This course is designed to teach advanced undergraduate and graduate students tools and concepts with which to understand the social organization of religion. We will analyze religion as it is embedded in and related to other aspects of social and cultural systems. Analyzing religion in relation to non-religious systems provides opportunity to develop understanding of both the changes and continuities in the structure and role of religion in modern societies and the shifting boundaries of religious and non-religious activity. Our primary (but not exclusive) focus will be on contemporary North American religions.

REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and participation (20%);
A bi-weekly topical essay on the readings (more below) (30%);
Four quizzes on the readings and lectures (20%);
a 12-15 page term paper (30%)
   A two page description of your paper topic is due in class on March 20
   and counts for 10% of the paper grade.
   Enrolled graduate students will write a 12-15 page research proposal.

TOPICAL ESSAY
Topical essays are short (4-5 page) essays on the required readings' main themes. You will turn in an essay on each of the course topics (with the exception of "taking stock"). Essays are not summaries. You should demonstrate your knowledge of the text's arguments through one or more of the following: (a) comparing approaches and methods; (b) raising questions or critical comments; (c) discussing the relevance (or lack thereof) for designing a sociological study. The essays should exhibit cogent prose and be proofread carefully for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

TERM PAPER
Your term paper will provide the opportunity to delve into a topic addressed in the class or to research an area that is related to, but not directly touched on by, the course readings. A sociology of religion bibliography will be available for you to consult on line as you think about what topic to pursue for your paper. You should also consult the journals Sociology of Religion and Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. And of course, you should come talk to me as well about your paper topics - well before the 20
March topic submission due date.
Details on format will follow.
**TEXTS**
Books will be available for purchase at Labyrinth Books. A reader of required readings is available for purchase at CopyQuick (Amsterdam Avenue and 119th St.). Copies of the reader and the required books are on reserve at Butler Library.

Berger, *Sacred Canopy*
Brown, *The Channeling Zone*
Casanova, *Public Religions in the Modern World*
Davie *Women in the Presence*
Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*
Hall, ed. *Lived Religion in America*
Kertzer, *Ritual, Power, Politics*
Roy, *Some Trouble with Cows*
Weber, *Sociology of Religion*
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

**FINE PRINT**
No late work will be accepted under any circumstances.
 Essays may be emailed to me, as a Microsoft Word or equivalent attachment. Emailed essays must be sent to me before class.
You must complete each element of the course requirements to receive a passing grade. University rules on plagiarism apply in this course. Please see me if you have questions about how to cite materials in written work.
COURSE SCHEDULE

16 January
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

18 January, 23 January, 25 January, 30 January
1.2. CULTURE/ WORLDVIEW

Berger, *The Sacred Canopy* chapters 1-4 (pp. 3-101).
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
Suggested:
*Geertz, "Religion as a Cultural System" in *Interpretation of Cultures*.

1 February
3. PRODUCING THE SACRED: TAKING STOCK


6 February, 8 February, 13 February, 15 February
4. 5. AUTHORITY AND LEGITIMATION: SECULARIZATION

Berger, Peter *The Sacred Canopy* chs. 5-7
Casanova, Jose, *Public Religions in the Modern World*, chs. 1, 2, 6, 7.

20 February, 22 February, 25 February, 1 March
6.7. RITUALS AND PRACTICES

Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, selections
*Douglas, "Preface," "A Rule of Method," "The Two Bodies" in *Natural Symbols*

*Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties." *Comparative Studies in*
*Radway, Janice. "Interpretive Communities and Variable Literacies: The Functions of Romance Reading” pp. 465-486 in Rethinking Popular Culture

6 March, 8 March, 20 March, 22 March
8.9. Identity/Creating Religious Selves


Suggested:
Emirbayer and Mische, "What is Agency?" American Journal of Sociology. 

27 March, 29 March, 3 April, 5 April
10. 11. Organizations and Group Processes

*Finke and Stark "Religious Mobilization in America Cities, 1906" ASR 1988
*Kaufman, Jason. "The Political Economy of Inter-denominational Competition in Late Nineteenth Century America Cities" Journal of Urban History
*Cormode, Scott. "Churches and Secular Voluntary Associations in the Turn of the Century City" in Sacred Companies

Davie, Jody Shapiro. Women in the Presence
10 April, 12 April, 17 April, 19 April, 24 April

12. RELIGIOUS/POWER: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

Roy, Beth. Some Trouble with Cows. University of California.
Kertzer, Ritual, Power, Politics selections

*Bellah, Robert Habits of the Heart "Religion"
Ammerman, Nancy. "Golden Rule Christians" in Lived Religion in America
*Putnam, "Bowling Alone"
*Wuthnow, "Angel Awakenings" and "Spirituality of the Inner Self" in After Heaven

26 April

13. Review