desirability, religious orientation, and racial prejudice. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 17, 31-41.
- Griffin, Gorsuch, R. W. & Davis. (1987). A cross-cultural investigation of religious orientation, social norms, and prejudice. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 26, 358-365.
- Laythe, B. et al. (2001). Predicting prejudice from religious fundamentalism and right-wing authoritarianism: A multiple-regression approach. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(1), 1-10.
- Reimer, S. & Park, J.Z. (2001). Tolerant (In)civility? A longitudinal analysis of white conservative

protestants' willingness to grant civil liberties. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4), 735-745.

Karpov, V. (2002). Religiosity and tolerance in the United States and Poland. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 267-288. ()

Kirkpatrick, L. A. (1993). Fundamentalism, Christian orthodoxy, and intrinsic religious orientation as predictors of discriminatory attitudes. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32(3), 256-268.

Anti-gay prejudice

McFarland, S. G. (1989). Religious orientations and the targets of discrimination. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 28, 324-336.

Hunsberger, B., Owusu, V. & Duck, R. (1999). Religion and prejudice in Ghana and Canada: Religious fundamentalism, right-wing authoritarianism and attitudes toward homosexuals and women. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 9(3): 181-194.

Fulton, A. S., Gorsuch, R. L. & Maynard, E. A. (1999). Religious orientation, antihomosexual sentiment, and fundamentalism among Christians. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 19, 38, 14-22.

Rowatt, W. C. et al. (2006). Associations between religious personality dimensions and implicit homosexual prejudice. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 45, 397-406.

Rowatt, W. C. et al. (2009). Associations among religiousness, social attitudes, and prejudice in a national random sample of American adults. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, 1(1), 14-24.

4. Compassion, Helping and Prosocial Behavior.

Goldfried, & Miner (2002). Quest religion and the problem of limited compassion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41, 685-695.

Batson, C.D. et al. (2008). Quest religion, anti-fundamentalism, and limited versus universal compassion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 47(1), 135-145.

Cavendish, J. C. (2000). Church-based community activism: A comparison of Black and White Catholic congregations. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 39, 371-384.

Batson, C.D. et al. (2008). Quest religion, anti-fundamentalism, and limited versus universal compassion.

Ozorak, E. W. (2003). Love of god and neighbor: Religion and volunteer service among college students. *Review of Religious Research*, 44, 285-299.

Batson, C. D. (1976). Religion as prosocial: Agent or double agent? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 15, 29-45.

Batson, C. D., Oleson, K. C., Weeks, J. L., et al. (1989). Religious prosocial motivation: Is it altruistic or egoistic? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 57, 873-884.

Batson, C. D. et al. (1999). "And who is my neighbor?" Intrinsic religion as a source of universal compassion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 38(4): 445-457.

- Batson, C. D. et al. (2001). "And who is my neighbor?" II: Quest religion as a source of universal compassion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(1), 39-50.
- Kerley, K. R. et al. (2005). Religiosity, religious participation, and negative prison behaviors. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 44, 443-457.
- Cohen, A. B. & Rozin, P. (2001). Religion and the morality of mentality. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 81(4), 697-710.

5. Abuse, Family violence and religiousness

- Lehrer, E. L. et al. (2009). Religion and intimate partner violence in Chile: Maco- and micro-level influences. *Social Science Research*, 38, 635-643.
- Gall, T. L. (2006). Spirituality and coping with life stress among adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 30, 829-844.
- Firestone, P. et al. (2009). Clerics who commit sexual offenses: Offender, offense and victim characteristics. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 18, 442-454.
- Cunradi, C. B. et al. (2002). Religious affiliation, denominational homogeneity, and intimate partner violence among U.S. Couples. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(1), 139-151.
- Lawson, R. et al. (1998). The long term impact of child abuse on religious behavior and spirituality of men. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 22, 369-380.
- Brinkerhoff, Merlin-B; Grandin, Elaine; Lupri, Eugen. (1992). Religious involvement and spousal violence: The Canadian case. *Journal-for-the-Scientific-Study-of-Religion*, 31(1), 15-31.
- Bottoms, B. et al. (2003). Religion-Related Child Physical Abuse: Characteristics and Psychological Outcomes. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 8(1-2), 87-114.
- McGlone, G. J. (2003). Prevalence and incidence of Roman Catholic clerical sex offenders. *Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity*, 10, 111-121.
- Bottoms, B. L. et al. (1997). Jurors' reactions to satanic ritual abuse allegations. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 21, 845-859.
- Doxey, C. et al. (1997). The influence of religion on victims of childhood sexual abuse. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 7, 179-186.
- Chang, B-H. et al. (2003). The relationship between sexual assault, religiosity, and mental health among male veterans. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 33, 223-239.
- Chang, B-H. et al. (2001). Religion and mental health among women veterans with sexual assault experience. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 31, 77-95.

6. Religiously motivated violence and terrorism

- Torok, T. J. et al. (1997). A large community outbreak of salmonellosis caused by intentional contamination of restaurant salad bars. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 278(5), 389-395.
- Juergensmeyer, M. (1998). Christian violence in America. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 558, 88-100.

- Dobratz, B. A. (2001). The role of religion in the collective identity of the white racist movement. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(2), 287-302.
- Silberman et al. (2005). Religion and world change: Violence and terrorism versus peace. *Journal of Social Issues*, 61, 761-784.
- Moghaddam, F. H. (2005). The staircase to terrorism: A psychological exploration. *American Psychologist*, 60, 161-169.
- Commentaries on Moghaddam and author reply (2005). *American Psychologist*, 60, 1039-1041.
- Kazim, S. F. et al. (2008). Attitudes toward suicide bombing in Pakistan. *Crisis*, 29(2), 81-85.
- (I have a couple of videos for this topic that we might view in class)

7. Gender roles, Sexuality, Sexual Orientation, and Reproduction

a. Sexuality

- Burris, J. L. et al. (2009). Relations among religiousness, spirituality, and sexual practices. *Journal of Sex Research*, 46, 282-289.
- Langer, L. M. et al. (2001). Correlates and predictors of risky sexual practices among a multi-racial/ethnic sample of university students. *Social Behavior and Personality*, 29, 133-144.
- Janghorbani, M. et al. (2005). Sexual media use by young adults in Hong Kong: Prevalence and associated factors. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 32, 545-553.
- Yip, A. K. (2002). The persistence of faith among nonheterosexual Christians: Evidence for the neosecularization thesis of religious transformation. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 199-212.
- Sherkat, D. E. (2002). Sexuality and religious commitment in the United States: An empirical examination. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 313-323.
- Rowatt, W. C. & Schmitt, D. P. (2003). Associations between religious orientation and varieties of sexual experience. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(3), 455-465.
- Davidson, J. K. et al. (1995). Religiosity and the sexuality of women: Sexual behavior and sexual satisfaction revisited. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 32, 235-243.

b. Reproduction, contraception and population

- Ali, M. & Ushijima, H. (2005). Perceptions of men on role of religious leaders in reproductive health issues in rural Pakistan. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 37, 115-122.
- Doctor, H.V. et al. (2009). The influence of changes in women's religious affiliation on contraceptive use and fertility among the Kassena-Nankana of northern Ghana. *Studies in Family Planning*, 40, 113,122.
- Gyimah, S. O. et al. (2006). Challenges to the reproductive-health needs of African women: On religion and maternal health utilization in Ghana. *Social Science and Medicine*, 62, 2930-2944.
- Russo, N.F. & Dabul, A. J. (1997). The relationship of abortion to well-being: Do race and religion make a difference? *Professional psychology: Research and practice*, 28(1), 23-31.

- Pearce, L. D. (2002). The influence of early life course religious exposure on young adults' dispositions toward childbearing. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 325-340.
- Iyer, S. (2002) Religion and the decision to use contraception in India. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(4), 711-722.

c. Gender and gender attitudes

- Read, J. G. (2003). The sources of gender role attitudes among Christian and Muslim Arab-American women. *Sociology of Religion*, 64, 207-222.
- Thompson, E. H. & Remmes, K. R. (2002). Does masculinity thwart being religious? An examination of older men's religiousness. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41, 521-532.
- Stark, R. (2002). Physiology and faith: Addressing the 'universal' gender difference in religious commitment. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(3), 495-507.
- Lizardo, O. & Collett, J. L. (2009). Rescuing the baby from the bathwater: Continuing the conversation on gender, risk and religiosity. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 48(2), 256-259.

8. Health, Well-being, Religious Identity, Religiousness and Religious Practices

- Dull, V. T. & Skokan, L. A. (1995). A cognitive model of religion's influence on health. *Journal of Social Issues*, 51(2), 49-54.
- Pargament, K. I, Koenig, H. G., Tarakeshwar, N. & Hahn, J. (2001). Religious struggle as a predictor of mortality among medically ill elderly patients: A two-year longitudinal study. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 161(15):1881-1885.
- Alexander, C. N. et al. (1989). Transcendental medication, mindfulness, and longevity: An experimental study with the elderly. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 57(6), 950-964.
- Fazel, M. K. & Young, D. M. (1988). Life quality of Tibetans and Hindus: A function of religion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 27(2), 229-242.
- Wachholtz, A. B. & Pargament, K. I. (2005). Is spirituality a critical ingredient of mediation? *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 28.
- Timio, M. et al. (1988). Age and blood pressure changes: A 20-year follow-up study of nuns in a secluded order. *Hypertension*, 12(4), 457-461.
- Vilchinsky, N. & Kravetz, S. (2005). How are religious belief and behavior good for you? An investigation of mediators relating religion to mental health in a sample of Israeli Jewish students. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 44, 459-471.
- Cline, K. M. C. & Ferraro, K. F. (2006). Does religion increase the prevalence and incidence of obesity in adulthood? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 45, 269-281.
- Ai, A. L. et al. (2000). The use of prayer by coronary artery bypass patients. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 10, 205-220.

9. Conversion

- Kose, A. & Loewenthal, K. M. (2002). Conversion motifs among British converts to Islam. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 10(2), 101-110.
- Paloutzian, Raymond-F; Richardson, James-T; Rambo, Lewis-R. (1999). Religious conversion and personality change. *Journal-of-Personality*, 67(6): 1047-1079.

10. "New" Religious Groups, "Cults", and marginalized religious groups

- Robbins, T. (2001). Combating 'cults' and 'brainwashing' in the United States and Western Europe: A comment on Richardson and Introvigne's report. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(2), 169-175.
- Richardson, J.T. & Introvigne, M. (2001). 'Brainwashing' theories in European parliamentary and administrative reports on 'cults' and 'sects'. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(2), 143-168.
- Kilbourne, B.K. & Richardson, J. T. (1986). The communalization of religious experience in contemporary religious groups. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 14, 206-212.
- Richardson, J. T. (1995). Clinical and personality assessment of participants in new religions. *International-Journal-for-the-Psychology-of-Religion*, 5(3): 145-170.
- Hutch, R. A. (1995). "Before I'd be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave, and go home to my lord and be free". *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 5(3), 171-176.
- Latkin, C. A. (1995). New directions in applying psychological theory to the study of new religions. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 5(3), 177-180.
- Richardson, J. T. (1995). Two steps forward, one back: Psychiatry, psychology, and the new religions. *International-Journal-for-the-Psychology-of-Religion*, 5(3): 181-185.
- Bartkowski, J. P. (1998). Claims-making and typifications of voodoo as a deviant religion: Hex, lies and videotape. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37(4), 559-579.
- Palmer, S. J. (1993). Women's "cocoon work" in new religious movements: Sexual experimentation and feminine rites of passage. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32(4), 343-355.
- Latkin, C. A. (1990). The self-concept of Rajneeshpuram commune members. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 29, 91-98.

11. Religiousness, Mental Health and Coping

a) Viewpoints and some findings

- Richardson, J. T. (1993). Religiosity as deviance: Negative religious bias in and misuse of the DSM-III. *Deviant-Behavior*, 14(1): 1-21.
- Bergin, A. E. (1991). Values and religious issues in psychotherapy and mental health. *American Psychologist*, 46(4), 394-403.
- Levin, J. S. & Taylor, R. J. (1998). Panel analyses of religious involvement and well-being in African Americans: contemporaneous vs. longitudinal effects. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37(4), 695-709.

- Ghorbani, N. (2002). Muslim-Christian religious orientation scales: Distinctions, correlations, and cross-cultural analysis in Iran and the U.S. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 12(2),69-91.
- Salsman, J. M. & Carlson, C. R. (2005). Religious orientation, mature faith, and psychological distress: Elements of positive and negative associations. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 44, 201-209

b) Religious Coping

- Pargament, K. I., Ishler, E., Dubow, P. et al. (1994). Methods of religious coping with the Gulf War. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 33(4), 347-361.
- Ferraro, K. F. & Kelley-Moore, J. A. (2001). Religious consolations among men and women: Do health problems spur seeking? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, , 220-234.
- Rogers, S. A. et al. (2002). Religious coping among those with persistent mental illness. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 12, 161-175.

c) Depression and other diagnoses

- Smith, T. B. et al. (2003). Religiousness and depression: Evidence for a main effect and the moderating influences of stressful life events. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 614-636.
- Murphy, P. E. et al. (2000). The relation of religious belief and practices, depression, and hopelessness in persons with clinical depression. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 68, 1102-1106.
- Yip, K-S. (2003). Traditional Chinese religious beliefs and superstitions in delusions and hallucinations of Chinese schizophrenic patients. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 49, 97-111.
- Eliassen, A. H. et al. (2005). Subjective religiosity and depression in the transition to adulthood. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 44, 187-199.
- Chen, Y. Y. (2005). Written emotional expression and religion: Effects on PTSD symptoms. *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine*, 35, 273-286.

10. Psychotherapy & Religiousness

- Bergin,-Allen-E. (1980). Psychotherapy and religious values. *Journal-of-Consulting-and-Clinical-Psychology*. 48(1): 95-105.
- Ellis, A. (1980) Psychotherapy and atheistic values: A response to A. E. Bergin's "Psychotherapy and religious values". *Journal-of-Consulting-and-Clinical-Psychology*, 48(5), 635-639.
- Bergin,-Allen-E. (1980). Religious and humanistic values: A reply to Ellis and Walls. *Journal-of-Consulting-and-Clinical-Psychology*, 48(5): 642-645.
- Bergin, A. E. (1991). Values and religious issues in psychotherapy and mental health. *American Psychologist*, 46(4), 394-403.

11. Religion and Moral Thinking

- Stark R. (2001). Gods, Rituals, and the Moral Order. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4), 619-636.
- Richards, P. S. & Davison, M.L. (1992). Religious bias in moral development research: A psychometric investigation. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 31(4), 467-485.
- Nucci, L. & Turiel, E. (1993). God's word, religious rules, and their relation to Christian and Jewish children's concepts of morality. *Child Development*, 64, 1475-1491.
- Ernsberger, D. J. & Manaster, G. J. (1981). Moral development, intrinsic/extrinsic religious orientation and denominational teachings. *Genetic Psychology Monographs*, 104, 23-41.

12. Religious Experience

a) Mystical, Religious and Paranormal Experience or beliefs

- Stifler, K. et al. (1993). An empirical investigation of the discriminability of reported mystical experiences among religious contemplatives, psychotic inpatients, and normal adults. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32, 366-372.
- Hood Jr. R.W.; Ghorbani N.; Watson P.J.; Ghramaleki A.F.; Bing M.N.; Davison H.K.; Morris R.J.; Williamson W.P. (2001). Dimensions of the Mysticism Scale: Confirming the Three-Factor Structure in the United States and Iran. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4), 691-705.
- Orenstein, A. (2002) Religion and paranormal belief. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 301-311.
- McKinnon, A. M. (2003). The religious, the paranormal, and church attendance: A response to Orenstein. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(2), 299-303.
- Hood, R. W. et al. (2000). Changing views of serpent handling: A quasi-experimental study. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 39(3), 287-296.
- Williamson, W. P. et al. (2000). A phenomenological analysis of anointing among religious serpent handlers. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 10(4), 221-240.
- Lange, R. et al. (2004). A Rasch scaling validation of a 'core' near-death experience. *British Journal of Psychology*, 95, 161-177.

b) Entheogens

- Griffiths, R. R. et al. (2008). Mystical-type experiences occasioned by psilocybin mediate the attribution of personal meaning and spiritual significance 14 months later. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 22(6), 621-632.
- Lerner, M. & Lyvers, M. (2006). Values of beliefs of psychedelic drug users: A cross-cultural study. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 38(2), 143-147.

- Barbosa, P.C.R. et al. (2009). A six-month prospective evaluation of personality traits, psychiatric symptoms and quality of life in Ayahuasca-naïve subjects. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 41(3), 205-212.
- Roberts, T. B. (1999). Do entheogen-induced mystical experiences boost the immune system? *Advances in mind-body medicine*, 15, 139-148.
- Halpern, J. H. et al. (2005). Psychological and cognitive effects of long-term peyote use among Native Americans. *Biological Psychiatry*, 58, 624-631.
- Havens, J. A. (1964). Working paper: Memo on the religious implications of consciousness-changing drugs (LSD, mescaline, psilocybin). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 3, 216-226.
- Griffiths, R. R. et al. (2006). Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experience having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance. *Psychopharmacology*, 187, 268-283.
- deWit, H. (2006). Towards a science of spiritual experience. *Psychopharmacology*, 187, 267.
- Kleber, H. D. (2006). Commentary on: Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experience having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance. *Psychopharmacology*, 187, 291-292.
- Nichols, D. E. (2006). Commentary on: Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experience having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance. *Psychopharmacology*, 187, 284-286.
- Snyder, S. H. (2006). Commentary on: Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experience having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance. *Psychopharmacology*, 187, 287-288.
- Doblin, R. (1991). Pahnke's 'Good Friday' experiment: A long-term follow-up and methodological critique. *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 23, 1-28.
- Leary, T. (1963). Religious implications of consciousness expanding drugs. *Religious Education*, 251-256.
- Leary, T. et al. (1963). Reactions to psilocybin administered in a supportive environment. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 137, 561-573.

c) Neuroscience of religious practices and experience

- Schjoedt, U. et al. (2009). Highly religious participants recruit areas of social cognition in personal prayer. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 4(2), 199-207.
- Beauregard, M. & Paquette, V. (2008). EEG activity in Carmelite nuns during a mystical experience. *Neuroscience Letters*, 444, 1-4.
- Lutz, A. et al. (2007). Meditation and the neuroscience of consciousness: An introduction. In: *The Cambridge Handbook of Consciousness*, pp. 499-551.
- Davidson, R.J. et al. (2003). Alterations in brain and immune function produced by mindfulness meditation *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 65, 564-570.

13. Forgiveness and vengeance

- McCullough, M. E. & Worthington, E. L. (1999). Religion and the forgiving personality. *Journal of Personality*, 67(6), 1141-1164.
- Coyle, C. T. & Enright, R. D. (1997). Forgiveness intervention with postabortion men. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 65(6), 1042-1046.
- Greer, T. et al. (2005). We are a religious people; we are a vengeful people. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 44, 45-57.
- Krause, N. & Ellison, C. G. (2003). Forgiveness by God, forgiveness of others, and psychological well-being in late life. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(1), 77-93.

14. Is religiousness or spirituality heritable?

- Koenig, L. et al. (2005). Genetic and environmental influences on religiousness: Findings for retrospective and current religiousness ratings. *Journal of Personality*, 73(2), 471-788.
- Kirk, K.M. et al. (1999). Self-transcendence as a measure of spirituality in a sample of older Australian twins. *Twin Research*, 2(2), 81-87.
- Koenig, L. et al. (2008). Stability and change in religiousness during emerging adulthood. *Developmental Psychology*, 44(2), 532-543.
- Winter, T. et al. (1999). Individual differences in adolescent religiosity in Finland: Familial effects are modified by sex and region of residence. *Twin Research*, 2(2), 108-114.

Assignments

1. Writing assignment #1 (in class). Write a brief answer to the question, "What is religion?" We will use this as a springboard for discussion.
2. Oral presentation assignment #1. Select a psychological measure of religiousness. Prepare a 10 minute class presentation that includes a handout of the verbatim questionnaire items with the scoring key and the journal reference. In your presentation briefly address some of the following issues: a) summarize the purpose and uses of the questionnaire (why was this questionnaire developed, with what religious groups can it be used, etc.), b) what assumptions about religion or religiousness seem to be behind the measure, c) does the questionnaire measure functional or substantive aspects of religion, or both, d) what is the face validity of the questionnaire (do the items seem to measure what they are intended to measure). Also, comment on something about the research paper describing the measure of the religiousness that you *did not* understand completely. This assignment will be done with a partner.
3. Writing assignment #2: Measurement of religiousness. Choose a measure of religiousness. It can be the same or different from what you presented in class. **Write a 50-word sentence** that states the purpose of the measure of religiousness, summarizes its strengths and weaknesses, and relates the strengths and weaknesses to issues such as reliability, face validity, predictive validity, construct validity, and the assumptions about religiousness that are implicit in the measure. Strategy tip: begin

by writing something longer, then cut down what you have written while maintaining the substance. Here is a link on the 50-word assignment:

http://mendota.english.wisc.edu/~WAC/page.jsp?id=143&c_type=category&c_id=14

4. Oral presentation assignment #2: Using an original research article, you will work with a partner on a team presentation of the article in class. The presentation should give us a) a good summary of the article, and b) an insightful commentary on it. (We will have 3 presentations on each of the topics.). Your team's presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes.

5. Writing assignment #3: For this assignment you will use a research article presented by someone other than yourself. Write a 2-3 page summary and critique that states the purpose of the research, summarizes the major findings, tells the reader the major limitations of or logical flaws in the conclusions, and how the limitations could be addressed.

5. (Graded Midterm) Writing assignment #5. Choose one of the following options and write a 5 page essay that analyzes the issue. A) Batson argues that conventionally religious people help others not really for the sake of doing the right thing, but for other reasons such as priding oneself in being good, following religious rules of conduct, etc. An alternative point of view is that because one function of religions is to promote prosocial actions, then the motivation of the actor doesn't matter, but the action does. Evaluate these viewpoints in the light of research findings and discuss how the two viewpoints help us to understand psychological aspects of religiousness. B) When, how and why can being religious lead to racial, ethnic, outgroup or other forms of prejudice? What are the key points of scientific dispute, and how could they be resolved with research? C) (option to be determined as we progress through the material) D) Propose your own essay topic for the midterm (in order to carry out this option, you must discuss your essay topic with me and receive my approval at least one week before the due date of the assignment).

6. Oral presentation assignment #3: We will discuss the remaining topics on the syllabus, and decide which to carry out. Some of the options may require readings that are not in the reading packet. A) Hold a structured debate on a whether or not psychology as a field is biased against religions. B) Is there such a thing as "good" and "bad" religion? Can psychological research help us decide what religions or religious practices are good for people, and what religions and religious practices might be bad for people? C) Do either so-called 'cults' or radical fundamentalist sects use untoward or coercive practices in recruiting members? To what extent can members of any religious group be considered to have lost their ability to make rational decisions because of either the social influence of the religious group or the nature of religious belief? D) When does the right to freedom of religion or belief conflict with public safety and well-being?

7. Writing assignment #5. (followup to oral presentation #3): A 50 word assignment on an article that you did not present in class (but that other students did present). Details of assignment to be given in class.

8. Oral presentation assignment #4. (Will depend on topics selected by the class.)

9. Writing assignment #6. (followup to oral presentation #4). A 50 word assignment on a topic that you did not present in class. Details of assignment to be given in class.

Term Paper Assignments

Because the term paper is a major part of your grade, I have designed a series of assignments to help you develop and refine your term paper progressively.

Term Paper Assignment #1. Submit your topic. Write at least a sentence or two about a topic on which you would like to write your paper. Some students have several ideas and are undecided about which one to pursue. It is fine to give a few different ideas. I will give you feedback that might help you find some direction.

Term Paper Assignment #2. Submit a paragraph on your term paper topic, and a bibliography of at least a few references. The paragraph should include a thesis statement describing the main theme of your paper. Of course, as you develop the paper it is possible that the thesis will evolve. Also, write a reflective paragraph that explains to me what barriers you have encountered in working on your topic, and how you feel about your progress. Where are you stuck or confused?

Term Paper Assignment #3. Submit a 2-3 page section of your term paper and a bibliography with more than you had for Assignment #2. The section can be: a) the introduction, describing the thesis and laying out the background for the rest of your paper, b) a summary and critique of an empirical research paper that will be incorporated in your term paper, c) a one page abstract or summary of your entire paper, plus an outline of the paper and an annotated bibliography (a bibliography with a bout two sentences summarizing each item in the list). As #2, write a reflective paragraph that tells me where you are encountering problems. At this point, I hope you are dealing with different problems such as how to discuss conflicting research findings, or how to best organize your paper to establish a logical progression of the ideas.

Term Paper Assignment #4. Draft and peer feedback. You will turn in a draft of your entire paper. Each student will provide feedback to another student on the term paper draft. I will give you further information on the peer feedback exercise later. My classes in the past have found it very helpful.

Final Paper Due: The final term paper is due on the scheduled date of the final exam in the Timetable. Term paper presentations will occur during the last 2 1/2 to 3 weeks of classes.

Approximate calendar: We will develop the exact course calendar as we proceed. This will allow us to spend more or less time on different topics depending on the interests of the class. Due dates will be announced in class and on the [Learn@UW](#) website.

Week 1-2 (Jan 19): What is religion? How and how well do psychological research projects measure aspects of religiousness?

Week 2-3 (Jan 26): Prejudice and religiousness

Week 4-5 (Feb 9): Compassion/helping/prosocial behavior and religiousness

Feb 11: Guest lecture on (probably on spirituality)

Week 6-7 (Feb 23): Abuse, Violence and Terrorism (Writing Assignment #3 due)

Week 8 (Mar 9) "Cults", "New" Religions and coercion ? (Midterm draft due; peer feedback on draft)

Week 9 (Mar 16) Neuroscience or religion and religious practices? (Term paper assignment #1 due)

Week 10 (Mar 23) Entheogens? (Term paper assignment #2 due)

Spring break

Week 11 (Apr 6) Topic TBD by class

Week 12 (Apr 13) Topic TBD by class (Term paper assignment #3 due)

Week 13-15 (Apr 20-Mar 4): Term paper presentations, including one day for term paper draft peer feedback.

Last day of classes: F Mar 7

Term paper is due on the scheduled date of the final exam