SYO 3200 | Sociology of Religion

Course Information

- **Course Hours:** Online Only (see below for first-day attendance requirement)
- **Course Meeting Location:** Online Only
- **Credit Hours:** 3 hours
- **Prerequisites:** None

Course Description

*Sociology of Religion* begins from a discussion of personal religious experience, but immediately distinguishes between any such personal experiences and organized religion as a social phenomenon. The course explores socialization into religions for children as well as the conversion process for adults, and alternative forms of organizational structure for religious groups. Readings and quizzes connect religious group identity and structure to issues of gender, ethnicity and social class, and then consider competition and even conflict between different religious groups as well as the tension between religion as a social institution and secularization trends in contemporary societies.

Course Instructor

Elwood Carlson
Charles Nam Professor in Sociology of Population
eecarlson@fsu.edu
Department of Sociology
Weekdays 8-9:00 AM and by appointment
Emails will be responded to within 24 to 48 hours; always use Canvas "INBOX" feature.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students will demonstrate through online quiz responses that they understand the distinction between individual religious sentiments and religion as a group phenomenon, parallels between social structure and religious beliefs, variations in religious socialization and religious group dynamics, connections between religion and other social institutions, and contemporary perspectives on secularization and religiosity in tension.

Course Materials

There are no textbooks or other materials to purchase for this course. All readings and assignments are available online through this Canvas site; see introductory video lecture to each reading for a link to the article.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignment by due dates. **Late assignments will incur substantial penalties that will have a serious impact on your course grade.**
- Assignments, quizzes, and exams are expected to be products of individual students as per the [FSU Academic Honor Policy](Links to an external site.). Students should not
discuss any of the questions with each other before or during the actual assignments, activities, quizzes, or exams without instructor approval.

- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.

**Grading Policy**

**Ninety percent (90%)** of the course grade is based on your responses to on-line quizzes about each assigned reading. The introductory quiz for each reading (based on your initial reading of the article using the study questions provided) is worth three points. The other three quizzes based on portions of the video lectures are each worth two points, for a total of nine points from each reading. The quizzes on readings in each CANVAS Module have DUE DATES AND TIMES clearly marked wherever they appear in the CANVAS course site—pay close attention to these due dates! If you complete the quiz before the expiration of the due date and time, you will receive full marks for the quiz. If the quiz is completed late (after the due date and time) a one-point penalty per quiz will be subtracted from your earned score on each quiz. If the quiz is completed more than one week after the due date and time, a two-point penalty will be subtracted from your earned score (making a two-point quiz automatically worth ZERO points). If the quiz is completed more than two weeks after the due date and time, a three-point penalty will be subtracted from your earned score (making a three-point quiz automatically worth ZERO points). No quiz will ever earn less than zero points—no negative scores are possible. **(If all four quizzes for a reading are late by even one minute, you will lose four out of nine possible points for that set of quizzes!)**

A cumulative final examination must be taken on-line during the Final Exam week. This final exam counts for ten percent (10%) of the course grade.

**Grading Scheme**

Points appear in the CANVAS Gradebook feature as they are earned. Students may estimate their grades by consulting this record.

- Divide your points on all quizzes by the total possible quiz points; multiply this proportion correct by 0.90.
- Add together your points on the final exam and extra points for completing the on-line course evaluation.
- Divide your combined final exam and extra credit points by the total possible final exam points; multiply this proportion by 0.10.
- *(NOTE that this final exam value may exceed 0.10, which can help your grade!)*

When you add together the results of the three calculations above, you will have your weighted percentage score for the course. There are no "plus" or "minus" grades in this course. The "plus" grade range has been merged into the next-higher letter grade. Grades are assigned to these weighted percentages, rounded off to the nearest percentage, as follows:

- **A = 90% to 100%**
- **B = 80% to 89%**
- **C = 70% to 79%**
- **D = 60% to 69%**
- **F < 60%.**
Technology Requirements
Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to access files containing assigned readings, view video lectures, and take online quizzes. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the FSU Canvas support site (Links to an external site.).

Canvas Support
Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:
Email: help@campus.fsu.edu
Phone: (850) 644-8004
Website: distance.fsu.edu/canvas (Links to an external site.)
Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday

University Policies
Distance Learning Attendance Policy
Since there is no classroom attendance for this course, there are no absences, excused or otherwise. However, certain events and conditions may interfere with your ability to complete these assignments in a timely manner. If you represent the University at official events such as athletic competitions, or if you experience documented illness of yourself or dependent children, deaths in the family or other documented crises, a call to active military duty or jury duty, or religious work-restricted holy days, this may affect your schedule of work for the course. It is your responsibility to work slightly ahead of the schedule of syllabus-weeks in case of such disturbances, to insure that you are keeping up with weekly quizzes described in the CANVAS Modules for each week. In case of unforeseen events and conditions recognized by the university as excused absences, you should contact the Instructor immediately. If you are unable to complete the work for the semester by the end of classes and if you have documentation of excuses noted above, you may submit these excuses in order to request an Incomplete grade in the course. This request will be reviewed by the Instructor, and may be accepted, in which case you will receive a grade of I for Incomplete. Your request may be rejected if your circumstances do not match those allowed by the university for such a grade. All excuses and requests for Incomplete grades must be resolved before the end of regular class sessions during the semester. No excused absences can be resolved following the last day of class. Note that students must be passing the course at the time they request any incomplete grade. See university regulations for the time you will have to make up the incomplete if a grade of I is awarded for such excuses.

Academic Honor Policy
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (For more details see the FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations (Links to an external site.).) It is a violation of the FSU Academic Honor Policy to post, transmit, receive or otherwise share any information about online quizzes for this course, either by direct in-person contacts with other students or by sending or receiving such information via any written, oral or online communications. Such
extracurricular cheating is actively monitored and will result in a reported Honor violation on your academic record, along with other consequences that follow from such a violation.

**Americans With Disabilities Act**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

**Student Disability Resource Center**

(Links to an external site.) 874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
Email: sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

**Free Tutoring from FSU**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ (Links to an external site.) comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - email: tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."
**Course Summary**

**Module 1: Personal Religious Experiences**

**Module 2: Religion as a Social Institution**

**Module 3: Growing Up Religious**

**Module 4: Conversion and Cults**

**Module 5: Church, Sect, Denomination**

**Module 6: Competition in the Religious Marketplace**
Module 7: Gender and Religiosity

Module 8: Gender and Religious Leadership

Module 9: Religiosity over the Life Course

Module 10: Religion and Ethnic Identity

Module 11: Religion and Social Class
Module 12: Secularization

Module 13: Politics and Civil Religion

Module 14: Religious Conflict

Module 15: Extra Credit and Final Examination