**Sociology of Religion**

**SOCI 414**

**Mediasite**

**Dr. Starr**

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**Office**: JWLA 127F

**Office hours**: M-F 9-11am and other hours by appointment

**Phone**: 575-562-2301 (email is the fastest way to reach me)

**Turnaround times:**

**Email**: You can expect an answer to an email within 24 hours unless you email me over the weekend in which case you may not hear back until Monday.

**Grading work:** Work will usually be graded within 7 days of the deadline to turn work in.

**Required text:** *Religion in Sociological Perspective,7th edition by Keith A. Roberts and David Yamane. ISBN 978-1-4522-7582-6 ; required PDF readings supplied by instructor TBA.*

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**Technology requirements:** Canvas/Mediasite works best with the latest version of Firefox.

**New web system: Canvas instead of Blackboard:**

The university has provided us with a new learning management system called **Canvas**. You can access Canvas from the myENMU Portal or directly at the university’s [Canvas Login Page](https://enmu.instructure.com).

Canvas works with most computers, mobile devices, and browsers. You can check this webpage to see if your computer/device and browser are compatible: [What are the browser and computer requirements for Canvas? - Canvas Community (canvaslms.com)](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66). Mobile apps for Android and Apple devices can be downloaded at no cost from Google Play and the Apple App Store, respectively.

If you are new to using Canvas, here are a few tips:

* **Welcome Tour** - A welcome tour will pop up and show you the main features of the system. This is a great way to get started.
* **Passport to Canvas** - This self-paced student workshop will teach you everything you need to know about Canvas. Check your Dashboard or Courses menu to access the workshop.
* **Help Menu** - If you need help, click on the Help menu**.** You can:
  + Call or chat with **Canvas Support** 24/7
  + Search the **Canvas Guides** for step-by-step help
  + Open the **Student Guide** and scan by topic

**Course description:** Introduction to the basic perspectives with which sociologists analyze the relationship between religion and society. Explores the social processes at work in congregations and denominations, new religious movements, conversion/deconversion, religious identity, secularization, minority religions, inequalities and religion, and current trends.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

* Articulate the different definitions of magic and religion(s)
* Articulate the strengths and weaknesses of different sociological methods for studying religion
* Describe the complexity of religious systems using sociological theory
* Analyze religions using the concept of “social/cultural construction”.
* Describe religion across the life course
* Articulate the secularization debate and the complexities of the “rise of the nones”
* Articulate processes and trends in conversion, switching, and deconversion
* Describe trends in organized American religion, and in “lived religion” (extra-institutional)
* Describe how race, class, and gender intersect with religious identities and perspectives
* Articulate sources and dynamics of religious change, including “digital religion”

**Grading**:

Attendance = 50 points (for distance students this will be measured by Mediasite viewing)

Discussions - 8 @ 12.5 pts each = 100 points (200 words each for full credit; also respond to at least one other student)

Essays - 2 @ 50 points each = 100 points

Exams - 2 @ 100 points each = 200 points

Final research paper = 100 points

550 points total

A = 495 – 550 points

B = 440 – 494 points

C = 385 – 439 points

D = 330 – 384 points

F = 329 and below

**Attendance policy:** For in-class students, attendance counts, but I don’t want you to come to class if you have any cold, flu, or Covid symptoms – just email me if that happens and we will work something out. Outside of that, you start out with 50 points for attendance. You get 3 absences without penalty; on the occasion of the 4th (or more) absence, 3 points come off your total for each absence. Again, if something serious comes up, let me know and we’ll work something out. For distance studentsit works the same. I can tell in Canvas if you have watched the lectures by the end of the week, and if you haven’t, the same policy applies as it does to the in-class students.

**Course Schedule: Discussions, essays, and tests are due in Canvas the Sunday following the week assigned by 11:59pm Mountain Time. In-class students will also be using Canvas.**

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| **Date (week of)** |  |
| Week 1: Aug 17 | **Definitions: religion(s) and magic**  Reading: Ch 1 – Discussion 1 due Aug 22nd by 11:59 Mountain Time  Fill out Participation Agreement |
| Week 2: Aug 23 | **Tues-World Religions;**  **Thurs -Methods and Data for Studying Religion:**  Reading Ch 3 – Essay 1 due Aug 29th |
| Week 3: Aug 30 | **Social Theory and Religion**  Reading Ch 2 – Test 1 due Sept 5th |
| Week 4: Sept 6 | **Social and Cultural Construction of Religion**  Reading: PDF Ammerman –“SBNR”  Discussion 2 due Sept 12th  Contemporary paganism and social construction |
| Week 5: Sept 13 | **Becoming religious; religious identities**  Reading Ch 4 – Discussion 3 Sept 19th |
| Week 6: Sept 20 | **Conversion and switching**  Reading Ch 5 |
| Week 7: Sept 27 | **Organized religion; classifying religions and NRMs**  Reading Ch 6 – Midterm Exam (Test 2) due Oct 3rd |
| Week 8: Oct 4 | **Christian congregations, mega-churches, and new churches**  Reading Ch 7 |
| Week 9: Oct 11 | **Religion, Economics, and Social Class**  Reading Ch 8 – Discussion 4 due Oct 17th |
| Week 10: Oct 18 | **Religion and Race**  Reading: Ch 9 – Essay 2 due Oct 24th |
| Week 11: Oct 25 | **Religion, Gender, and Sexuality**  Reading Ch 10 and 11 – Discussion 5 due Oct 31st |
| Week 12: Nov 1 | **Religion Outside the (God) Box**  Reading: Ch 12 |
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| Week 13: Nov 8 | **The secularization debate and deconverison**  Reading: PDF “Deconversion” – Discussion 6 due Nov 14th |
| Week 14: Nov 15 | **Religion, media, and technology**  Reading: PDF TBD – Discussion 7 due Nov 21st |
| Week 15: Nov 22 | **Religion and Social Conflict/Stability**  Nov 22-24: Reading Ch 13  **Thanksgiving holiday Nov 25-27** |
| Week 16: Nov 29 | **Religion and Globalization**  Reading Ch 14 – Discussion 8 due Dec 5th |
| Finals week-  Paper due Dec 8 | **Final paper due WED DEC 8th by 11:59pm Mountain Time** |

\*Syllabus may be modified at any time by instructor. Such modifications would be announced in writing on the Canvas site, and by email.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. See the Student Handbook for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone. Plagiarism is a serious offense. When in doubt, please cite your sources! Please refer to the Catalog for information concerning plagiarism; action can include, but is not limited to failure of the assignment; failure of or a reduced grade for the course; suspension or dismissal from your program of study.

**Disability Statement**

If you have, or believe you have a disability, you may contact the Accessibility Resources and Testing Center to coordinate reasonable classroom accommodations, access to technology or other academic assistance. The Accessibility Resources and Testing Center serves students with a wide range of disabilities including but not limited to medical or health impairment, vision or hearing disability, physical disability, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, or mental health impairment. All information will be treated confidentially.

Accommodations are not retroactive. They begin only after:

• Appropriate documentation has been received and accepted by the Coordinator of Disability Services

• Letters of Accommodation (LOA) have been prepared

• You have delivered your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors

Appropriate academic accommodations may then be provided for you. You may contact Accessibility Resources and Testing Center in room 186 Student Academic Services building, phone 575.562.2280.

**FERPA and Privacy**

As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy at enmu.edu/FERPA.

In this course, we will be working with third party applications online (i.e. wikis, blogs and other Web 2.0 applications). The different proprietors of these sites may or may not have privacy guarantees and the FERPA policy at ENMU does not apply to these sites. It will be your responsibility to read the privacy documentation at each site. There are many other options to protecting your information at these sites. If you have filed the paperwork and are classified as protected under the ENMU FERPA qualifications, it will be acceptable for you to use an alias when using the Web 2.0 sites required for this course. If you still have concerns, please e-mail me as soon as possible to discuss your options.

**Copyright**

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are either linked to or are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

**Title IX**

ENMU is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment and we comply with all aspects related to Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and 34 C.F.R. Part 106. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct defined as harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Incidents of harassment or assault can be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at (575)562-2991 or titleix.coordinator@enmu.edu . Reports can also go to the ENMU Police Department by calling 575-562-2392. If you wish to receive fully confidential support and victim’s advocacy you can contact Arise Sexual Assault Services at (575)226-7263.

**Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on ENMU’s campus with the Title IX Coordinator and/or the ENMU Police. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Arise at (575)226-7263.