# Sociology of Religion

# SOCI 3700-900 & 950 (17774-5)

## Fall 2020 / Online

## Dr. Karen Monique Gregg / TA Sarah Pinney

## IMPORTANT UNT DATES

Classes Begin: August 24th

Labor Day: No Classes September 7th

Census Date: September 5th

Mid-Semester: October 16th

Thanksgiving Break: November 26th -- 27th

Last Day of Class: December 3rd

Reading Day: December 4th

Final Exams: December 5th -- 11th

## IMPORTANT DATES IN THIS COURSE

* Week One Work:
  + Discussion post introducing yourself is due before the end of Wk 1, 8/29 at midnight (11:59 p.m.)
  + Syllabus Quiz due by the end of Wk 1, 8/29 at midnight (11:59 p.m.)
* Research Article Overview (RAO) work:
  + Step 1: Finding 3 research articles due by: 9/12, 10/3, and 11/14. These are due before midnight on these Saturdays
  + Step 2: RAOs due by: 9/19, 10/10, and 11/21. These are due before midnight on these Saturdays
  + Step 3: RAO Summary/Critique Term Paper is due Final Exams Week -- Monday, 12/7 at midnight (11:59 p.m.)
* Test Dates:
  + Chs. 1-4 of Christiano, Swatos & Kivisto text (CS&K) due Wednesday, 9/23 at midnight (11:59 p.m.)
  + Chs. 5-7 of CS&K due Wednesday, 10/21 at midnight (11:59 p.m.)
  + Chs. 8-11 of CS&K due Wednesday, 11/25 at midnight (11:59 p.m.)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact with Professor: Post any questions you have in the Q&A discussion. Dr. Gregg and the TA will check the Q&A discussion weekly. Dr. Gregg and the TA will also be monitoring your progress in the course and will correspond with you via grading comments.

Office Hours:This course is entirely online. Dr. Gregg and the TA will not hold office hours on campus. This does not mean Dr. Gregg and the TA are not available for help. If you need help or need to discuss the course, please send a message in the Inbox in Canvas to set up a SKYPE, ZOOM, or FACETIME appointment.

Inbox Canvas:If you need to speak to Dr. Gregg or the TA for this course privately, the absolute BEST way to do so is via theInbox inCanvas.Please allow 24-hours for a response.

Unavailable:Dr. Gregg and the TA do not respond to emails or messages in the evenings and on weekends. If you email her then, please expect a reply the next business day.

Dr. Gregg E-mail: [Karen.Gregg@UNT.edu](mailto:Karen.Gregg@UNT.edu)

If you email Dr. Gregg here, she will ask you to copy and paste your email in the Canvas learning management system.

TA Responsibilities:Our TA grader will be responding to your introductions in the course and will be grading your work on the RAO assignments (Step 1 and Step 2). Pay attention to the grading comments she leaves for you. She will try to help you by explaining how you can do better the next time. Any questions related to the RAO assignments should be directed to the TA directly using the Inbox in Canvas.

## 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.

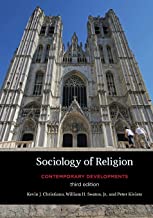
## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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.

## COURSE LEVEL OBJECTIVES

* By the end of the course, students will be able to:
  + Understand, apply, and analyze how sociologists approach the study of religion in society.
  + Remember sociological methods, concepts, terms, and theories about the sociology of religion.

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

 ISBN: 978-1-4422-1692-1

*Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments,* 3rd Ed. (2015) Kevin J. Christiano, William H. Swatos, and Peter Kivisto.

It is important that you acquire this book ASAP! To be fair, everyone must have all of 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 24 hours at a time (only 3 students per day). Please contact the Library for more information.

Over the course of the semester, students are required to acquire 3 research articles from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals pertaining to the sociology of religion by using the UNT Library system. The 3 topics of these research articles are:

1. Topic of your choosing related to religion
2. Race, ethnicity, and religion
3. Gender, sexuality, and religion

## 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>

### 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>

### Prof Gregg’s Requirements

You are expected to log into the Canvas site often and to participate on a weekly basis in the course. You have work to complete every week in Canvas. If it appears that you are not participating in the course, the TA and I 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>.

## PROFESSOR GREGG’S COURSE EXPECTATIONS

### What you can expect from your instructor and the 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 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.
4. Consistent participation online. If it appears you are not actively engaged in this course, Prof. Gregg (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. Prof. Gregg 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 any tests and in all writing. Your work should be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated! See above for the UNT policy on academic dishonesty.
7. To read the grading comments that Prof. Gregg and the TA provide on all of your assignments. They will incorporate tips about how you can do better on the next assignment. If you need extra help with your writing, Dr. Gregg and the TA will suggest that you use the Writing Center on campus (Sage Hall).
8. 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.
9. To follow ALL directions in the syllabus. If you do not, you will automatically receive a zero (0) on the assignment submitted.
10. To buy and use the correct version of the book. Right now, that is the 3rd Edition of Christiano, Swatos, and Kivisto’s *Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments.[[1]](#footnote-1)* If you analyze something other than what everyone else is analyzing, you will receive a zero (0). This is especially important when completing any writing assignments. So, please buy and use the correct version of the book.

* IMPORTANT: If we happen to look up something you quote in the book 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.

1. 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.
2. **You have 7 days each week to complete the work items for the week.** Do not wait until the last minute to begin your work. Dr. Gregg recommends completing your work by Wednesday or Thursday each week. That way, if you do have some technical difficulty, you’ll have 24-48 hours to correct it.
3. If you need additional help in this course, it is your responsibility to contact Dr. Gregg or the TA to make an appointment. Virtual meetings using ZOOM, SKYPE, OR FACETIME usually help students get on track.

## ASSIGNMENTS & TECHNICAL ISSUES

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

* In the event of a legitimate emergency, students are to contact Dr. Gregg via the Inbox in Canvas to discuss your situation.
* Students should contact Dr. Gregg **PRIOR TO** missing the assignment.
* Each student is allowed **only one documented emergency** per semester.
* In the event your emergency situation is serious, Dr. Gregg 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](mailto: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](https://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/) - 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 CanvasARE 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.

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

## DR. GREGG’S GRADING SCALE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Percent Earned | Letter |
| 90-100% of 2000 Points | A |
| 80-89% of 2000 Points | B |
| 70-79% of 2000 Points | C |
| 60-69% of 2000 Points | D |
| lower than 60% of 2000 Points | F |

## SUMMARY OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, VALUES, AND GRADING

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description of Assignments | Values |
| **1 Discussion**:  Post an introduction in Week 1 of the course.\*  \*The TA will respond to your introduction welcoming you to the course. | Complete / Incomplete  Grade |
| **1 Quiz**:  Quiz\* over the syllabus is due in Week 1 of the course. It is worth 50 points  \*Automatically scored. | 50 Pts |
| **3 Research Articles**:  Step 1: Find an appropriate research article in the Sociology of Religion (3 assigned topics).  Submit article for approval 3 X 50 Pts = 150 Pts  Step 2: Complete the Research Article Overview Template (RAO)\* describing all the relevant details of the research.  Submit completed RAO to be graded 3 X 200 = 600 Pts  \*The TA will grade Step 1 and Step 2 of your RAO assignments. It is best to wait for approval on Step 1 before proceeding to Step 2. | Step 1 150 Pts  Step 2 600 Pts |
| **3 Tests**:\*  Test 1 – Chs. 1-4, Test 2 – Chs. 5-7, Test 3 – Chs. 8-11  Tests should be taken on the dates assigned in the Tentative Course Schedule.  There are 3 Tests X 300 = 900 Pts.    \*Automatically scored. | 900 Pts |
| **RAO Summary Critique/Report (Term Paper)**:  Step 3: This is a short paper (2-4 pages)\* summarizing and critiquing the 3 RAs obtained for the course.  Students must follow the outline for this paper in the syllabus and iin Canvas.  \*Dr. Gregg will grade your RAO Summary/Critique Paper | Step 3 300 Pts / 15% |
| TOTAL | 2000 Pts / 100% |

# Tentative Course Schedule

## Week 1 (8/23/8/29)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 1, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to a basic introduction to the sociology of religion as well as problems related to defining religion.

## Your goal is to complete all the work for this week before Saturday 8/29

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Description of Work | More Details |
| To Do: | Introduce yourself in the Discussion for Introductions. Tell us:  1) Why you took this course.  2) What you hope to learn in this course.  3) Something fun you will do once the course is over.  Then, welcome at least one other person to the course. | Discussion in Canvas  Complete or Incomplete Grade  Due in Canvas before 11:59 p.m. on Saturday 8/29 |
| To Do: | * Obtain materials for the course to set yourself up for success:  1. Syllabus; and 2. CS&K[[2]](#footnote-2) Text Book. 3. Watch Dr. Gregg’s YouTube video introducing you to the course. 4. Carefully read the Syllabus. Post any questions you may have in the Discussion for Q&A. 5. Take the Syllabus Quiz in Canvas. | Syllabus – in Canvas  Text -- Book Store  YouTube in Modules in Canvas  Syllabus Quiz can be found in assignments. Worth 50 points.  Due in Canvas before 11:59 p.m. on Saturday 8/29  Discussion in Canvas |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 1  Take notes as you go. | Text |

## Week 2 (8/30-9/5)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 2, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to how sociologists go about the study of religion in society as well as several theoretical approaches to studying religion.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 9/5

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 2  Take notes as you go. | Text |

## Week 3 (9/6-9/12)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 3, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to secularization theory and its critiques.
* By the end of Week 3 of the course, students will be able to examine (find) information from research articles in the sociology of religion pertaining to: 1) topic of choice.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 9/12

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9/7 | Labor Day | University is Closed / No Classes |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 3  Take notes as you go. | Text |
| WATCH | Dr. Gregg’s YouTube showing you how to find a research article that meets all 4 criteria using the UNT Library System. | YouTube found in Modules |
| RAO 1, Step 1 | Find a research article for the RAO assignment. This one can be about **any topic in religion** that interests you personally.  Be sure to read pp. 29-30 “Producing the Sociology of Religion” in CS&K’s book.  Research articles must meet 4 criteria:   1. Your research article should only be from one of the scholarly journals listed on pp. 29-30 of CS&K. 2. It must be dated 2010 or more current. 3. Use only research articles that collect and analyze data. (Do not use a theoretical piece, a speech, or a research note.) 4. The article you submit must pertain to the topic assigned. This week the topic is any topic in religion that interests you. | Library Resources – Search the Databases for research in religion that interests you.  By Saturday, 9/12 before midnight (11:59 p.m.) upload the research article you find for approval from the TA or Dr. Gregg. After it is approved and graded, you may start working on Step 2 of the RAO assignment.  If what you have selected does not meet the 4 criteria for this assignment, you will earn 0. |

## Week 4 (9/13-9/19)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 4, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to religion in the United States.
* By the end of Week 4 of the course, students will be able to summarize (RAO) and apply (CS&K) information from research articles in the sociology of religion pertaining to: 1) topic of choice.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 9/19

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 4  Take notes as you go. | Text |
| RAO 1, Step 2 | After reading the research article you selected, complete the RAO Template and submit in Canvas for a grade. | Template is at the end of the Syllabus and in Canvas.  Do this before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 9/19 |
|  | Review Chs. 1-4 for Test 1   * Optional: Complete the Review For Test 1 in Canvas in the Module for Part 1 * The Test is open book and open notes | Test 1 is due Wednesday, 9/23 at midnight (11:59) |

## Week 5 (9/20-9/26)

## Test 1 is due WEDNESDAY

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Complete the Optional Review Worksheet | In Canvas |
| TEST 1 | Complete Test over Chs. 1-4 in CS&K  More details about what you can expect on the Tests may be found at the end of this syllabus and in Canvas. | Tests are found in the Modules in Canvas.  This Test closes Wednesday 9/23 at midnight (11:59 p.m.) |

~You have now completed Part 1 of the course~

## Week 6 (9/27-10/3)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 5, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to social class, religion, and power.
* By the end of Week 6 of the course, students will be able to examine (find) information from research articles in the sociology of religion pertaining to: 2) race, ethnicity, and religion.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 10/3

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 5  Take notes as you go. | Text |
| WATCH | Dr. Gregg’s YouTube showing you how to find a research article that meets all 4 criteria using the UNT Library System. | YouTube found in Modules |
| RAO 2, Step 1 | Find a research article for the RAO assignment. This one should be about race, ethnicity, and religion.  Be sure to read pp. 29-30 “Producing the Sociology of Religion” in CS&K’s book.  Research articles must meet 4 criteria:   1. Your research article should only be from one of the scholarly journals listed on pp. 29-30 of CS&K. 2. It must be dated 2010 or more current. 3. Use only research articles that collect and analyze data. (Do not use a theoretical piece, a speech, or a research note.) 4. The article you submit must pertain to the topic assigned. This week the topic is race, ethnicity, and religion. | Library Resources – Search the Databases for research in religion that interests you.  By Saturday, 10/3 before midnight (11:59 p.m.) upload the research article you find for approval from the TA or Dr. Gregg. After it is approved and graded, you may start working on Step 2 of the RAO assignment.  If what you have selected does not meet the 4 criteria for this assignment, you will earn 0. |

## Week 7 (10/4-10/10)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 6, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to the complex relationship between religion and ethnicity.
* By the end of Week 7 of the course, students will be able to summarize (RAO) and apply (CS&K) information from research articles in the sociology of religion pertaining to: 2) race, ethnicity, and religion.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 10/10

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 6  Take notes as you go. | Text |
| RAO 2, Step 2 | After reading the research article you selected, complete the RAO Template and submit in Canvas for a grade. | Template is at the end of the Syllabus and in Canvas.  Do this before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 10/10 |

## Week 8 (10/11-10/17)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 7, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to gender, sexuality, and religion.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 10/17

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 7  Take notes as you go. | Text |
|  | Review Chs. 5-7 for Test 2   * Optional: Complete the Review For Test 2 in Canvas in the Module for Part 2 * The Test is open book and open notes | Test 2 is due Wednesday, 10/21 at midnight (11:59) |

## Week 9 (10/18-10/24)

## Test 2 is due WEDNESDAY

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Complete the Optional Review Worksheet | In Canvas |
| TEST 2 | Complete Test over Chs. 5-7 in CS&K  More details about what you can expect on the Tests may be found at the end of this syllabus and in Canvas. | Tests are found in the Modules in Canvas.  This Test closes Wednesday 10/21 at midnight (11:59 p.m.) |

~You have now completed Part 2 of the course~

## Week 10 (10/25-10/31)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 8, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to religious change and the case of Catholicism.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 10/31

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 8  Take notes as you go. | Text |

## Week 11 (11/1-11/7)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 9, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to globalization and historic animosities that relate to religion, as well as postmodern politics.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 11/7

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 9  Take notes as you go. | Text |

## Week 12 (11/8-11/14)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 10, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to mediating meaning in religion and the relationship religion has with contemporary culture.
* By the end of Week 12 of the course, students will be able to examine (find) information from research articles in the sociology of religion pertaining to: 3) gender, sexuality, and religion.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 11/14

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 10  Take notes as you go. | Text |
| WATCH | Dr. Gregg’s YouTube showing you how to find a research article that meets all 4 criteria using the UNT Library System. | YouTube found in Modules |
| RAO 3, Step 1 | Find a research article for the RAO assignment. This one should be about gender, sexuality, and religion.  Be sure to read pp. 29-30 “Producing the Sociology of Religion” in CS&K’s book.  Research articles must meet 4 criteria:   1. Your research article should only be from one of the scholarly journals listed on pp. 29-30 of CS&K. 2. It must be dated 2010 or more current. 3. Use only research articles that collect and analyze data. (Do not use a theoretical piece, a speech, or a research note.) 4. The article you submit must pertain to the topic assigned. This week the topic is gender, sexuality, and religion. | Library Resources – Search the Databases for research in religion that interests you.  By Saturday, 11/14 before midnight (11:59 p.m.) upload the research article you find for approval from the TA or Dr. Gregg. After it is approved and graded, you may start working on Step 2 of the RAO assignment.  If what you have selected does not meet the 4 criteria for this assignment, you will earn 0. |

## Week 13 (11/15-11/21)

Unit/Module Level Objective:

* After reading Ch. 11, students will be able to recognize and recall information pertaining to boundary issues as far as church and state are concerned, as well as the study of new religious movements.
* By the end of Week 13 of the course, students will be able to summarize (RAO) and apply (CS&K) information from research articles in the sociology of religion pertaining to: 3) gender, sexuality, and religion.

## Your goal is to complete all of the work for this week before Saturday 11/21

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Read | CS&K Ch. 11  Take notes as you go. | Text |
| RAO 3, Step 2 | After reading the research article you selected, complete the RAO Template and submit in Canvas for a grade. | Template is at the end of the Syllabus and in Canvas.  Do this before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 11/21 |
|  | Review Chs. 8-11 for Test 3   * Optional: Complete the Review For Test 3 in Canvas in the Module for Part 3 * The Test is open book and open notes | Test 3 is due Wednesday, 11/25 at midnight (11:59) |

## Week 14 (11/22-11/28)

## Test 3 is due WEDNESDAY

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Complete the Optional Review Worksheet | In Canvas |
| TEST 3 | Complete Test over Chs. 8-11 in CS&K  More details about what you can expect on the Tests may be found at the end of this syllabus and in Canvas. | Tests are found in the Modules in Canvas.  This Test closes Wednesday 11/25 at midnight (11:59 p.m.) |
|  | Thanksgiving Break 11/26-11/27 | University is Closed / No Classes |

~You have now completed Part 3 of the course~

## Week 15 (11/29-12/5)

## WRITING WEEK

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| NOTE | Pre-Finals Days 12/2-12/3 | University Policy |
| NOTE | Last Regular Class Meetings for all Classes 12/3 | University Policy |
| NOTE | Reading Day 12/4 | University Policy |
| To Do: | Watch Dr. Gregg’s YouTube regarding Step 3 of the RAO Process – Summary Critique Term Paper. | In Canvas |
| To Do: | Review your 3 Research Article Overviews | Follow directions for what to write in paper. Directions are found in Syllabus and in Canvas. |
| To Do: | Write your Summary Critique Term Paper. | Due Final Exams week on Monday, 12/7 before midnight (11:59) |
| SPOT | Please remember to complete the SPOT evaluation for the course. | Check your email. |

## Week 16 (12/6-12/12)

## FINAL EXAMS WEEK

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| To Do: | Complete and submit Summary Critique Term Paper. | Due Monday, 12/7 before midnight (11:59) |
| SPOT | Please remember to complete the SPOT evaluation for the course. | Check your email. |

~You have now completed the learning objectives of the course~

# MORE DETAILS ON COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

## TESTS (900 Points)

The book is divided into 3 parts. At the end of each part, students are asked to take an online test in Canvas. If you have kept up with the readings, taken good notes while you read, completed the optional reviews, and followed the instructions in the syllabus and in Canvas, you should do very well on the Tests.

**Details**

* Each Test is worth 300 Points
* You will be presented with anywhere from 25-50 True/False or Multiple Choice Questions. The number of questions vary.
* Each student will be 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 the use in this course. All of the answers can be found in the CS&K text.
* Students are allowed 60 minutes to complete each Test. After 60 minutes your Test will automatically submit in Canvas.
* You are only permitted one attempt on each Test.
* Tests are open book and students can use the notes they take as they read.
* Students should not work with others to complete the Tests.
* Tests are open from day one of the course. This means you can work ahead in this course.
* Because students are allowed to work ahead in this course, there will be no make-up tests allowed in this course. If you think you might miss a deadline for a Test, you are permitted to take it early. If you miss a Test, the grade book will be populated with a zero.

## RESEARCH ARTICLE OVERVIEWS (RAO) (1050 Points)

There are three steps to the RAO assignment. The first two steps only apply to Part 1 and 2 of the course. In Part 3, you will complete all 3 steps.

### Summary of RAO Assignments and Values

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Part 1 | Part 2 | Part 3 |
| Find a research article about religion and a  topic of your choosing. | Find a research article specifically related to race, ethnicity, and religion. | Find a research article specifically related to gender, sexuality, and religion. |
| Step 1: 50 Pts to find the article, make into PDF, and upload to Canvas.  Step 2: 200 Pts to complete the RAO Template. | Step 1: 50 Pts to find the article, make into PDF, and upload to Canvas.  Step 2: 200 Pts to complete the RAO Template. | Step 1: 50 Pts to find the article, make into PDF, and upload to Canvas.  Step 2: 200 Pts to complete the RAO Template. |
| 250 Points | 250 Points | 250 Points |
|  |  | Step 3: Term Paper: RAO Summary/Critique  300 Pts |

### Step 1 of RAO Assignment:

In each part of the course, using the UNT library system, students should find a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal article in the sociology of religion. There are four criteria that must be met with the research article you find and use for the RAO process:

1. The research article you find must be from one of the scholarly journals discussed in CS&K Ch. 2, pages 29-30, in the excerpt “Producing the Sociology of Religion”.[[3]](#footnote-3)
2. Articles must be dated 2010 or more current.
3. The articles you find and read should collect and analyze data. This means there is a data and/or methods section in your article, as well as some form of analysis. (Do not submit speeches, research notes, or theoretical articles. These publications do not meet the criteria for this assignment.)
4. The article you find should pertain to the assigned topic.

If your article does not meet all four of these criteria, you will be awarded zero (0) points and you will forfeit your points for this assignment.

1. After finding a research article, save it as a .pdf file.
2. Upload the .pdf file to Canvas in the correct spot by the correct due date in the syllabus.
3. Do not proceed to Step 2 until your Step 1 has been approved and/or graded.

### Grading Article Submission

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points |
| Student does the following:   1. Finds research article from one of the scholarly journals on pp. 29-30 of CS&K’s text. 2. The article submitted is 2010 or more recent. 3. The research article collects data to analyze. 4. The research article is about the topic assigned. | (0 or 50 Points)  If your article doesn’t meet all 4 criteria on the left, you will be awarded 0 points. |

### Step 2 of RAO Assignment:

1. Read the research article you found.
2. Complete the Research Article Overview (RAO) Template summarizing the article you found. (See more specific details below.)
3. Upload to Canvas in the correct spot by the correct due date in the syllabus.

### More Details for Completing RAO

1. Copy and paste the RAO Template (in Canvas and on the last page of this syllabus) into a Word document (.pdf, .doc, or .docx ONLY).
   * Do not submit your RAO with Google Docs or Pages. Neither of these interfaces well with Canvas. If you do this, and we open your RAO to grade it and nothing is there, you will earn a zero (0).
   * If the formatting is all wonky, you could also earn a zero (0).
   * If you do not complete the RAO Template completely, you could also earn a zero (0).
2. The title of your RAO should be Research Article Overview 1, 2, or 3 respectively.
3. Leave the headings (**the bolded and underlined typing**) in your document. Delete the instructions for what to type.
   * For example, your document should look like this:
     + **Title of Article:** “The Religious Awakening in China”
     + **Journal Name:** Review of Religious Research
     + And so on...
4. Using your best college writing fill in the relevant details of the research article you found and read. Strive to answer all questions asked. Address all prompts in the directions.
5. Single-space your writing.
6. Do not use language in the Abstract for the research article you find.
7. Students will be graded for accuracy of what they describe from their article, as well as the quality and quantity of writing. If you quote something from your article in your writing, use quotation marks and cite the author and page number.[[4]](#footnote-4) Example: (Stark 210).
   * About quantity: Try to fill 2 pages, but do not go over 2 pages of single spaced writing.

### Grading RAOs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points |
| **Directions/Writing**:   * Title is correct – Research Article Overview 1, 2 or 3 * Leaves the bolded and underlined prompts * Deletes all instructions for what to write * Doesn’t go over 2 pages * Writes using their BEST COLLEGE WRITING (sentence structure, grammar, punctuation) * Doesn’t skip a section * Doesn’t steal language from the abstract | (50 Points) |
| **Describes research article fully in each part of RAO (doesn’t skip a section):**   * Study Rationale (5 points) * Study Design (5 points) * Describe Data Collected (10 points) * Literature Review (2 things learned & cites well) (10 points) * Main findings/results/conclusions (5 points) * Criticisms/Opinion (10 points) * Discussion Point (5 points) | (100 Points) |
| **Good connections to CS&K’s book**:   * Writes about what they are learning from CS&K * Quotes CS&K and cites like this: (CS&K #) * Connections between research article and CS&K are clear and solid (they make sense and are explained well) | (50 Points) |
| **TOTAL** | **(200 Points)** |

## Step 3 of RAO Assignment:

At the end of Part 3 of the course, you will write a Term Paper called the RAO Summary/Critique, which provides a summary or critique of what you learned from the research articles, CS&K, and the RAO process. Your goal is to demonstrate your ability to link what you’ve learned in the research articles to the CS&K text. Finally, you will explain all that you’ve learned in this course.

### Details for Completing RAO Summary/Critique Paper

* Think of this short paper as a written test over your RAOs using the CS&K text.
* Format using MLA formatting.
  + Use this link to see how to format: <https://owl.purdue.edu>
  + See example RAO Summary/Critique papers from past students in Canvas in Modules. This will be useful in two ways:
    - First, as an example of how to format your paper.
    - Second, as an example of the level of sophistication your writing should be.
  + Be sure to get the formatting for Page 1 correct. Click here to see an example of Page 1 formatting using MLA:
    - <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html>
* Write 2-4 pages of double-spaced content in your paper. Do not go over 4 pages.
  + Include a Works Cited page. The Works Cited should be on the last page of your document. (So, if you write 4 pages of content, the Works Cited should be on its own page 5.)
  + Click here to see an example Works Cited page using MLA formatting:
    - <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_sample_works_cited_page.html>
  + Your Works Cited page should only have 4 sources listed: the 3 scholarly journal articles you used for the RAOs and CS&K’s 3rd edition text. No outside sources are necessary for this term paper. Do not use any other sources.
  + TIP: Do not discuss the “RAOs” in your paper. This means do not say “RAO” anywhere in your writing. This paper is about the research articles that you read. Refer to the research articles by the author(s)’ names. Remember, the RAO is just a tool for helping you write about research articles. No one knows what RAO means, except Dr. Gregg.
  + To give credit to the authors in your writing, you can do two things:
    1. Mention the authors: One thing that I learned from Williams and Guerra’s research was that, “there is a limited number of studies that specifically have examined the influence of school climate on bullying…” (127).
    2. Directly quote without mentioning the authors: “The limited number of studies that specifically have examined the influence of school climate on bullying have largely focused on general school climate” (Williams and Guerra 127).
    - For more help with citing using MLA, check out this website:
      * <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html>
  + In the Introductory paragraph of your paper, it is important that you cite the year of publication for each of your research articles and CS&K’s text.
  + Also, in the introductory paragraph, after introducing your articles and CS&K, do not restate the entire title of the article for each article you read anywhere else in your paper. Refer to the article by the author’s names. And, do not restate the title of CS&K’s book over and over in your short paper. For our purposes, when discussing CS&K’s book, it is okay if you write something like this:
    - Similar to Jones and Peacock’s study I found, CS&K discuss evangelical “born again” religious conversion in Chapter 4 of their book. They state: “Believers who are *born again* are expected to exercise reserve and circumspection in their personal lives, yet they are to reach out at the same time by ‘witnessing’ about their faith to those who are still ‘unsaved’” (CS&K 113).
      * Notice how to “quote ‘within’ quotes.”
      * Notice that I never said “RAO” anywhere in my writing.

### Outline for Term Paper:

* **Introduction (Give this section 1 Paragraph)** – I like to think of a paper as a party. In the introductory paragraph, your goal is to introduce all the people who will be at your party (i.e, your paper). So, introduce all of your research articles. Give credit to the authors in your writing. Be sure to cite the year of the publication after discussing each research article. Do not quote anything from your research articles in the introduction. Speak in very general terms about the articles. Next, introduce CS&K text the same way. Remember to cite the year of publication for CS&K’s book. Finally, explain what you will be doing in the paper in the form of a thesis statement.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* **Describe Research (Minimum of 3 Paragraphs)** – Using your RAOs (as tools), briefly describe each research article. Provide the relevant details found in each of the research articles you found. Give each research article a solid paragraph.
  + Do not discuss the RAO here. Rather, say things like this:
    - In their research Williams and Guerra aimed to discover X,Y, and Z.
  + As you write this section, remember to give credit to the authors who wrote the research article by using their last names in your writing (like I do above).
  + Cite each research article appropriately using MLA.
  + If you do not quote anything from the research article in your writing, you still need to cite at the end of the paragraph, like this: (Williams and Guerra 2010).
* **Connections to CS&K (Minimum of 2 paragraphs)** – Describe for the reader how each of the research articles you found connect to what you learned in CS&K. To do this directly quote information from the CS&K text. When you quote, do so like this: (CS&K #). In your writing you must make connections to the text at least 3 times (but more is even better). After you quote the text, explain the connection you are making between the two sources. In other words, do not just plop a quote down without some form of explanation. Try to fully develop your connection with a good explanation.
* **Conclusion (Give this last section 1 paragraph)** – Tell the reader the following:
  + What did you learn about religion from your articles? (Say: “I learned…”)
  + What did you learn from the RAO process? Was it useful? Will you use this tool in other courses going forward? (Discuss the RAO process. It is okay to say RAO here.)
  + What did you learn from the CS&K text? Be specific. (I really want to know your thoughts on the CS&K text. Give this a few sentences.)
  + The last thing that should be in your conclusion is your answer to this question: What is your major take-away point from this course learning about the sociology of religion? (Say: “take-away” somewhere in your concluding sentences.)

### Notes About Writing:

* Give the paper a creative title. Have some fun with this. It will make it more fun to grade.
* Please do not quote a fragment of a sentence. In this paper quote entire sentences from the sources. Graders will need to see the context of the quote so we will look up your quotes to see that the connection you are making makes sense with the CS&K text.
* Quotes >4 lines should be block and indented. To see how to do this properly for MLA, go to the Purdue Owl (owl.purdue.edu). If you quote something that is 4 lines or more without block and indenting it, you will be deducted formatting points. To see how to do this, click on this URL:
  + <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_quotations.html>

### Grading Step 3 Term Paper – Summary/Critique

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points |
| Directions/Grammar/MLA formatting:   * Creative Title * Doesn’t go over 4 pages of content * Writes at College Level - Ideas connect * Uses MLA formatting * WC looks good – all 4 sources listed correctly and in alphabetical order * Follows directions for what & how much to write * Follows structure of the paper * Doesn’t use outside sources * Doesn’t quote fragment sentences * Uses Block and Indent when needed for long quotes * Gets page 1 correct – page 1 heading, running header, spacing | (25 Points)  (deducted in increments of 5. Once you lose 25 points, you cannot lose any more for these 3 things: Directions/Grammar/MLA) |
| 1 Paragraph Introduction (Very General):   * Introduces all 3 research articles. Gives authors credit by citing or mentioning their names. * Introduces CS&K text * Explains what the paper is about / sets forth a Thesis (defined as a controlling statement that governs the direction of the paper) | (25 Points) |
| 3 Paragraphs based on RAOs:   * 1 paragraph for each RA read * Explains the relevant details for each RA * Does not discuss or use the term RAO * Writes well / Ideas connect * Quotes and cites correctly using MLA * Gives credit to the authors | (100 Points)   * 33.3 pts per paragraph |
| 2 Paragraphs connecting with CS&K:   * Links CS&K to what was learned in RAs * Directly quotes full sentences from CS&K to make connections * Does this 3 X (At least 1 X per article, but more is better) * Quotes CS&K correctly (CS&K #) * Explains connections well | (100 Points)   * 50 pts per paragraph |
| Conclusion (What you learned):   * Explains what he/she learned from RAO process; * Describes what he/she learned about religion from articles; and * what he/she learned from the CS&K text * Fully addresses what he/she will take away from this course | (50 Points) |
| **Total** | (300 Points) |

**Research Article Overview**

At the top left of the document (.doc, .docx, .pdf only) copy and paste all of the following bolded, underlined, and black typing. Do not miss any section. DELETE THIS and all other instructions for what to write.

**Your Name:**

**Date Due/RAO#:**

**Topic of RAO**: 1. Your Topic of Choice; 2. Race and Ethnicity 3. Gender and Sexuality (Which one is this?)

**Author(s) Name(s):** Type out the complete name of all authors of your article.

**Title of Research Article Under Review:** Must be a scholarly, top-tiered, peer-reviewed journal article. For purposes of SOCI 3700, I will only accept articles from journals mentioned on pp. 29-30 of the CS&K text. These are BEST journals to look in for research on the sociology of religion:

1. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion (JSSR)*
2. *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review (ASR)*
3. *Review of Religious Research (RRR)*
4. *American Sociological Review*

**Name of Journal Research Article Comes From:** *Italicize this.*

**Date Research Article Published:**  Must be 2010 or more current.

**Study Rationale:** What issue/topic with religion under investigation? What do the researchers want to know? Why do they want to know this? (In other words, what is the point of this research?)

**Study Design:** How do the researchers propose to study this issue/topic related to religion? How will they go about collecting their data? Who will they study? Where will they go? Is the study quantitative or qualitative? How can you tell?

**Describe Data Collected:** What kind of data do the researchers collect? (Interviews, Surveys, Participant Observation, Records, Archives, etc…?) Where does the study take place? When did the study take place? How much time did it take the researchers? Did the researchers receive funding for this study?

**Literature Review:** Tell me at least 2 things you learned from the literature review that these researchers conducted for their research. (Researchers must make a case for what they study. To do this, they do research themselves. They cite other studies. What did you learn from the other studies that the researchers discuss? Be sure to cite these other studies in your writing. This means tell me the authors’ names.)

**Main findings/results/conclusions:** What are the main findings/results/conclusions from this study? This is usually found in the last 1-3 pages of a research article. What contribution did these scholars believe they made to our knowledge about religion in society? Did they accomplish what they set out to do?

**Criticisms/Opinion:** What do you think about this research article? What is your opinion of the research? Do you have any criticisms of the study? Did the researchers miss something? What more needs to be researched regarding the topic related to religion in society? Do the researchers offer suggestions for future research?

**Connections to Course Materials (Christiano, Swatos & Kivisto’s book):** This is the hardest and the most important part of the RAO assignment. This is because being able to make connections between your research article and the text tests your knowledge of the course material. If you do not do well here, you will not earn all of the points for the RAO. So, in this part of the RAO your aim is to connect something in your research article with different things CS&K say in the text. Then explain what the connections mean. Use quotes from CS&K to illustrate your points. When you do so, cite the source and page number like this: (CS&K 220). This section of the RAO will be the most helpful for you when you go to write your RAO Summary/Critique Term Paper at the end of the course. This is because if you do well here, you’ll be able to use this in your final paper.

1. Referred to in Syllabus as CS&K. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CS&K stands for Christiano, Swatos, and Kivisto’s text which is required for the course. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The BEST journals to use are listed on the RAO Template. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RAOs will be used to write the Term Paper. If you put page numbers in now, you won’t have to hunt for the quotes later. Think of the RAO as a tool for writing a bigger paper. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. A thesis statement is a controlling statement that governs the content of each paragraph you write in the paper. It connects everything you write. It explains the BIG PICTURE of the paper. Think of it as a commercial for what is to come in your writing. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)