

Wilberforce University
Division Course Syllabus

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| Course: SOC 250-RELIGION & SOCIETY | |
| Term: SPRING 2012 | |
| Instructor: Rev. (Dr.) Daniel Iselaiye | Name: Daniel A. Iselaiye Email Address: diselaiy@wilberforce.edu Phone Number: (937) 708-5672 |
| Catalog Description: Spring – 3 hrs. This course deals with the interrelations between the institution of religion, its expression and impact, and society. The role of religion in society and its functions will also be included. | Prerequisites: SOC 135 |
| Required Textbook Religion in Western Society (Sociology for a changing World), by Stephen J. Hunt. Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan (March, 2002) | Recommended: Read at least one book in addition to your textbook for this class. Keep a reading log (date read, number of pages, topics/themes, author(s), time read, and etc. |
| Course Level Learning Outcomes: As a result of the successful completion of this course, the student will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Know the factors involved in the trend and development of religion in society2. Define major theories in relation to society and the development of religion. In other words, the student should be able to describe the relation between religion and society.3. Be able to collect data from the field and relate them to concepts or theories learned in the classroom. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Be able to engage in rational discourse (a critical thinking approach) combining theory with concrete evidence as it relates to the role of religion in society.5. Be able to explain the social and religious bases for his/her own actions in the society.6. Be able to acknowledge or tolerate the existence of different religious perspectives that exist within a plural society. |
| Criteria for Assessment <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Class Attendance (20 points):</u> This is determined by the number of times a student attends and remains in class to the end of each session).2. <u>Class Participation (20 points):</u> Authentic presence is demanded, that is, you are | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Presentation of a two-page paper, showing the role religion plays in the society. The paper itself attracts 10 points and its verbal presentation before the class attracts 10 points. That is to say that you should be able to explain verbally what you have written without your reading it directly to |

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| <p>required to contribute actively to the teaching-learning process. This is achieved through comments, questions asked, presentation of projects, answering questions, and storytelling or weaving.</p> <p>Grading: A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60%</p> | <p>the class.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Quizzes: 40 points 5. Midterm Examination: 50 points 6. Final Examination: 50 points |
| <p>Explanation of Grades A student's proficiency in course work is measured in terms of the following alphabetical symbols. Minuses and pluses are not accepted.</p> <p>A: Excellent B: Good C: Satisfactory D: Poor (passing, except in major courses) F: Failure: Earned Failure is removed only by repeating the course. Upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is "excluded" from grade point average. The second grade is "included" in the recalculation of the grade point average.</p> <p>I: Incomplete Student performing satisfactorily, but unable to complete coursework due to valid reason).</p> | <p>N: Used in cases where grades are not yet submitted. W: Withdrew before course drop deadline. WP: Student withdraws from University. Withdrew passing after course drop deadline (2 weeks after mid-term). WF: Student withdraws from University. Withdrew failing after course drop deadline (2 weeks after mid-term). WF is treated as An F (punitive grade). CR: Credit/pass NC: No credit/fail Z: Failed course For non-attendance/unofficial withdrawal (treated) the same as an F grade). Last date of attendance is reported by faculty.</p> |

| UNIVERSITY POLICIES | |
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| <p>Academic Honesty Plagiarism and cheating are completely unacceptable in an institution of higher education and learning. Such behavior deprives the student involved of the desired education and development of an appropriate value system. It is extremely unfair to other students, and it severely diminishes the value and integrity of a University degree.</p> <p>Plagiarism occurs whenever another's work is submitted as one's own. This includes the use of information from an Internet site or from a</p> | <p>Each instructor shall state the specific penalties for plagiarism and cheating in the course syllabus. The instructor has final responsibility for assessing the penalty in such cases regarding the course grade.</p> <p>All cases of plagiarism and cheating will be referred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for possible further action. Additional penalties may be imposed for the egregious cases of plagiarism and cheating.</p> |

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| <p>published author's ideas and words without proper attribution or documentation. It also includes the copying of term papers, other unpublished works, homework, case reports, computer programs and spreadsheets, and any other course assignments which are submitted for course credit as the student's own effort.</p> | |
| <p><u>Drops and Withdrawals</u> Dropping Courses: A course may be dropped up through the end of the second week of the semester without any record on the transcript. After this date, a course may be dropped up to two weeks after mid-term grade reports are due, with a W appearing on the transcript. Withdrawals after mid-term must be approved by the Vice president of Academic Affairs.</p> <p>In certain General Studies core courses, students' assignments to course sections may be changed by faculty with written notification given to the registrar. In all other cases, a student wishing to move from one section of a course to another must accomplish this by using a drop-add form to drop the old section and add the new section.</p> <p><u>Withdrawal/Grading Policies</u> The following procedures will apply to all students withdrawing from the University. Grades will be given in regard to the time of withdrawal. Contact the Registrar's Office for forms and assistance.</p> <p>. W (official withdrawal initiated by the student):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To be given when a student withdraws between the first day of class/registration and the last day to drop courses, this is two weeks after mid-term exams.</p> | <p>. AW (unofficial withdrawal not initiated by the student):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The student does not inform anyone that he/she is leaving campus (the student walks out). The university may also administratively withdraw a student for disciplinary reasons, academic or legal anytime during the semester.</p> <p>Special Accommodations: A student who is ill or who has developed medical conditions including but not limited to illness, physical or other disability or pregnancy must notify the Director of Health</p> <p>Classroom Contact Hours: The class meets for the full-time stated on schedule. Classes cannot be shortened or cancelled without prior permission. Cancelled classes must be rescheduled.</p> <p>Classroom Conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Students will be penalized for using cell phones during class sessions. All phones should be switched off during this time. B. Computers and laptops should not be turned on or used during class session. Bring only your textbooks, notes, and pens and get ready to interact with your teacher and with other students in the class, and not without electronic gadgets. C. The use of obscene language is prohibited. D. Points are given for prompt class attendance and lateness to class attracts no point. E. Absenteeism is not condoned. The professor determines how it reduces the quality of your grade. See the university's policies on class attendance. |

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

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| <p>Week 1 Religion in the West – A Sociological Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Continuing relevance of the Sociology of religion B. What is Religion C. The problem of objectivity D. Summary and overview | <p>Week 8 Sectarianism & Fundamentalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Sectarianism – early typologies B. Sect transformation C. Sectarianism – variations on a theme D. Sects and deprivation E. Sectarian Organizations F. The new Christian Right and political activism. G. Summary <p>NOTE: Submit Your 2 Page Paper ***** Date: March 16, 2012*****</p> |
| <p>Week 2 Secularization and the Decline of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Secularization: Myth or ideology B. Religious pluralism C. Evidence of religious decline D. Religious transformation | <p>Week 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Cults and the New Religiosity B. Cults: typologies C. New religious movements D. The New Age Movements E. Summary F. Presentations * |
| <p>Week 3 The Resurgence of Religion?</p> <p>Rational-choice and consumer religion Criticizing the rational choice model Post-modernity and religion The resurgence of religion? Summary</p> | <p>Week 10 The New Religions – Issues and Controversies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Who joins the new religions? B. Women and the new religions C. Dangerous cults D. Cults and religious liberty E. Summary F. Presentations* |
| <p>Week 4 Western Religion in the Global Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Globalization defined B. Religious and economic hegemony C. McDonalidization and glocalization D. The global consequences of fundamentalism | <p>Week 11 The Religions of Ethnic Minorities in the West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Perceptions of ethnic religion B. Religion and ethnic communities C. Assimilation or pluralism? D. Aspects of adaptation and cultural resistance E. Summary F. Presentations* |
| <p>Week 5 Religion – Change and Stability in Western Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consensus approaches revisited B. Civil religion C. Religion and social change D. Religion and the new voluntarism and identity conversion | <p>Week 12 Popular Forms of Religiosity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. “Fringe” religions B. Occultist practices C. Quasi-religion – problems of definition D. The functions of quasi-religions E. Presentations* |
| <p>Week 6 Belief, Practice and Belonging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Religion and the stages of life | <p>Week 13 Questions and Answers:</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. The life cycle and rites of passage C. Disengagement from religious organizations | <p style="text-align: center;">- The role of religion in nation building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A. Verbal Presentations of a 2 page paper</p> |
| <p>Week 7</p> <p>Challenges to Western Christianity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Post-Christianity B. Christian Churches – institutional decline C. Liberalization D. The Conservative Response E. The market model and the churches F. Summary | <p>Week 14</p> <p>Reflections: The Goal of Religion</p> <p>Evaluations</p> <p>Final Examination</p> |
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