MidAmerica Nazarene University
Sociology 3903/
(Practical Theology 3903)
SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION
Spring 2009

Instructor:  Prof. Bo Cassell Mon./Wed./Fri. 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Division of Behavioral Sciences Metz 228
Office Location: Metz 204 Office Phone: 913-971-3613
email:  brcassell@mnu.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 9:00-10:30am; Wed. and Fri. 9:00-10:30am, 1:30-3:00pm. Tues. 10:30am- 12 Noon. Also by appointment (call or email).

TEXTBOOKS:
REQUIRED

In addition, ONE of the following three textbooks are required. The student will choose one for a book analysis paper:


RECOMMENDED

COURSE GOAL:
As an introduction and overview of the Sociology of Religion the overall course goals involve students learning:
- to value the importance of understanding the interplay of society & religion.
- to value the complexity of religious meanings and experience and to be tolerant of differences in social and religious perspectives while maintaining a firm grasp of personal values and beliefs.
COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course one should be able to:
1) Understand the impact of religion on society at large and how society can impact religious expressions.
2) Address the issues of changes in societal values and how this effects religion in America and other societies.
3) Articulate the societal and personal meanings that are attached to religious experience.
4) Discuss the social influence on religious structure and practice and how religious groups form.
5) Recognize the impact of religion on social change especially as it relates to intergroup relations, conflict, and cohesion.
6) Understand how issues like gender, and race/ethnicity affect the interface of society and religion.
7) Discuss and articulate the relationship and tension between Christianity and the surrounding culture.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:
Students should be able to apply their experience in this class to:
- critically evaluate their own religious heritage, belief and behavior in light of the historical and current interactional influence between religion and society.
- actively use their knowledge to deepen their religious/spiritual experience and become more interested in developing their value positions on issues important to society and religion.
- interact with other groups or individuals in manner that deepens understanding of truth as it relates to religion and society - using compassion and tolerance.
- pursue a career in the behavioral sciences or theological studies if so desired.
- integrate this knowledge with other academic and personal aspects of their life in order to form a balanced Christian worldview.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1) Sociology and Religion Research Project/Paper. This project/paper is for the purpose of applying and integrating the concepts and ideas learned in class to different examples of religious experience and the interaction between religious belief/practice, society and social relationships. Additionally, it is an opportunity for students to apply sociological research practices and investigate questions related to the sociological imagination. A list of suggested/example topics will be provided. Students should discuss their topic with the professor before beginning. The write up of this project/paper will be 2100-2700 words. They will be graded according to the following criteria.
- clarity and thoroughness of discussion.
- inclusion/integration/investigation of class ideas
2) **Alternative Religious Encounter Experience.** One visit to an alternative religion is to be completed by each student. In this experience the student will be responsible for engaging in a religious service/experience that is not in their own tradition.

- This experience should be an alternative Non-Christian religious experience. For example you could attend an Islamic, Jewish, or Buddhist service. You may need to travel out of Olathe to complete this assignment and I would suggest you call the desired mosque/synagogue/temple prior to going so you can ask questions that would aid your experience, i.e. appropriate dress, meeting times, etc.

(As a possible option, the student may choose an alternative Christian denomination, one that is very dissimilar to your own. For example if you attend a Nazarene Church, do not choose a Wesleyan service as your alternative. Try a Catholic, Episcopal or Pentecostal service.)

You may complete the experiential part of this assignment individually or in small (2-3) groups but you will each be responsible for turning in a unique individually written paper. We may discuss your experiences during the class period your paper is due, so come prepared to that class (see schedule) ready to talk about your experience. Your report of the experience should follow the format provided (posted to Blackboard). The write up of these experience will be 900-1500 words. Grading will be based on the thoroughness and clarity of your discussion, adherence to the described format, and proper use of grammar and APA style.

This Encounter write up report should include the following elements:

* Brief Summary of the experience (observations in various areas using an Observation Instrument provided by your professor, with categories and areas to investigate will be provided).

* Reflection on the experience. Describe how this visit was different from your normal religious experience, and what you thought and felt about it.

* Utilization of Sociology. Show that you are able to describe what you have encountered in the terms and principles of sociology that we have discussed in class and in readings.

3) **Christ and Culture Book Analysis.** Students will select one of the supplementary required texts and explore the concepts of Christ and Culture, by analyzing a their book in light of the approaches and concepts of Niebuhr’s work. Students may optionally read Niebuhr’s Christ and Culture, or may utilize internet resources (links will be posted to Blackboard) to thoroughly understand the concepts and approaches of Christ and Culture. This project is to be an integrative experience in which the student will analyze/discuss/critique the book they select in light of the concepts and ideas learned from their study of Christ and Culture. The paper should be 1200-1800 words. Grading will be based on similar criteria to other assignments and include:

- clarity and thoroughness of discussion.
- a clear summary and reaction to the selected book
- analysis/critique of the book in light of Christ and Culture concepts
  (questions to answer will be posted to Blackboard).
- grammar and use of ASA (or APA) style

4) **Exams.** Three exams will be given in addition to the final. These may include, but are not limited to short answer, matching, multiple choice, and essay questions. The focus of the exams will be to test the student’s knowledge and comprehension of textbook reading and in class lecture and discussion. See the *Course Schedule* for exam dates.

5) **Final Exam.** A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester.

6) **Participation** is an essential part of the learning experience in this class. You are expected to participate and contribute to the topics raised in class. Discussion of material and issues will be a major element in gaining understanding about the concepts of sociology and religion. Please remember that all comments and questions should be treated with respect. It will be helpful for you to read the assigned material and makes comments accordingly. Points will be given for participation, which may include student presentations on various topics. These points will be assigned to in-class assignments, a subjective evaluation of student interaction and participation in class, and will also be the first place attendance (missed class) deductions will be taken (see under Policies, attendance).

**Critical and constructive thinking** are the key elements that will be looked at in all papers and exams.

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociology &amp; Religion Research Project/Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ and Culture Book Analysis</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations (3 @ 100)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Religious Encounter</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale:**

- **A** 93-100%
- **A-** 90-92%
- **B+** 87-89%
- **B** 83-86%
- **B-** 80-82%
- **C+** 77-79%
- **C** 73-76%
- **C-** 70-72%
- **D+** 66-69%
Sociology of Religion Syllabus

D 63-65%
D- 60-62%
F Below 60%

POLICIES

Electronic Communication Between Faculty and Students
All electronic communication between faculty and students must be made using their mnu.edu account. Homework assignments and research papers must also be submitted through the MNU server.

Turning In Work
All work will be turned in electronically to Blackboard (http://bb.mnu.edu) unless otherwise noted. All work is due on the day it is due, before midnight, unless stated otherwise. Due date= Date given, time due= before 12:00 midnight that day. All papers should follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) Style Guide or the APA (American Psychological Association) Style unless otherwise noted. For more information, students can visit:
www.asanet.org/page.ww?name=Quick+Style+Guide&section=Sociology+Depts
www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.html
www.buffalostate.edu/library/docs/asa.pdf

ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN ALL OF PROFESSOR CASSELL’S CLASSES ARE TURNED IN TO BLACKBOARD, AND CHECKED THROUGH THE “TURN IT IN” (www.turnitin.com) or Blackboard’s “Safe Assign,” ACADEMIC INTEGRITY WEB SITE, unless stated otherwise. PAPER ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ANY OTHER WAY.

NOTE: Since all assignments (unless noted) are turned in electronically, and at times electronic servers cease to function or electronic transfers break down and occasionally do not go through properly, it is important for the student to KEEP A COPY OF ALL WORK TURNED IN. Also, keep a copy of any posting receipt that you receive from Blackboard. IT IS THE STUDENT’S REPSONSIBILITY TO PROVE THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE WORK, AND THAT THE WORK WAS TURNED IN, and turned in on time.

Late Work
Work turned in late will be penalized by 5% off the total per day. A day is a 24 hour period from the time it is due. Work turned in one minute after it is due loses 5%. For example, say you have an assignment due Monday at 12:00 midnight, and it is an “A” quality paper, (that would normally receive 93%). If you turn it in at 11:59 p.m., you receive an “A.” If you turn this paper in at 12:01 a.m., you will receive an “B+” (5% off the total, or in this case, 88%). Another 24 hours later, it drops another 5%. See the table below for a sample explanation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Due on Monday at 12:00 midnight is turned in...</th>
<th>Percentage of Points Deducted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to Monday, 11:59 pm</td>
<td>0% deducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>5% deducted (one 24 hour period—one day late)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>10% deducted (two days late)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>15% deducted (three days late)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>20% deducted (four days late)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>25% deducted (five days late)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>30% deducted (six days late)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 12:01 am to 11:59 pm</td>
<td>35% deducted (seven days late)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After Monday 12:00 midnight, one week late 40% deducted (After 7 full days—automatic F)

(Note also that this policy allows for hard working students to take “an extra day” and still get an “A”. If you are working on your assignment and could use more time, but could make it outstanding, you could turn it in later on the day it is due, and if it warrants 100%, you would receive 95%, an A.)

Make Up Work/Make Up Exams
Make up work is allowed only under a dire, life and death excuse. Any non-emergency late work will be treated according to the late work policy, above—exams are never accepted late without prior permission from the professor, or in emergency cases as accounted for in this paragraph. Student MUST provide written verification of the emergency reason for missing an assignment/exam. Written verification must be provided on an official form or business letterhead with an address or phone number for follow up verification. For example, if the student is in a car accident on the way to the exam, the professor will need to see the police report. If the car breaks down on the way to the exam, the professor will need to see the repair receipt. If sick, the professor will need to see a note from the resident educator on university letterhead. In other words, you will need a verifiable emergency reason to make up an exam or assignment.

Unique Circumstances
Students traveling to represent the school at school sanctioned events (away sporting events, debate teams, out of town class trips or presentations, etc.) should plan ahead and turn assignments in early. Students on school sanctioned trips longer than 3 days will be given one extra day without penalty—when their travel falls on an assignment due date. Allowance will be given for attendance during these trips, but students may be required to do special “away trip assignments” to make up for the attendance points lost. The instructor must be notified in writing ahead of time for these allowances to take effect.

Students facing a family emergency—on the level that an employer would excuse you from work (i.e. death, life threatening illness, etc.) will be given three extra days without penalty when these happen during a due date only. The student must communicate to the instructor, and “emergency” must be verified and approved by the instructor for this to take effect. (See above policy on make up work/make up exams).

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DAY OF THE CLASS FINAL. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Attendance/Late Arrival/Class Disruption
The basic policy of MNU is that there are no excused absences. Consistent attendance is essential for success in the course. In this class, Students will lose 1% of their final grade for each absence. However, you have three “free” absences. In other words, if you miss three class periods, nothing is deducted. Upon the fourth absence, 40 points (4%) will be taken off your final grade (approximately one grade step—i.e. A- to B+). For every additional absence, 10 additional points (1%) will be deducted. Students more than 7 minutes late for a given class period without a reasonable excuse will be counted as absent for that class period (the instructor’s watch will be used as the time reference). YOUR THREE FREE ABSENCES ARE FOR ANY AND ALL REASONS. Use them wisely. If you use them up, and then get sick, or have an emergency later, all absences will be counted.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students that are a distraction to other students or to the instructor may be asked to stop their behavior, and/or leave the classroom—AND MAY LOSE GRADE POINTS FROM THEIR FINAL GRADE (from attendance/participation). Disruptive behavior includes,
but is not limited to: inappropriate talking in class, text messaging/cell phone use, distracting laptop use or laptop use “wasting time” on uses not related to class. For classes with Participation point, these behaviors can result in a loss of participation points even if they are not disruptive to others.

Special Accommodations
Students needing special accommodations should notify the professor and visit the Kresge Center (in the library) during the first two weeks of the course. (Note that the Kresge Center is not just for students with particular needs. There is tutoring available for any student.)

Academic Integrity
All work is expected to be the student’s own. No credit will be given for assignments or exams that have been plagiarized. Cheating and other dishonest behavior will result in an F for the assignment and will be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Students who don’t know what plagiarism is, or who don’t understand the serious nature of it should visit:
http://www.plagiarism.org
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html

Students may also find this helpful for creating proper citations:
www.chicagomanualofstyle.org
www.easybib.com
www.noodletools.com
## Sociology of Religion Syllabus

### COURSE SCHEDULE
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS CLASS NEEDS DICTATE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Intro to Sociology of Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14, 16</td>
<td>Foundations/ Definitions</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21, 23</td>
<td>Scientific Perspective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26, 28</td>
<td>Religion and Society: Macro Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Continued…</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2, 4, 6</td>
<td>Religious Experience, Symbols, Worldviews</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9, 11, 13</td>
<td>Official/Non-Official Religion; Folk Religion; Alternative Religious Encounter Due Feb. 9</td>
<td>4, (15) Supplementary lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td>1-4, Lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18, 20</td>
<td>Conversion and Commitment</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23, 25, 27</td>
<td>Emergence Movements, Charisma and Routinization</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2, 4, 6</td>
<td>Groups Survival and Organizational Evolution</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
<td>5-8, Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 11, 13</td>
<td>Religion and Stratification</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 16, 18, 20</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>Stratification and Ideology</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>Christianity and Racism</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>ANSR CONFERENCE—NO CLASS Extra Credit Possibility</td>
<td>See Prof. for Extra Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 30</td>
<td>Christianity and Racism, Continued</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 1, 3</td>
<td>Christianity, Gender, and Sexism</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 6, 8</td>
<td>Discussion of <em>Christ and Culture</em></td>
<td>Internet resources; Supplementary book reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 10, 13</td>
<td>EASTER BREAK—NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>EXAM 3</td>
<td>9-12, Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 17, 20</td>
<td>Secularization</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 22, 24</td>
<td>Marketing of Religion</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>Christ and Culture Analysis Due Apr. 21</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td>Religion and Globalization</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL EXAM - 10:00am</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alignment of Mission, Objectives, and Outcomes
MidAmerica Nazarene University

Term: Spring 2009   Class: Sociology of Religion
Dept #: SOCI 3903   CRN: 50065
Professor: Bo Cassell

Means of Christ & Culture Analysis Paper

University Mission Statement:
The University provides a wide variety of intellectual, social, and religious activities that serve a developmental function in students. The ultimate goal is to develop broadly educated individuals with specific skill and career knowledge related to a potential field of work.

Related Division Mission:
The Division of Behavioral Sciences educates and develops students to be competent in academic disciplines focused on understanding human behavior, mental processes, social functioning and the institutional structures of society.

Course Objectives:
Students are capable of discussing their discipline from a Christian faith perspective; and students are able to clearly articulate relevant points of engagement between their faith and learning.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome or State Standards:
Students can articulate a clear Christian response to the coercive power of society, the nature of social change and the problem of discrimination in its various forms.

Means of Assessment:

Christ & Culture Analysis Paper
Alignment of Mission, Objectives, and Outcomes
MidAmerica Nazarene University

Term: Spring 2009  Class: Sociology of Religion
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Means of Sociology of Religion Unit Exam 3

University Mission Statement:
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Means of Assessment:
Sociology of Religion Unit Exam 3