# Sociology of Religion

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



## Spring 2020 / Online

## Dr. Karen Monique Gregg / TA Tanya Faglie

# IMPORTANT UNT DATES

Classes begin: 1/13 Spring Break: 3/9-3/15

MLK Day (No Classes): 1/20 Last Day of Class: 4/28

Census Date: 1/27 Pre-Final Days: 4/29-30

Mid-Semester: 3/6 Final Exams: 5/2-5/7

# IMPORTANT DATES IN THIS COURSE

* Discussion posts are due the first and last week of the course
	+ Introduce yourself by 1/18
	+ Say Goodbye by 4/30 (Thursday)
* Syllabus Quiz due the first week of the course due by 1/18
* Research Article Overview work:
	+ Finding 3 research articles due by: 2/1, 2/22, 4/4
	+ Writing up of Research Article Overviews (RAOs) due by: 2/8, 2/29, 4/11
	+ Term Paper: RAO Summary/Critique due by: 4/18
* Test Dates:
	+ Chs. 1-4 of Christiano, Swatos & Kivisto (CS&K) -- 2/15
	+ Chs. 5-7 of CS&K -- 3/7
	+ Chs. 8-11 of CS&K -- 4/25
* NOTE: All assignments are due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) in Canvas.
	+ One exception to this is the goodbye discussion post which is due on a Thursday.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**Contact with Professor:** Post any questions you have in the Q&A discussion. I will correspond with you frequently via grading comments and in the Q&A discussion.

**Office Hours:** Sycamore 288V, Tues &Thurs 1:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

**Inbox Canvas:** If you need to speak to me privately, the BEST way to do so is via theInbox inCanvas.Please allow 24-hours for a response.

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

Dr. Gregg E-mail: Karen.Gregg@UNT.edu

**TA E-mail:** TanyaFaglie@my.unt.edu

# 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 OBJECTIVES

* This course introduces students to the study of religion in society.
* Using the UNT Library System, students will learn how to find scholarly and peer-reviewed research articles pertaining to the sociology of religion in society.
* Students will learn how to read and how to summarize research articles pertaining to the sociology of religion.
* From the CS&K text, students will develop a broad overview of what sociologists of religion study and develop an understanding of how religion affects society at multiple levels (micro- meso- macro-).
* Students will demonstrate their mastery of the material in the text by passing tests based on the 3 parts of the text.

# 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! No one will be excused from any assignment because they do not have the book. To be fair, everyone must have all of their course materials by day one of the semester.

A copy of this book has been put on hold for students at the Willis Library on UNT campus. Students are permitted to check this book out for 2 hours at a time.

You will be required to use the UNT Library System to find 3 research articles from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals pertaining to the Sociology of 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, 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>

### Prof Gregg’s Requirements

If a student is eligible for accommodations based on a documented disability with ODA, he or she is required to notify Dr. Gregg in the form of a letter from the ODA within one week of the start date for the course. At that time, Dr. Gregg will meet (or trade emails) with the student to discuss reasonable accommodations for him or her to be successful in this course. Once the course has started, no new accommodations will be made (unless the documented disability is new or Dr. Gregg is contacted by ODA).

### 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:

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 I expect from you:

1. Patience with me as the instructor 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 on-line. If it appears you are not actively engaged in this course, Prof. Gregg 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 and you will learn important things about yourself as a student by reading these comments. 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 Thursday or Friday 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. Visits to office hours usually help students get on track.

# ASSIGNMENTS and 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 to arrange for an in-person meeting during office hours. When possible, students should contact Dr. Gregg **PRIOR TO** missing the assignment. Each student is allowed **only one documented emergency** per semester. If you contact Dr. Gregg **PRIOR TO** the missed assignment, you may or may not be granted leniency in missing the assignment.

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. I suggest 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.

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

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| Dr. Gregg’s Grading Scale |
| ≥ 92% = **A** | 74-83% = **C** | Anything lower than 65% = **F** |
| 84-91% = **B** | 65%-73% = **D** |  |

# SUMMARY of COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & VALUES

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| **2000 Points / 100%** |
| **PART 1 (Chs. 1-4)** | **PART 2 (Chs. 5-7)** | **PART 3 (Chs. 8-11)** |
| **Assignments**:Post an Introduction (Complete/Incomplete)Syllabus Quiz 50 PtsFind research article 50 PtsComplete RAO 200 PtsTest 1 – 300 Pts | **Assignments**:Find research article 50 PtsComplete RAO 200 PtsTest 2 – 300 Pts | **Assignments**:Find research article 50 PtsComplete RAO 200 PtsRAO Summary 300 PtsTest 3 – 300 PtsPost a Goodbye Message to Dr. Gregg (Complete/Incomplete) |
| **Weeks 1-5** | **Weeks 6-9** | **Weeks 10-End** |
| 600 Points | 550 Points | 850 Points |
| 30% of Final Grade | 27.5% of Final Grade | 42.5% of Final Grade |

# TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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| Week 1: 1/12-1/18THEME: Getting Stuff, Getting Started |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Explore Canvas, Upload picture to Profile
* Print and read Syllabus
* Post questions in Discussion for Q&A
* Buy Book ASAP
* Read *About Ourselves* and *About the Book* (pp. vii-x)
 | Log in and poke around.Bookstore on campus should have the book. One is also on reserve in the Willis Library. Can check out for 2 hours at a time.  |
| DiscPost | **Assignment**:Post an introduction in the Discussion for Introductions. Tell the class:1. Your major.
2. How far along are you in your studies at UNT.
3. Why you took this course (i.e., what interests you about the study of religion in society).
4. Respond to at least one other student after you post.
 | Graded as Complete/IncompleteDue before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 1/18 |
| Quiz | Take Syllabus Quiz (Everyone gets 2 attempts at this quiz. The highest grade will be recorded.) | In Canvas at the Top of the Modules section* Worth 50 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 1/18 |

# PART 1: THE BASICS

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| Week 2: 1/19-1/25 THEME: Ch. 1 By Way of Introduction |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 1
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 1 is over Chs. 1-4 of CS&K text.)  |

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| Week 3: 1/26-2/1 THEME: Ch. 2 Studying Religion  |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 2
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 1 is over Chs. 1-4 of CS&K text.) |
| 1st RAO | **Assignment**: 1. Think of a topic related to religion that interests you.
2. Using UNT’s library system, find a journal article with your topic in the title from one of the journals discussed in the excerpt entitled, “Producing Religion” (p. 29-30) in the text.
3. Read journal article.
4. Save as .pdf file. Upload to Canvas.
 | * Worth 50 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 2/1 |

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| Week 4: 2/2-2/8 THEME: Ch. 3 The Religion of “Secularization” and the History of Religions |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 3
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 1 is over Chs. 1-4 of CS&K text.) |
| RAO DUE | **Assignment**: 1. Find Research Article Overview (RAO) template in Canvas.
2. Based on the research article you found in Week 3, complete the RAO.
3. Save as .pdf file. Upload to Canvas.

  | * Worth 200 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 2/8 |

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| Week 5: 2/9-2/15THEME: Ch. 4 Religion in the United States: Denominationalism and Beyond |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 4
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text |
| TEST 1 DUE | **Assignment**: * Review Chs. 1-4
* Take Test 1 over Chs. 1-4

  | In Canvas in Module folder with Tests. * Worth 300 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 2/15 |

# PART 2: RELIGION AND SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION

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| Week 6: 2/16-2/22THEME: Ch. 5 Social Class, Religion, and Power: A Classic Field of Inquiry |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 5
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 2 is over Chs. 5-7 of CS&K text.) |
| 2nd RAO | **Assignment**: 1. Using UNT’s library system, find **another** journal article, but this time it must be related to **race and ethnicity and religion**. The title must indicate these two topics. The article must be from one of the journals discussed in the excerpt entitled, “Producing Religion” (p. 29-30) in the text.
2. Read journal article.
3. Save as .pdf file. Upload to Canvas.
 | * Worth 50 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 2/22 |

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| Week 7: 2/23-2/29THEME: Ch. 6 Religion and Ethnicity: A Complex Relationship |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 6
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text (Test 2 is over Chs. 5-7 of CS&K text.) |
| RAO DUE | **Assignment**: 1. Find Research Article Overview (RAO) template in Canvas.
2. Based on the research article you found in Week 6, complete the RAO.
3. Save as .pdf file. Upload to Canvas.
 | * Worth 200 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 2/29 |

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| Week 8: 3/1-3/7THEME: Ch. 7 Gender, Sexuality and Religion: Spirituality in Different Voices |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 7
* Take notes
 | Text(Test 3 is over Chs. 8-11 of CS&K text.) |
| TEST 2 DUE | **Assignment**: * Review Chs. 5-7
* Take Test 2 over Chs. 5-7

  | In Canvas in Module folder with Tests. * Worth 300 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 3/7 |

# WEEK 9 SPRING BREAK (3/8-3/14)

# PART 3 RELIGION, CULTURE AND CHANGE

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| Week 10: 3/15-3/21THEME: Ch. 8 Religious Change: The Case of Catholicism in the United States |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 8
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 3 is over Chs. 8-11 of CS&K text.) |

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| Week 11: 3/22-3/28THEME: Ch. 9 The Globalization Dynamic: Historic Animosities or Postmodern Politics |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 9
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 3 is over Chs. 8-11 of CS&K text.) |

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| Week 12: 3/29-4/4THEME: Ch. 10 Mediating Meaning: Religion in – and as – Contemporary Culture |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 10
* Take notes
 | CS&K Text(Test 3 is over Chs. 8-11 of CS&K text.) |
| 3rdRAO | **Assignment**: 1. Using UNT’s library system, find **another** journal article, but this time it must be related to **gender, sexuality and religion**. The title must somehow indicate these topics. The article must be from one of the journals discussed in the excerpt entitled, “Producing Religion” (p. 29-30) in the text.
2. Read journal article.
3. Save as .pdf file. Upload to Canvas.
 | * Worth 50 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 4/4 |

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| Week 13: 4/5-4/11THEME: Ch. 11 Boundary Issues: Church, State and New Religions |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Read Ch. 11
* Take notes
* LAST CHAPTER IN CS&K!
 | CS&K Text(Test 3 is over Chs. 8-11 of CS&K text.) |
| RAO DUE | **Assignment**: 1. Find Research Article Overview (RAO) template in Canvas.
2. Based on the research article you found in Week 12, complete the RAO.
3. Save as .pdf file. Upload to Canvas.
 | Worth 200 PointsDue before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 4/11 |

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| Week 14: 4/12-4/18THEME: Research Article Overviews |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | * Review Chs. 8-11 to study for Test 3 next week
 | CS&K Text(Test 3 is over Chs. 8-11 of CS&K text.) |
| Sum of RAOs Due | **Assignment**: 1. Review all 3 RAOs that you’ve completed.
2. Write Term Paper: RAO Summary/Critique. See end of syllabus and Canvas for specific directions.
 | * Worth 300 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 4/18 |

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| Week 15: 4/19-4/25THEME: Review and Test 3 |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
| TEST 3 DUE | **Assignment**: * Review Chs. 8-11
* Take Test 2 over Chs. 5-7

  | In Canvas in Module folder with Tests. * Worth 300 Points

Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 4/25 |

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| Week 16: 4/26-4/30THEME: Reading Days for University |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
| 4/30 | Last Day of Spring Semester | Yay!  |
| DiscPost | **Assignment**:Post a Goodbye Message to Dr. Gregg in the Discussion for Goodbyes. Tell the class:1. Something really important that you learned in this class (your general take-away).
2. Did you enjoy the class? Yes? No? Why or why not?
3. Do you have any recommendations for change?
 | Graded as Complete/IncompleteDue before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Thursday 4/30NOTE THURSDAY!!!! |
| SPOT Due | **Assignment**:* Complete the SPOT course evaluation.
* If SPOT evaluations reach 80% or more, I will award EC points.
 | Thank you for doing this.Please do this ASAP! |
|  | Study for other exams! I wish you well finishing out the semester.  | Good luck!  |

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| Week 17: FINAL EXAMS |
| Check | Description of What to Do | How To / Where / When Due |
|  | There is no Final Exam in this course. You took 3 Tests demonstrating your mastery of the course materials!  | Yay!  |

Thank you for taking this course!

Please complete the SPOT evaluation.

# MORE DETAILS ON COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

## TESTS (900 Points / 45% of Final Grade)

The book is divided into 3 parts. At the end of each part, students are asked to take an online test in Canvas. If students keep up with the reading in the course, take good notes over the readings (or highlighted in your book), and follow the instructions in the syllabus and in Canvas, they should do very well on the Tests.

**Details**

* Each Test is worth 300 Points (15% of Final Grade)
* 25-50 True/False or Multiple Choice Questions.
* 45 minutes to complete the Test
* You are given 2 attempts at each Test. These attempts can be spread out.
	+ If you do not do well the first time, you are expected to return to the material in the book and study before attempting the test again.
	+ The Test questions are drawn from a pool of questions I have vetted. Each time you take the Test, the questions will be different.
* The highest grade of the 2 attempts will be recorded in the grade book.
* After the second attempt, the correct answers will be revealed.
* Tests are open book and students can use their notes.
* Students must take tests some time during the week in which the tests are assigned.
	+ Because you are allowed 7 days to take the tests, and because students are allowed to work ahead in this course, there will be no make-up tests allowed in this course.
* I do not debate test questions with students, so do not email me about a test question. Instead, I encourage you to see me in office hours if you’d like to discuss a test question.

## RESEARCH ARTICLE OVERVIEWS (RAO) (1050 Points / 52.5% of Final Grade)

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.

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| **Part 1** | **Part 2** | **Part 3** |
| Find a research article about atopic of your choosing. | Find a research article specifically related to race and ethnicity and religion. | Find a research article specifically related to gender, sexuality, and religion. |
| 50 Pts to find the article, make into PDF, and upload to Canvas. 200 Pts to complete the RAO Template. | 50 Pts to find the article, make into PDF, and upload to Canvas. 200 Pts to complete the RAO Template. | 50 Pts to find the article, make into PDF, and upload to Canvas.200 Pts to complete the RAO Template. |
| 250 Points 12.5% of Final Grade | 250 Points12.5% of Final Grade | 250 Points12.5% of Final Grade |
| All of the RAO work culminates into a Term Paper | Term Paper: RAO Summary/Critique 300 Pts (15% of Final Grade) |

**Step 1 of RAO Assignment**:

In each part of the course, using the UNT library system, students are asked to find a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal article on their own from one of the journals discussed in Ch. 2, pages 29-30 in the excerpt “Producing the Sociology of Religion.”[[2]](#footnote-2) If your article does not come from one of the journals in this excerpt, you will be awarded a zero (0) and you will forfeit your points for this assignment. Articles must be dated 2010 or more current.

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.

**Step 2 of RAO Assignment**:

1. Read the research article.
2. Complete the Research Article Overview Template summarizing the article you found. The template is in the Syllabus (below) and in Canvas in the Modules for each part of the course.
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 module in Canvas and on the last page of the syllabus) into a Word document (.pdf, .doc, or .docx ONLY).
	* Do not submit your RAO with Google Docs or Pages. Neither of these interfaces with Canvas very well. 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).
2. The title of your RAO should be Research Article Overview 1, 2, or 3.
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 details of the research article you found. Answer all questions asked. Students will be graded for accuracy of what they describe from their article, quality, and quantity of writing. If you quote something from your article in your writing, use quotation marks and cited the page number.[[3]](#footnote-3)
	* About quantity: Try to fill 2 pages, but do not go over 2 pages.

**Step 3 of RAO Assignment:**

In Part 3 of the course, students will write a Term Paper called the RAO Summary/Critique, which provides a summary or critique of what they learned from the RAO process. In writing this paper you will discuss all that you have learned from the RAO process, the assignment, and the course. The goal will be to link what you’ve learned to the CS&K text.

***Details for Completing RAO Summary/Critique Paper***

* Think of this short paper as a written test over your RAOs.
* Format using MLA formatting.
	+ Use this link to see how to format: owl.purdue.edu
* Write 2-3 pages of double-spaced content in your paper. Do not go over 3 pages.
	+ Include a Works Cited page. The Works Cited should be on the 4th page of your document.
	+ 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.
* Recommended Outline:
	+ **Introduction** – introduce all of your articles. Introduce CS&K text. Explain what you will be doing in the paper.
	+ **Next 3 Paragraphs** – using your RAOs, briefly describe what you learned from each article. Give each article a solid paragraph.
	+ **Next 1-2 Paragraphs** – How do your research articles connect to what you learned in CS&K? Show me connections by quoting the text. When you quote, do so like this: (CS&K 220).
	+ **Conclusion** – What did you learn from the RAO process? What did you learn about religion from your articles? What did you learn from the RAO process? What did you learn from the CS&K text?
* 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.
	+ Quotes should not be >4 lines. If they are, they should be block and indented. To see how to do this properly for MLA, go to the Purdue Owl (owl.purdue.edu).

## OTHER ASSIGNMENTS AND INFORMATION ON FINAL GRADE (2.5% of Final Grade)

It is very important that you follow the syllabus each week and check items off as you go. This is because there are other assignment types assigned throughout the course of the semester.

* Quiz over Syllabus in Week One of Course (50 Points)
* Two Discussion Posts (Complete/Incomplete grade)
	+ First week of classes: post in Discussion introducing yourself to the course and respond to one other person’s post (Complete/Incomplete grade)
	+ Last week of classes: post in Discussion for Goodbye Message for Dr. Gregg
	+ Failure to do one or both of these assignments may result in a reduction in your final grade for failure to meet the requirements of the course.
* Complete SPOT evaluation for the course.
	+ If the percentage for the class gets to 80% or more, Dr. Gregg will award extra credit

**Template for 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.

**Your Name**

**Date Due/ RAO#**

**Topic of RAO** (Your Choice/Race and Ethnicity/Gender and Sexuality)

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

**Journal Name (italicize this):**

**Date Journal Article Published (must be 2010 or more current):**

**Study Rationale:** What issue/topic with religion under investigation? What do the researchers want to know?

**Study Design:** How do the researchers propose to study this issue/topic related to religion? Is the study quantitative or qualitative? How can you tell?

**Describe Data Collected:** What do the researchers propose to study? Who will they study? 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 two 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? How do these other studies relate to your own study?)

**Main findings/results/conclusions:** What are the main findings/results/conclusions from this study? What contribution did these scholars make to our knowledge about religion in society?

**Criticisms/Opinion:** What do you think about this research article? Do you have any criticisms of the study? Are there any holes in what the study finds? What more needs to be researched regarding your topic related to religion in society?

**Connections to Course Materials (Christiano, Swatos & Kivisto’s book):** This is the hardest part of the RAO assignment. Being able to make connections 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. In this part of the RAO you need to make connections with the other course material. This will require you to review what we’ve read or watched. You must quote something from the course materials and link it to your journal article. When you do so, cite the source and page number. If you quote the main textbook, do so 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 paper.

**Discussion Point:** Pose at least one discussion-worthy point or question about the journal article you reviewed. Your discussion-worthy point or question can be broad and general.

1. Referred to in Syllabus as CS&K. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The BEST journals to use are listed on the RAO Template. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 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-3)