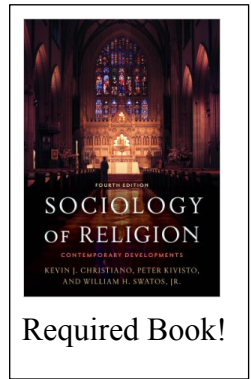


Sociology of Religion
Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences
SOCI 3700 700 / **SPRING 2026** Online

Emery Kennedy / TA Angela



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Emery Kennedy, Graduate Student and Teaching Fellow
Office Location: **Sycamore 288V**
Soc Office Phone: 940-565-2296
Office Hours: **If you need to meet with Professor Kennedy, reach out to her to make a Zoom meeting date at a mutually agreeable time.**
Instructor Email: **emery.kennedy@unt.edu**
Communication: Please communicate with Instructor Kennedy using the Inbox in Canvas. If you email her using the UNT email address, she will kindly request that you communicate in Canvas and will respond there. Please allow 24-hours for a response in Canvas. She does not respond to email on weekends.

WELCOME TO UNT

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

UNT DATES

Classes Begin:	1/12	Pre-Finals:	4/29-4/30
MLK Day	1/19	Reading Day:	5/1
Spring/Fall Break:	3/8-3/14	Final Exams:	From 5/4 to 5/8

DUE DATES IN THIS COURSE

- Required Week One:
 - Syllabus Quiz due Week One before Saturday midnight (11:59 p.m.).
- 11 Chapter Quizzes:
 - 10 Required quizzes over each chapter in the CK&S text. Quizzes due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturdays.
- 3 Chapter Discussions:
 - All 3 Required discussions (+responses) related to each Part of the CK&S text. Discussions due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturdays.
- 3 Tests (All 3 count):
 - Tests are completed online.
 - Test 1 due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on 1/24.
 - Test 2 due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on 2/7.
 - Test 3 due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on 3/6 (In Week 8 of the 8Wk Course)
- Focused Individual Study (FIS):
 - 2 FIS Discussions (+responses) due 1/17 (before starting report) and 2/21 (when finished with Report).
 - FIS Report due 2/21.

- NOTE: The course is considered over at midnight (11:59 p.m.) on 3/6. No papers or assignments will be accepted after this date.

UNT INFORMATION

The University of North Texas (UNT) is a major public research university deeply committed to advancing educational excellence and preparing students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens of the world.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences / Mission and Vision

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (formerly the College of Arts and Sciences) began in 1945 with a diverse set of 14 departments. Today, our family of 22 academic departments and programs remains eclectic. And so are the college's alumni, who number in the tens of thousands and live throughout the United States and in many countries around the world. Our alumni have distinguished themselves in areas ranging from scientific research to politics to business and finance.

Mission: Our mission is to kindle the thirst for truth, justice, and beauty; to foster cultural literacy and scientific investigation; and to cultivate thinking, speaking, and writing abilities characterized by clear expression and logically coherent, evidence-based arguments. We see these as the values, forms of knowledge, and skills most needed by citizens of a democracy and by productive members of the global workforce.

Vision: We seek a future in which the achievements of our faculty and students reach ever greater heights of excellence and public recognition; in which a spirit of inclusion and mutual respect is maintained and strengthened among faculty and students with differing viewpoints and from diverse backgrounds; and in which increasing interdisciplinary collaboration opens up new opportunities for intellectual, empirical, and creative discovery.

Department of Sociology: We are a dynamic community of faculty, staff and students who share a commitment to developing sociological imaginations in ourselves and others. Our mission as a department is to provide undergraduate and graduate students with conceptual and methodological tools to productively analyze social patterns. High-level sociological training prepares our students for careers in education, marketing, social services, government, data science, health care and many other fields.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

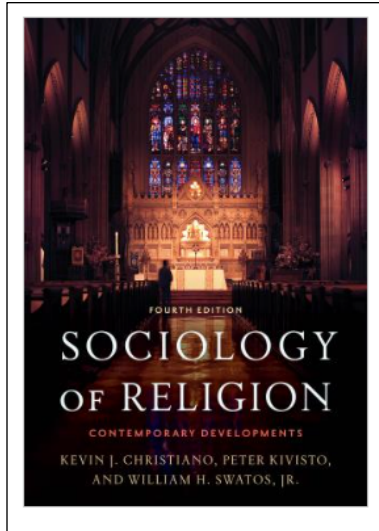
SOCI 3700. Sociology of Religion. 3 hours. A review of the common sociological dimensions of all religions such as moral definitions, group membership and dynamics, prescribed ritual practices and definitions of the sacred. An examination of sociologists contributing to the field such as [Marx,] Durkheim, and Weber. Includes a sociological analysis of major world religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.

[Part of the Health Professions Student Development Certificate.](#)

COURSE LEVEL OBJECTIVES (Using Bloom's Taxonomy)

- By the end of the course, students will be able to:
 - **Understand** how sociologists approach the study of religion in society.
 - **Remember** sociological methods, concepts, terms, and theories about the sociology of religion. (Quizzes and Tests)
 - **Apply** critical understandings to what they've learned from the text and discuss with their peers. (Discussions)
 - **Analyze** a particular religious worldview and construct a report applying terms from the text. (Focused Individual Study – 2 discussions and Report)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS



ISBN: 978-1-5381-3798-7 (Paperback)

Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments, 4th Ed. (2025)
Kevin J. Christiano, Peter Kivisto, and William H. Swatos, Jr.

This book is referred to as CK&S in this course. It is important that you acquire this book ASAP! To be fair, everyone must have all their course materials by week one, day one of the semester.

An electronic copy of this book has been put on hold for students through the UNT Library System. Students are permitted to check this book out for 2-hours at a time. Please contact Willis Library for more information.

In addition to the main text, students will participate in a Focused Individual Study (FIS) of one of the following religious worldviews: 1) Christianity; 2) Judaism; 3) Islam; or 4) Atheism. Over the course of the semester, students will acquire and read one of the following books. The book you chose will be used for two FIS discussions AND a written FIS report.

1. *Christianity, A Very Short Introduction* by Linda Woodhead. (2014) Oxford University Press.
2. *Judaism, A Very Short Introduction* by Norman Solomon. (2014) Oxford University Press.
3. *Islam, A Very Short Introduction* by Malise Ruthven. (2012) Oxford University Press.
4. *Mormonism, A Very Short Introduction* by Richard Lyman Bushman. (2008) Oxford University Press.
5. *Pentecostalism, A Very Short Introduction* by William K. Kay. (2011) Oxford University Press.
6. *The Quakers, A Very Short Introduction* by Pink Dandelion. (2008) Oxford University Press.
7. *Sikhism, A Very Short Introduction* by Eleanor Nesbitt. (2016) Oxford University Press.
8. *Hinduism, A Very Short Introduction* by Kim Knott. (2016) Oxford University Press.

Dr. Karen Monique Gregg created this course for use at UNT. She has made helpful (but optional) videos to go along with the material presented in the CK&S text required. Watching these videos will enhance your learning of the material in the course and help prepare you for quizzes and tests.

NOTE: Sometimes this course is taught by other faculty in Sociology or graduate students pursuing their PhD. Dr. Gregg has given permission to use her videos for their teaching purposes. Please consult page 1 of this syllabus for the instructor name and contact information. If your course has a different instructor, please do not contact Dr. Gregg.

UNT ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

UNT Code of Student Conduct

Click here to see the expectations regarding your conduct as a student of UNT. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>

UNT Academic Integrity

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. For more information, see: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity>

- The use of AI in this course will not be tolerated and will be considered cheating.

- Students should act with academic integrity with all things they write, especially with the discussions.

UNT Participation/Attendance

The University of North Texas recognizes that student success is promoted by regular attendance and participation in class. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to notify students in writing of any special attendance requirements for the class. This policy applies to all modes of course delivery. For more information see: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>

Participation/Attendance Requirements

In in-person courses, students are expected to attend every class session. Online students are expected to log into the Canvas site often and to participate on a weekly basis. Students in both formats have work to complete every week in Canvas. If it appears that you are not participating in the course, the instructor or TA will use the Care Team reporting system to alert the university of your lack of participation. Someone will reach out to you.

Office of Disability Access

UNT is committed to providing equal access to higher education for academically qualified students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Access assists students with disabilities in achieving their academic potential by coordinating a variety of services. The office acts as a liaison between the student, instructors, and other university resources and community agencies.

To be eligible for services, you must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) and provide current documentation of the disability. ODA recommends that students contact the office at least eight weeks before enrolling at UNT to ensure sufficient time to plan for individualized academic modifications and services. While every effort is made to accommodate students with disabilities, it is the student's responsibility to make needs known, provide proper documentation, and request services in a timely manner. See: <https://disability.unt.edu>

UNT Writing Center

The Writing Center at the University of North Texas provides support for undergraduate and graduate writers across the disciplines. Their mission is to help students improve as writers at all levels, and they support a culture of teaching and learning at UNT through peer tutoring, interactive workshops, classroom support, and consultation with faculty and staff. For more information, see: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu/our-mission>

UNT Title IX Information

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a safe environment for all community members. Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and stalking are prohibited. Please see their page on reporting sexual violence for more information. UNT is here to help. Find more information about sexual violence, including campus and community resources at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct?utm_medium=deanofstudents&utm_source=web&utm_campaign=dsa-home-page

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

What you can expect from your instructor (and TA):

1. Respect and active listening.
2. Consistent grading with return time within one-two weeks.
3. Willingness to teach, learn and answer questions.
4. To be prepared each week for our class.
5. To allow ample opportunity for you to do well in this course.
6. To be available by Zoom appointment for additional help.
7. To treat everyone equally and fairly.

What we expect from you:

1. Patience with instructors and with all others who participate in this class.
2. Active participation in our class in the Canvas environment as required by the syllabus.
3. To complete all assignments as they are scheduled in the syllabus. (See page 1 of this Syllabus.)
4. Consistent participation in class and online. If it appears you are not actively engaged in this course, the instructor (or the TA) will use the UNT Care Team reporting system to make recommendations.
5. To read the syllabus carefully each week and know what is supposed to happen. This is our contract. Instructor Kennedy and the TA will do all that they can to abide by the syllabus, so they expect you to do the same.
6. To act with academic integrity during quizzes and completing all writing assignments. Your work should be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated! For more specifics, see the UNT policy on academic dishonesty.
 - a. Use of AI to generate coursework will result in an automatic Academic Integrity Violation Report being submitted to UNT.
 - b. Discussions in this course have been created so that students must post their own original ideas first before seeing other students' work in discussion. If you post something like “.” (period), nothing, or other gibberish to enter the discussion, you will earn a zero and the instructor will complete an Academic Integrity Violation Report and submit it to UNT.
7. To read the grading comments that the instructor (and the TA) provides on all your assignments. She will incorporate tips about how you can do better on the next assignment. If you need extra help with your writing, the instructor will suggest that you use the Writing Center on campus (Sage Hall).
8. To not plagiarize the reading materials used in this course. This means citing ideas and thoughts that are not your own. This is especially important to do when writing your Focused Individual Study Report.
9. To put assignments in the correct space in Canvas. If you put things in the wrong spot, you will receive a zero (0) and your work will not be graded. If you contact the instructor within a week of receiving the zero (0), she will help you sort out your mistake. If you do not reach out to her within a week, the zero (0) will stand as your grade.
10. To follow ALL directions in the syllabus. If you do not, your grade will be reduced substantially and you might even receive a zero (0) on the assignment submitted.
11. To buy and use the correct version of the book. Right now, that is the 4th Edition of Christiano, Kivisto, and Swatos's book *Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments*. If you analyze something other than what everyone else is analyzing, you will receive a zero (0). This is especially important when completing the writing assignments. So, please buy and use the correct version of the book.
 - IMPORTANT: If the instructor (or the TA) happen to look up something you quote from CK&S (or elsewhere) and it is not on the page cited, you will automatically fail the assignment and receive a zero (0) with no chance to redo the assignment.
11. To be responsible for your work and prepare for and handle situations of computer and Internet difficulties. If your Internet is out, go somewhere where it is working so that you do not miss any of the assignments. Students are required to have a working computer with reliable Internet service to be successful in this course.
12. To turn in work on time. Students have 7 days each week to complete the work items for the week. Do not wait until the last minute to begin your work. The instructor recommends completing your work by Friday each week. That way, if you do have some technical difficulty, you'll have 24-48 hours to correct it.
13. To request a grade of Incomplete (if necessary) in writing and at least one week before Final Exams begin. This request must be accompanied by documentation of the reason that the course cannot be completed before the end of the semester. Incompletes are only considered if at least 50% of the course assignments have been completed with a passing grade.

14. If you need additional help in this course, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor (or the TA) to make an appointment. Virtual meetings using ZOOM usually help students get on track.
15. To contact the Dean of Students, Seeking Options and Solutions (S.O.S) Office in the event of a personal emergency in your life. This includes extended illness or hospitalization, death in family, or other personal issue that hinders your possibility of success in the course. Here is the URL and the contact information for that office.
 - <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/seeking-options-and-solutions>



TECHNICAL ISSUES & ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be submitted by the indicated dates and times embedded in the syllabus (also see page 1). There will be no extensions, except in cases of documented emergencies.

- In the event of a legitimate emergency, students are to contact the instructor using the Inbox in Canvas to discuss your situation **PRIOR TO** missing the assignment. When students do this, the instructor routinely grants extensions.
 - Each student is allowed **only one documented emergency** per semester.
- As stated above, in the event your emergency-situation is very serious, the instructor will prompt you to contact the Dean of Students in order to receive a blanket excuse from the University for your work.
 - Caitlin Edgar, M.S., Student Services Coordinator, Dean of Students Office, Caitlin.edgar@unt.edu, 940-565-2648.

Students are responsible for knowing the Canvas environment. This means that students are responsible for their own training in Canvas. Technical problems with Canvas software are to be directed to the **Help Desk**.

[UNT Help Desk](#) - 940-565-2324 / Sage Hall 330 / helpdesk@unt.edu

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - midnight

Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday noon – midnight

Technical problems with computers or Canvas ARE NOT satisfactory excuses for missing assignment deadlines. Dr. Gregg suggests that you DO NOT wait until the last minute to submit assignments. If you experience trouble with your computer or your home Internet access, you are expected to use the computer clusters on campus to complete your work on time. If the campus is closed for some reason (e.g., due to COVID), you are expected to find some other means to complete your work.

Summary of Course Assignments and Point Values

Assignment	Description	Points
Week One	Syllabus Quiz All students are required to take this quiz before completing work in the course.	100 Points 5% of Grade
11 Chapter Quizzes	11 Chapter Quizzes over CK&S. Required to take 10. If you take 11, the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. (10 X 50 = 500)	500 Points 25% of Grade
3 Chapter Discussions and Responses	Relate to 3 Parts of CK&S Text Required to participate in all 3. (3 X 100 = 300)	300 Points 15% of Grade
3 Tests	3 Tests over each Part of CK&S text. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1 - Test 1 Chs 1-4 Part 2 - Test 2 Chs 5-7 Part 3 - Test 3 Chs 8-11 (3 X 200 = 600)	600 Points 30% of Grade
Focused Individual Study on approved Worldview	2 related Discussions (2 X 100 = 200) Final Report on religious worldview worth up to 300 points	200 Points 10% of Grade 300 Points 15% of Grade
TOTAL		2000 Points = 100%

The Grading Scale

At the end of the semester, the instructor will base your grade on the Grading Scale below.

Percent	Letter Grade
90-100% of 2000 Points	A
80-89% of 2000 Points	B
70-79% of 2000 Points	C
60-69% of 2000 Points	D

59% or less of 2000 Points	F
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TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Part One: The Basics (Chs 1-4) Two Weeks

Week 1 (1/11-1/17) Getting Stuff and Getting Started, SylQ, Ch1 and Ch2, 1st FIS Discussion

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students should be able to:

- Recall and identify information about the assignments, expectations, and point values in the course. (SylQ)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to the definitional problem of religion. (Ch1Q)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to methods and theory related to studying religion in society. (Ch2Q)
- Participate in first discussion for Focused Individual Study (FIS). (FISD1)

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
	To do the first week of classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy book • Read Syllabus • Watch Dr. Gregg’s film introducing you to the course • Take Syllabus Quiz in Canvas 	UNT bookstore In Canvas In Canvas The quiz is in Canvas and is due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/17
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1 <i>By Way of Introduction</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take Ch1 online Quiz in Canvas 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/17
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 <i>Studying Religion</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take Ch2 online Quiz in Canvas 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/17
FIS Work	<p>WATCH the video Dr. Gregg made explaining the Focused Individual Study assignment.</p> <p>Found in Module called Introduction (Stuff to Do in Week One)</p> <p>Participate in first discussion for FIS. Declare which book you intend to read for the report.</p> <p>Obtain your book. Begin reading book.</p>	<p>You can do this multiple times as needed throughout the semester.</p> <p>FISD1 is in Canvas and is due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 1/17</p>

Week 2 (1/18-1/24) Ch3 and Ch4, Discussion 1, Test 1, Read book for FIS Report

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students should be able to:

- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to secularization theory. (Ch3Q)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion in the United States. (Ch4Q)
- Discuss something personally important related to religion from either Ch1, Ch2, Ch3, or Ch4 of the CK&S text with their peers. (Disc1)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 1-4. (Test 1)
- Begin reading book on religious worldview for FIS Report.

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 3 <i>The “Religion” of Secularization and the History of Religions</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take the Ch3 online Quiz 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/24
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4 <i>Religion in the United States: Denominationalism and Beyond Churches and Sects</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take the Ch4 online Quiz 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/24
DUE	Participate in Disc1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick one thing you personally think is important to discuss from either Ch1, Ch2, Ch3, or Ch4. • Post an original post following all prompts in the directions. • Respond to at least one other. 	Due in Canvas before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/24
	Review and Take Test 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chs 1-4 of CK&S • Review personal notes • Watch (or rewatch) Dr. Gregg’s videos for review • Take Test 1 over Chs 1-4 online. 	Text In Canvas Due in Canvas before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/24

FIS Work	WATCH (or rewatch) the video Dr. Gregg made explaining the Focused Individual Study assignment. Obtain your book. Begin reading book. Take notes.	If you haven't watched this video yet, do so now. You can do this multiple times and as needed.
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Part Two: Religion and Social Differentiation (Chs 5-7) Two Weeks

Week 3 (1/25-1/31) Ch5, Ch6, Ch7, and Read book for FIS Report

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students should be able to:

- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to social class, religion, and power. (Ch5Q)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion and ethnicity. (Ch6Q)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to gender, sexuality, and religion. (Ch7Q)
- Continue reading book on religious worldview for FIS Report.

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5 <i>Social Class, Religion, and Power: A Classic Field of Inquiry</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg's videos (Optional) • Take Ch5 online Quiz 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/31
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 6 <i>Religion and Ethnicity: A Complex Relationship</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg's videos (Optional) • Take the Ch6 online Quiz 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 1/31
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Chapter • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg's videos (Optional) • Take the Ch7 online Quiz 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 1/31
FIS Work	Read book selected for Focused Individual Study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take notes. 	Ongoing

Week 4 (2/1-2/7) Test 2, Discussion 2, Write FIS Report

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students should be able to:

- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 5-7. (Test 2)
- Discuss something personally important related to religion from either Ch5, Ch6, or Ch7 of the CK&S text with their peers. (Disc2)
- Begin Writing FIS Report on religious worldview. WRITE

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
	Review for Text 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chs 5-7 of CK&S • Review personal notes • Rewatch Dr. Gregg’s videos for review • Take Test 2 over Chs 5-7 	Text From class In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/7
DUE	Participate in Disc2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick one thing you personally think is important to discuss from either Ch5, Ch6, or Ch7. • Post an original post following all prompts in the directions. • Respond to at least one other. 	Due in Canvas before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/7
FIS WRITE	Finish reading book selected for Focused Individual Study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take notes. • Begin Writing FIS Report. Follow prompts for what goes in each paragraph of the Report. 	Ongoing

Part Three: Religion, Culture, and Change (Chs 8-11) 4 Weeks

Week 5 (2/8-2/14) Ch8, Ch9, and Write FIS Report

Learning Objectives

By the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religious change and the case of Catholicism in the U.S. (Ch8Q)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to globalization and historic animosities. (Ch9Q)
- Continue writing FIS report on religious worldview. (WRITE)

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 8 <i>Religious Change: The Case of Catholicism in the U.S.</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take the Ch8 online Quiz 	Text In Canvas Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 2/14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 9 <i>Politicized Religion and Conflict: National and Global Dimension</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take the Ch9 online Quiz 	Text Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 2/14
FIS WRITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue writing FIS Report. Follow prompts for what goes in each paragraph of the Report. 	Ongoing DUE NEXT WEEK!

Week 6 (2/15-2/21) Finalize and Submit FIS Report, 2nd FIS Discussion

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students should be able to:

- Continue constructing FIS report on religious worldview and submit. (WRITE)
- Discuss and reflect on FIS assignment with Peers. (FISD2)

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
FIS WRITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions for what to write in the all the paragraphs of your report. Follow all guidelines to do so. 	Finish Writing
NOTES DUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you believe you are finished, please review your paper for typographical errors. • Make sure to format using MLA formatting. • When you think you have a solid analysis/report, upload your paper to Canvas. It is okay to upload it early. 	Paper is DUE Saturday 2/21 before midnight (11:59 p.m.)
DUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After you have submitted the FIS Report, participate in the 2nd FIS Discussion reflecting on what you have learned. Be sure to follow the prompts for what to write. Respond to others. 	Due Saturday 2/21 before midnight (11:59 p.m.)

Week 7 (2/22-2/28) Ch10, Ch11, and Discussion 3

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students should be able to:

- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion in contemporary culture. (Ch10Q)
- Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to boundary issues. (Ch11Q)
- Discuss something personally important related to religion from either Ch8, Ch9, Ch10, or Ch11 of the CK&S text with their peers. (Disc3)

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 10 <i>Mediating Meaning: Religion in--and as--Contemporary Culture</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take the Ch10 online Quiz 	Text Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/28
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 11 <i>Boundary Issues: Church, State, and New Religions</i> • Take notes • Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) • Take the Ch11 online Quiz 	Text Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 2/28
DUE	Participate in Disc3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick one thing you personally think is important to discuss from either Ch8, Ch9, Ch10, or Ch11. • Post an original post following all prompts in the directions. • Respond to at least one other. 	Due in Canvas before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/28
(Finished reading CK&S book!)		
SPOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When asked to do so, please complete the SPOT evaluation for this course. Your feedback is important. 	SPOT Course Evaluation

Week 8 (3/1-3/7) Review for Test 3 and SPOT Evaluation

Learning Objectives

By the end the week, students should be able to:

- Review concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 8-11. (Prepare for Test 3)
- Complete the SPOT evaluation for the course.

✓ Off	Description of Work	More Details
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DUE!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review for Test 3• Review Chs 8-11 of CK&S• Review personal notes• Rewatch Dr. Gregg’s videos for review• Take Test 3 over Chs 8-11	Test 3 opens on Sunday 3/1 at 12:00 a.m. and closes on Friday 3/6 at 11:59 p.m.
SPOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When asked to do so, please complete the SPOT evaluation for this course. Your feedback is important.	SPOT Course Evaluation

Thank you for taking this course!

MORE DETAILS ABOUT COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Syllabus Quiz (100 Points)

After reading the syllabus, in week one of the course students are required to take a Quiz over the syllabus and course expectations. Students are allowed **20 minutes** to complete the Quiz and are permitted two attempts. If you do not earn 100% on the first attempt, please reread the syllabus and take the quiz again. The highest score will be recorded in the grade book.

11 Chapter Quizzes (500 Points)

After reading the assigned chapter in the CK&S text, students should take a short **20-minute** Quiz in Canvas. If you carefully read the chapter, have taken good notes while you read, and have watched Dr. Gregg's lecture videos, you should do very well on the Quizzes. More details follow.

Details:

- There is a quiz for each chapter in the CK&S text (11). You are required to take 10 of the 11 quizzes. If you take them all, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Students should not miss more than one quiz in this course.
- Quizzes open on Sunday at 12:00 a.m. of each week and close on Saturday at midnight (11:59 p.m.).
- Each Quiz is worth up to 50 Points. There are 10 questions. Each question is worth 5 points.
- As you take the quiz, you will be presented with True/False or Multiple Choice questions for which there is only one correct answer.
- Students are presented with a random set of questions drawn from a test bank that Dr. Gregg wrote. These questions have been vetted by students in other semesters for use in this course. All the answers can be found in the CK&S text.
- Students are allowed **20 minutes** to complete each Quiz. After 20 minutes your Quiz will automatically submit and your grade will be recorded in the grade book. Any unanswered questions will be marked as incorrect.
- You are only permitted one attempt on each Quiz.
- Quizzes are open book and students can use any notes they have taken as they read.
- Students should not work with others to complete the Quizzes.
- If you think you might miss a deadline for a Quiz, you are permitted to take it early. Reach out to the instructor.
- If you need an extension for a quiz, you must contact the instructor BEFORE missing the quiz. If you do this, she routinely grants extensions.
- If you miss a Quiz, the grade book will be populated with a zero.

3 Discussions (300 Points)

There are three parts to the text. After finishing the readings in each part of the course, students should participate in an online discussion in Canvas discussing something that they felt was personally important to them from the readings. Students are required to participate in all 3 of the discussions. Students should respond in a meaningful way (3-5 sentences) to at least one other person. Each discussion is worth up to 100 points. Failure to follow the directions will result in substantial loss of points.

Directions:

To complete this assignment, students are asked to think about the readings assigned in the CK&S text for that part of the course (each part consists of 3-4 chapters). Then, consider something that really stood out to you as the most important thing you learned from just one of the chapter(s). Consider focusing on a concept, an idea, a term, a study, for example. Students should be very clear in their writing pointing out what was important to them and only pick one important thing to discuss. In total, the discussion post should be about 8-10 sentences in length, but more is okay. Each discussion post (and response) is worth up to 100 points.

Details:

THE CHAPTER: In your post, first identify the chapter you are discussing. See example below.

THE WHAT: Next, in about 3-5 sentences describe the one thing that stood out to you as important. Say the word important. Use information you've learned from the text in your writing. Tell others what you learned about the one thing you thought was important. Use the text to do this. It is okay to quote CK&S here. See example below.

THE WHY: In another paragraph and in another 3-5 sentences explain why learning this was personally important to you. See example below.

THE ASK: Finally, end your post question (or two) that directly pertains to what you thought was important from the reading. Think about what you want to know from others in the course. Ending with a question makes it easy for others to respond to your post. See example below.

THE RESPONSE: The last thing you should do is read other students' posts and choose at least one to respond to in a meaningful way (more is better). Address the question(s) they posed at the end of their post. Aim to write a minimum of 3-5 sentences in response.

Note: It is fine to quote something from the CK&S text in your discussion. If you do this, use quotation marks, and cite your quote like this: (CK&S 304). To be clear, the "304" is the page number where the quote can be found. If you do not do these things, you could earn zero points on your discussion post.

Example Discussion Post (More than 8 sentences)

Something I thought was important from Ch6 of the CK&S text was the discussion of the difference between race and ethnicity. In this chapter the authors discuss the “specter of race” and tell us that race is a highly controversial topic. I learned from the text that there is no consensus on how many races there actually are, but that race is generally based on perceived physical differences between people. But how is race different from ethnicity? CK&S say there are three relationships between these terms: 1) race and ethnicity are fundamentally different; 2) race and ethnicity are basically synonymous; or 3) race is a subset of ethnicity. (See p. 156) Then, they tell us that some groups are both racial and ethnic, e.g., African Americans.

Considering how race and ethnicity relate to religion is personally important to me for several reasons. When I was growing up in Houston, Texas, I attended Roman Catholic services every Sunday, as was required. I do not remember ever seeing people of color in our congregation. Maybe there were one or two Latino families, but our congregation was primarily made up of white, middle-class families. This means that my religious experience growing up was highly segregated. I believe it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said that 11:00 a.m. on Sundays is our most segregated hour of the week. This appeared to be true to me in the 1970s and 1980s when I was growing up, but is it still true today? As recently as 2006, Michael Emerson’s research supports Dr. King’s statement because he estimates that only 7 percent of congregations are multiracial (CK&S 171). To me, and for this day and age, that seems like a low percentage, but CK&S say that this, “...translates into approximately twenty-one thousand congregations, which is not an insubstantial number” (171).

Questions: If you are religious and attend church services, what is the racial/ethnic make-up of your congregation? Do you think your church is racially integrated or segregated? How can you tell?

How You Will Be Graded:

- Writes well and follows directions. (20 Pts)
- Identifies the Chapter. (10 Pts)
- Writes 3-5 sentences something important from the reading. Uses text to describe. (20 Pts)
- Another 3-5 sentences explaining why it is personally important. (20 Pts)
- Ends post with relevant question(s). (10 Pts)
- Responds to at least one other person in a meaningful way (3-5 sentences). (20 Pts)

Note: The discussion is designed to force students to post their own original thoughts FIRST before seeing everyone else's discussion posts. If you post gibberish, nothing, or a period to get into the discussion to see what others have posted before you post your own original thoughts, you will earn zero points on your discussion post and your instructor will promptly file an academic integrity violation with UNT. Posting something to get into the discussion is cheating in this course.

3 Tests (600 Points)

There are three parts to the CK&S text. After we conclude each part, students are asked to demonstrate their knowledge by completing an online test over the chapters covered. Students should take all three tests because all three count toward the final grade. Each test is worth up to 200 points toward the final grade. Below are listed more details about the tests.

Details:

- There are 3 online tests planned for this course. Students should take all 3 tests.
- Each test is worth up to 200 points.

- As you take the test, you will be presented with a combination of 25-50 True/False and/or Multiple Choice test questions for which there is only one best answer.
- Point values for each question varies according to the number of questions on the test.
- Test questions will be separated into sections for each chapter.
- Students are permitted **1 hour to take each test (60 minutes)**. After that, the test will automatically submit and your grade will be recorded in the grade book.
- Students are only permitted one attempt for each test.
- The tests are online and open book and students can use their notes from class while taking the tests.
- Students should not work with others when taking the tests.
- Tests 1 and 2 open on Sundays at 12:00 a.m. the week they fall due.
- Tests 1 and 2 close on Saturdays before midnight (11:59 p.m.)
- Test 3 closes sometime during Final Exams time. Consult the syllabus on page 1 for the exact dates and times for the Final Exam.
- If you need to arrange for a different date or time for one of the tests, you must request this from Dr. Gregg at least one week in advance of the due date for the test. If you do this, she will work with you to arrange a different time.
- If you miss a test, you have missed your opportunity to earn these points in the course.

Focused Individual Study (FIS) (500 Points)

To supplement what we are learning in the CK&S text, over the course of the semester students will enhance their learning of religion in society by individually studying one of several religious worldviews.¹ To do this, students will choose one of the following very short books (about 100 pages) for their individual study.

1. *Christianity*, A Very Short Introduction by Linda Woodhead. (2014) Oxford University Press.
2. *Judaism*, A Very Short Introduction by Norman Solomon. (2014) Oxford University Press.
3. *Islam*, A Very Short Introduction by Malise Ruthven. (2012) Oxford University Press.
4. *Mormonism*, A Very Short Introduction by Richard Lyman Bushman. (2008) Oxford University Press.
5. *Pentecostalism*, A Very Short Introduction by William K. Kay. (2011) Oxford University Press.
6. *The Quakers*, A Very Short Introduction by Pink Dandelion. (2008) Oxford University Press.
7. *Sikhism*, A Very Short Introduction by Eleanor Nesbitt. (2016) Oxford University Press.
8. *Hinduism*, A Very Short Introduction by Kim Knott. (2016) Oxford University Press.

¹ If you would like to study another religious worldview, contact or see your instructor in office hours to discuss before the fifth week of the semester. After that, students are limited to the choices listed above.

1st FIS Discussion (100 Points): After choosing a book (and before reading it), students will participate in the 1st FIS Discussion in Canvas explaining why they chose to study this religious worldview. Students should write 8-10 sentences (or more) explaining their choice and then respond to at least one other person in the class in a meaningful way. Once you have declared a worldview to study, you cannot change it.

Written Report (300 Points): Over the course of the semester, students should read and study (however they see fit) the particular worldview they chose. This means that they can supplement what they are reading with other sources (but this is not required and should not be part of the final written report, which should only be solely based on the *A Very Short Introduction* chosen and declared in the 1st FIS Discussion). Students are expected to complete reading the selected book by about midway through the semester.

After reading the book, the FIS study culminates into a written report based on what they learned from the “A Very Short Introduction” about the religious worldview they chose and what they’ve learned from the CK&S text for the course. The written report should include information from both sources. No other sources should be used to write the FIS report.

Below are very specific instructions for what and how to write this report. This report falls due toward the end of the semester and it will take a few weeks to grade. Students are expected to closely follow the following structure below when writing the report. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade on the report.

Instructions (Structure of Report):

1. **Specifics (25 points):** Students should use MLA formatting to format the paper. If you do not use MLA formatting, you will lose all 25 points. Content of the report should be 4-6 pages in length. Do not write less than 4 full pages of content. If you need to go over 6 pages, contact your instructor for approval. There should be a Works Cited page at the end of the document. The only sources that should be listed on the Works Cited page are the book you read for this report and CK&S’s 4th Ed. No other sources should be used.
2. **Introduction (25 Points):** Write an introduction introducing and explaining the religious worldview you chose. Then introduce the book and author of *A Very Short Introduction* that you chose. Next, explain the concept of **monotheism** using what you learned from the CK&S text (see 130 of CK&S text). After that, explain how the religious worldview you chose to study relates to the concept of monotheism.
3. **Basic Tenets (25 Points):** In the next paragraph (or two) of your report, describe and explain some of the basic tenets of the belief system that you learned from the “*A Very Short Introduction*”. Explain: What do they believe? Why do they believe these things? Give several examples.
4. **Religious Practices (25 Points):** The next paragraph (or two) should describe and explain the religious practices or rituals of the religious worldview that you learn from the “*A Very Short Introduction*”. In your writing, consider these questions: What do adherents do? Do they meet? What are their rituals? Do they adhere to a particular calendar of events? Explain the reasoning (or purpose) behind these practices. [Do not

use any other sources to do this. Students should only use the “*A Very Short Introduction*” selected to read.]

5. **Application of Terms (75 Points):** Two of the major terms from this course have been **soteriology** and **theodicy**. In the next paragraph, use what you’ve learned from the CK&S text to succinctly write in your own words what these two concepts mean and then discuss how the religious worldview you studied relates to each term. [Do not use any other sources to do this.]
6. **Conclusion (50 Points):** In the final and concluding paragraph of your paper, address the following prompts:
 - Explain what you learned about religion from reading this - *A Very Short Introduction* - i.e., something that you found interesting or that you did not already know.
 - Next, make connections with the CK&S text. What did CK&S discuss in the text about the religious worldview you picked that connects to your *A Very Short Introduction*? To make connections, quote passages from the CK&S text. Cite like this: (CK&S 25). Show the page number where quote appears in book. Carefully explain in your own words what the connection means.
 - End the conclusion by telling the reader whether (or not) you would recommend this book as a start for someone to learn about the religious worldview. Then, describe who you think would benefit from reading this book. Be very specific.
7. In total your report should be no longer than 7-10 paragraphs and **4-6 pages in length**.

How You Will Be Graded:

- Writes well, uses MLA, and follows directions, only uses CK&S and one “*A Very Short Introduction*” for paper (50 Pts)
- Follows directions for Introduction – discusses **monotheism** (25 Pts)
- Reports on **basic tenets of belief system** (50 Pts)
- Reports on **religious practices or rituals** (50 Pts)
- Applies terms **soteriology/theodicy** to religious worldview (75)
- Follows directions and prompts for what to write in conclusion (50)

2nd FIS Discussion (100 Points): **After writing and submitting the FIS report**, students should participate in a second FIS discussion with their peers. Students should share their ideas on the following things in at least 8-10 sentences and respond to at least one other person in discussion in a meaningful way (3-5 sentences).

1. Which *A Very Short Introduction* you chose to read?
2. Briefly share with everyone why you chose this worldview.
3. What was your level of knowledge about this worldview before reading the book? (How much did you know already?)
4. How much did you learn from this book? (A little? A lot? Not that much? Too much!)

5. What did you think was interesting or what did you learn (that you did not know already) about the worldview from reading the book?
6. Did anything strike you as interesting, remarkable, noteworthy? Describe one thing from the book.
7. Conclude by either recommending the book or not. In either case, explain why. If you recommend it, who do you think should read this book? Be specific.
8. Say goodbye to the class!