

# SOCI420

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

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## Course Summary

**Course :** SOCI420 **Title :** Sociology of Religion

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

**Course Description:** This course will guide students through a critical and sociological exploration of religion. It will provide them with an opportunity to think about religious experience and religious organizations as a part of a larger social order. It will introduce basic concepts in the sociology of religion. This process involves analyzing the interrelationship of culture, society, and religion; religion and social stratification; religious, economic, and political institutions; social change and religion. There will be a general emphasis on American society and institutions, with global and historical contexts integrated throughout the course. The course is designed with a focus on reading, discussion, field observation and critical writing.

### Course Scope:

The student will develop an ability to use sociological concepts, theory, and research to think critically about religion. The sociological perspective will be used to study religion as an institution, religious groups as organizations, and group members as social actors. Comparative analyses will focus on how social organization, social change, social interaction and the broader social order are useful for understanding, explaining and studying major world religions and new religious movements. Material will include a textbook, peer-reviewed, empirical research sources.

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## Objectives

### Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CO1: Define the term "religion"

CO2: Describe key terms and principles in the sociology of religion

CO3: Distinguish among the major classical and contemporary theoretical approaches developed and used by sociologists to study religion

CO4: Analyze religion from macro and micro perspectives using a variety of theoretical approaches

CO5: Relate religion to other key social institutions including exogenous influences

CO6: Examine social change in the religious landscape through secularization, pluralism, and continuing waves of conservatism and fundamentalism.

CO7: Compare and contrast most major world religions based on sociological dimensions and principles, separating discussion from claims of truth, validity or ethnocentric ideals

CO8: Describe the dialectical relationship between the individual, society and religion

CO9: Investigate the intersection of social stratification, key socio-demographic characteristics and religion

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## Outline

### **Week 1: Defining religion; scientific study of religion**

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Course Objective(s)

1, 2, 3

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 1-2

Assignment(s)

Introduction Forum

Week 1 Forum

Week 1 Quiz

### **Week 2: Macro-perspectives; cultural construction of religion**

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Course Objective(s)

2, 3, 4, 5

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 3-4

Vandenberghe (2010) article

Assignment(s)

Week 2 Forum

Week 2 Quiz

Assignment 1

### **Week 3: Religion in individual lives**

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Course Objective(s)

4, 5, 6, 7

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 5-6

Assignment(s)

Week 3 Forum

Week 3 Quiz

### **Week 4: Religious organizations**

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Course Objective(s)

4, 5, 6, 7

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 7-8

Schnable (2014) article

Assignment(s)

Week 4 Forum

Week 4 Quiz

Assignment 2

### **Week 5: Religion and inequality**

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Course Objective(s)

4, 5, 7, 8

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 9, 12

Assignment(s)

Week 5 Forum

Week 5 Quiz

### **Week 6: Religion, race, and sex**

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Course Objective(s)

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 10-11

Neitz (2014) article

Lummis & Nesbitt (2010) article

Assignment(s)

Week 6 Forum

Week 6 Quiz

## **Week 7: Secularization, media, religious movements**

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Course Objective(s)

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 13-14

Cadge & Konieczny (2014) article

Assignment(s)

Week 7 Forum

Week 7 Quiz

Assignment 3

## **Week 8: Globalization of religion**

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Course Objective(s)

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Reading(s)

Roberts & Yamane, Chapters 15

Marti (2014) article

Sherkat & Ellison (1999) article

Assignment(s)

Week 8 Forum

Week 8 Quiz

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## **Evaluation**

### **Quizzes:**

This course includes Quizzes, located under the Tests & Quizzes tab in the classroom. Quizzes are designed to facilitate engagement with the course textbook.

### **Forums:**

Participation in classroom dialogue on threaded Forums is required. Forums are scheduled weekly and found in the Forums tab in the classroom. Initial Forum posts are due Thursdays, peer responses are due Sundays. Specific instructions and the grading rubric are located on each Forum.

### **Assignments:**

This course includes Assignments. Instructions and specific grading rubrics are found under the Assignments tab in our classroom.

## Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	35.00 %
Intro Forum	0.88 %
Week 1 Forum	3.50 %
Week 2 Forum	4.38 %
Week 3 Forum	4.38 %
Week 4 Forum	4.38 %
Week 5 Forum	4.38 %
Week 6 Forum	4.38 %
Week 7 Forum	4.38 %
Week 8 Forum	4.38 %
Quizzes	25.00 %
Week 1 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 2 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 3 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 4 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 5 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 6 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 7 Quiz	3.13 %
Week 8 Quiz	3.13 %
Assignment 3	20.00 %
Assignment 3: Final Project	20.00 %
Assignments 1 & 2	20.00 %
Assignment 1: Measuring Religious Behavior	10.00 %
Assignment 2: Field Observation	10.00 %

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## Materials

**Book Title:** Religion in Sociological Perspective, 6th ed.- The VitalSource e-book is provided via the APUS Bookstore

**Author:** Roberts, Keith A. / Yamane, David

**Publication Info:** Sage

**ISBN:** 9781452275826

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**Book Title:** You must validate your cart to get access to your VitalSource e-book(s). If needed, instructions are available here - <http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore/undergraduate>

**Author:** N/A

**Publication Info:** N/A

**ISBN:** N/A

**APA formatted reference for text:**

In this course we are using an electronic textbook through VitalSource Visual Bookshelf. **Students are responsible for accessing their textbook during Week 1.** Prior to the beginning of the course all students received VitalSource login credentials from EdMap. This information was sent to the student's email address of record. If you have trouble accessing your textbook, contact the Book Office at [ecm@apus.edu](mailto:ecm@apus.edu) or contact EdMap directly at [APUS\\_Customer\\_Service@edmap.com](mailto:APUS_Customer_Service@edmap.com) or call toll-free at 800-274-9104. You may also use the campus guide set up in the library for the new bookstore that might give you a run down on EdMap and VitalSource <http://apus.campusguides.com/bookstore>.

In addition, this course has required articles set up through an e-Reserve in the Library. Here is the direct link: [http://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course\\_id=15798](http://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=15798)

Cadge, W., & Konieczny, M.E. (2014). "Hidden in plain sight": The significance of religion and spirituality in secular organizations. *Sociology of religion* 551-563.

Lummis, A.T., & Nesbitt, P.D. (2000). Women clergy research and the sociology of religion. *Sociology of Religion* 61 (4): 443-453.

Neitz, M.J. (2014). Becoming visible: Religion and gender in sociology. *Sociology of Religion* 75 (4): 511-523.

Marti, G. (2014). Present and future scholarship in the sociology of religion. *Sociology of Religion* 75 (4): 503-510.

Schnable, A. (2015). Religion and giving for international aid: Evidence from a survey of U.S. church members. *Sociology of religion* 76 (1): 72-94.

Sherkat, D.E., & Ellison, C.G. (1999), Recent developments and current controversies in the sociology of religion. *Annual Review of Sociology* 25(1): 855-872.

Vandenberghe, F. (2010). Immanent transcendence in Georg Simmels' sociology of religion. *Journal of classical sociology* 10 (10): 5-32.

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## Course Guidelines

### Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on Forums in the School of Arts & Humanities,

### Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

### Late Assignments

#### School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an

acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

## Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

## Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

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