# Sociology of Religion

# SOCI 3700-900 / Spring 2024 Online

## Dr. Karen Monique Gregg / TA TBA

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name: Dr. Karen Monique Gregg

Office Location: Sycamore 288V

Phone Number: 940-565-2296

Office Hours: If you need to meet with Dr. Gregg, reach out to her to make a Zoom meeting date at a mutually agreeable time.

Instructor Email: [Karen.Gregg@UNT.edu](mailto:Karen.Gregg@UNT.edu)

Communication: Communicate with Dr. Gregg using the Inbox in Canvas. If you email Dr. Gregg using the UNT email address, she will kindly request that you communicate in Canvas and will respond to you there. Please allow 24-hours for a response in Canvas. Note that Dr. Gregg does not respond to emails 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**

MLK Day: January 15th Last Day of Class: May 2nd

Classes Begin: January 16th Pre-Finals: May 1st – 2nd

Mid-Semester: March 8th Reading Day: May 3rd

Spring Break March 10th-16th Final Exams: May 4th – May 10th

## **DUE DATES IN THIS COURSE**

* Required Week One:
  + Syllabus Quiz due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) Saturday 1/20.
* 11 Chapter Quizzes:
  + 10 Required quizzes over each chapter in the CS&K text. Quizzes due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturdays.
* 11 Chapter Discussions:
  + 10 Required discussions (+responses) related to each chapter in the CS&K text. Discussions due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturdays.
* 3 Tests (only 2 count):
  + All 3 Tests are completed online.
    - Test 1 due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 2/24.
    - Test 2 due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 3/30.
    - Test 3 due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Monday 5/4.
* Focused Individual Study (FIS):
  + 2 FIS Reflection Discussion posts and responses due 2/24 and 5/6.
  + 1 FIS Report due during Final Exams on 5/6.
* NOTE: The course is considered over at midnight (11:59 p.m.) on 5/6.

## **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.

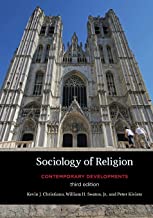
## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

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 (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 it 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: 978-1-4422-1692-1

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

This book is referred to as CS&K in Canvas and in this syllabus. 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 24 hours at a time (only 3 students per day). Please contact Willis Library for more information.

In addition to the main text, starting about mid-semester students will participate in a Focused Individual Study 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 in order to participate in two reflective discussions AND produce a written report applying information from the CS&K text.

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. Atheism, A Very Short Introduction, 2nd Ed. by Julian Baggini. (2021) Oxford University Press.

## **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>

### **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 if there is one):**

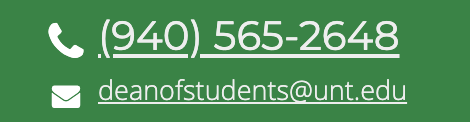
1. Respect and active listening.
2. Consistent grading with return time within one-two weeks.
3. Willingness to teach, learn and answer questions.
4. To be prepared each week for our class.
5. To allow ample opportunity for you to do well in this course.
6. To be available by Zoom appointment for additional 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, 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 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.
   1. Use of AI to generate coursework will result in an Academic Integrity Violation Report being submitted to UNT.
   2. 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) or other gibberish to enter the discussion, you will earn a zero and Dr. Gregg will complete an Academic Integrity Violation Report and submit it to UNT.
7. To read the grading comments that Prof. Gregg (and the TA) provide 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, Dr. Gregg 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 Dr. Gregg 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 substantially reduced and you might receive a zero (0) on the assignment submitted.
11. 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.* 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 Dr. Gregg (or the TA) happen to look up something you quote from CS&K (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.

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. Students are required to have a working computer with reliable Internet service to be successful in this course.
2. 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. 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. 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.
4. 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 usually help students get on track.
5. 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 Dr. Gregg via the Inbox in Canvas to discuss your situation **PRIOR TO** missing the assignment. When students do this, Dr. Gregg 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, 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.

## **Summary of Course Assignments and Point Values**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | Description | Points |
| Week One | Syllabus Quiz  All students are required to take this quiz before completing work in the course. | 100 Points |
| 11 Chapter Quizzes | 11 Chapter Quizzes over CS&K.  Required to take 10. If you take them all, the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.  (10 X 50 = 500) | 500 Points |
| 11 Chapter Discussion | **11 Chapter Discussions over CS&K**  Required to participate in 10. If you participate in them all, the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.  (10 X 50 = 500) | 500 Points |
| 3 Tests | 3 Tests over each Part of CS&K text.   * Test 1 Chs 1-4 * Test 2 Chs 5-7 * Test 3 Chs 8-11   (Only 2 count X 200 = 400) | 400 Points |
| Focused Individual Study on one of these:   * Christianity * Judaism * Islam * Atheism | 2 Discussions (2 X 100 – 200)  1 Report worth up to 300 points | 500 Points |
| TOTAL |  | 2000 Points |

## **Dr. Gregg’s Grading Scale**

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

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| --- | --- |
| **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 |

# **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

## **Week 1 (1/14-1/20) Getting Stuff and Getting Started**

### **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.

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | WATCH the video Dr. Gregg made introducing you to the course. She introduces herself, explains her background in the Sociology of Religion, and discusses the assignments and course expectations.  Found in Module called Introduction (Stuff to Do in Week One) | Do this right away. This will help you with the Syllabus Quiz. |
|  | * Buy book * Read Syllabus * Watch Dr. Gregg’s film introducing you to the course | UNT bookstore  In Canvas  In Canvas |
|  | TAKE the Syllabus Quiz (100 Points) | The quiz is in Canvas and is due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/20 |
| FIS | WATCH the video Dr. Gregg made explaining the Focused Individual Study assignment.  Found in Module called Introduction (Stuff to Do in Week One) | You can do this multiple times as needed. |

## **Part One: The Basics (Chs 1-4)**

## **Week 2 (1/21-1/27) Ch1 By Way of Introduction**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to the definitional problem of religion. (Ch1Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to the introduction from Ch1 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch1D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Ch1 Quiz in Canvas | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/27 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch1   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 1/27 |

## **Week 3 (1/28-2/3) Ch2 Studying Religion**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to methods and theory related to studying religion in society. (Ch2Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to the study of religion in society from Ch2 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch2D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Ch2 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/3 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch2   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/3 |

## **Week 4 (2/4-2/10) Ch3 The “Religion” of Secularization and the History of Religions**

### **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)
* Discuss something personally important related to the secularization theory from Ch3 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch3D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Ch3 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/10 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch3   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/10 |

## **Week 5 (2/11-2/17) Ch4 Religion in the United States: Denominationalism and Beyond**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion in the United States. (Ch4Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to religion in the U.S. from Ch4 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch4D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Ch4 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/17 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch4   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/17 |

## **Week 6 (2/18-2/24) Review for and take Test 1**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 1-4. (Test 1)
* Participate in discussion pertaining to book selection with peers. (1st FIS D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | Review for Text 1:   * Review Chs 1-4 of CS&K * Review personal notes * Rewatch Dr. Gregg’s videos for review | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Test 1 over Chs 1-4. | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/24 |
| FIS | WATCH the video Dr. Gregg made explaining the Focused Individual Study assignment.  Found in Module called Introduction (Stuff to Do in Week One) | If you haven’t watched this video yet, do so now. You can do this multiple times as needed. |
| FIS | Begin Focused Individual Study (FIS):   * Pick and acquire book to read for the FIS assignment. * Follow directions for how to participate in 1st FIS Reflective Discussion. | B&N Bookstore  Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 2/24 |

## **Part Two: Religion and Social Differentiation (Chs 5-7)**

## **Week 7 (2/25-3/2) Ch5 Social Class, Religion, and Power: A Classic Field of Inquiry**

### **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)
* Discuss something personally important related to social class, religion, and power from Ch5 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch5D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Ch5 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 3/2 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch5   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 3/2 |
| FIS | Begin reading book selected for Focused Individual Study.   * Take notes. | Ongoing |

NOTE: 3/8 is the midpoint in the semester

## **Week 8 (3/3-3/9) Ch6 Religion and Ethnicity: A Complex Relationship**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion and ethnicity. (Ch6Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to religion and ethnicity from Ch6 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch6D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take the Ch6 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 3/9 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch6   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 3/9 |
| FIS | Continue reading book selected for Focused Individual Study.   * Take notes. | Ongoing |

## **Week 9 is Spring Break (3/10-3/16 – No Class**

## **Week 10 (3/17-3/23) Ch7 Gender, Sexuality, and Religion: Spirituality in Different Voices**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to gender, sexuality, and religion. (Ch7Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to religion, gender, and sexuality from Ch7 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch7D)

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take the Ch7 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 3/23 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch7   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 3/23 |
| FIS | Finish reading book selected for Focused Individual Study.   * Take notes. | Ongoing |

## **Week 11 (3/24-3/30) Review for and take Test 2**

### **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.
* Begin constructing FIS report on religious worldview.

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | Review for Text 2:   * Review Chs 5-7 of CS&K * Review personal notes * Rewatch Dr. Gregg’s videos for review | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Test 2 over Chs 5-7. | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 3/30 |
| FIS | RE-WATCH the video Dr. Gregg made explaining the Focused Individual Study assignment.  Found in Module called Introduction (Stuff to Do in Week One) | If you haven’t watched this video yet, do so now. You can do this multiple times as needed. |
| FIS  WRITE | * By now you should have completed the reading of the book you selected for the Focused Individual Study. * Look at instructions for FIS report paper. * Write Introduction paragraph. | Ongoing |

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

## **Week 12 (3/31-4/6) Ch8 Religious Change: The Case of Catholicism in the U.S.**

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this week, 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)
* Discuss something personally important related to religious change from Ch8 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch8D)
* Continue constructing FIS report on religious worldview.

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take the Ch8 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 4/6 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch8   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 4/6 |
| FIS  WRITE | * Write 1-2 paragraphs explaining the basic tenets of the religious worldview. | Ongoing |

## **Week 13 (4/7-4/13)**

## **Ch9 The Globalization Dynamic: Historic Animosities or Postmodern Politics?**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to globalization and historic animosities. (Ch9Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to the globalization dynamic from Ch9 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch9D)
* Continue constructing FIS report on religious worldview.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take the Ch9 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 4/13 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch9   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 4/13 |
| FIS  WRITE | * Write 1-2 paragraphs describing and explaining the religious practices of the religious worldview. | Ongoing |

## **Week 14 (4/14-4/20)**

## **Ch10 Mediating Meaning: Religion in—and as—Contemporary Culture**

### **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)
* Discuss something personally important related to religion in contemporary culture from Ch10 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch10D)
* Continue constructing FIS report on religious worldview.

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| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take the Ch10 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 4/20 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch10   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 4/20 |
| FIS  WRITE | * Follow directions for what to write in the next paragraph related to applying the terms *soteriology* and *theodicy* to the religious worldview. | Ongoing |

## **Week 15 (4/21-4/27) Ch11 Boundary Issues: Church, State, and New Religions**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to boundary issues. (Ch11Q)
* Discuss something personally important related to boundary issues from Ch11 of the CS&K text with their peers. (Ch11D)
* Continue constructing FIS report on religious worldview.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | * Read the Chapter * Take notes * Watch Dr. Gregg’s videos (Optional) | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take the Ch11 Quiz | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday 4/27 |
|  | Participate in Discussion for Ch11   * Original post * Respond to at least one other | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 4/27 |
| FIS  WRITE | * Follow directions for what to write in the next paragraph related to applying the terms *particularistic universalism* and *universalistic particularism t*o the religious worldview. Make an argument for which one fits the religious worldview. | Ongoing |

## **Week 16 (4/28-5/4) Review for and take Test 3**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 8-11.
* Conclude constructing FIS report on religious worldview.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
|  | Review for Text 3:   * Review Chs 8-11 of CS&K * Review personal notes * Rewatch Dr. Gregg’s videos for review | Text  In Canvas |
|  | Take Test 3 over Chs 8-11.  The last day of classes is 5/2. If you would prefer to take Test 3 before 5/2, that is your option. The Test is being kept open until Saturday for consistency and for student’s convenience. | Due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Saturday, 5/4 |
| FIS  WRITE | * Follow directions for what to write in the concluding paragraph of your report. | Ongoing |
| NOTE | Once you are finished with your paper, review it for typographical errors. Make sure to format using MLA formatting. When you think you have a solid analysis/report, upload your paper to Canvas.  After uploading your paper to Canvas, the last thing you will do in this course is participate in the 2nd FIS Reflective Discussion. | This paper and the last discussion fall due during Final Exams week, but it is okay to turn it in early.  DUE Monday 5/6 before midnight (11:59 p.m.) |

FINAL EXAMS

## **Week 17 FINAL EXAMS RUN FROM 5/4 TO 5/10**

### **Learning Objectives**

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

* Demonstrate their knowledge of one particular religious worldview by constructing a report. (FIS Report)
* Discuss and reflect on FIS assignment with peers. (2nd FIS D)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Description of Work** | **More Details** |
| FIS  WRITE | Conclude Focused Individual Study (FIS):   * Complete writing and formatting of FIS report and upload to Canvas. * Follow directions for how to participate in 2nd FIS Reflective Discussion. | Both the report and the discussion are due before midnight (11:59 p.m.) on Monday 5/6 |

Thank you for taking this course!

# MORE DETAILS ON 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 CS&K 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.

#### **Details:**

* There is a quiz for each chapter in the CS&K 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 and 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 he answers can be found in the CS&K 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.

### **11 Chapter Discussions (500 Points)**

After reading the assigned chapter in the CS&K text, students should participate in an online discussion in Canvas discussing something that they feel is personally important to therm. There are 11 discussions and students are required to participate in 10 of them. Each discussion is worth up to 50 points.

To complete this assignment, students are asked to think about the reading assigned in the Coakley text for that week (usually just one chapter). Then, consider something that really stood out as the most important thing learned from the chapter(s)? Students should only pick one important thing to discuss. In total, students’ discussion posts should be about 8-10 sentences in length, but more is okay.

#### **Details:**

1. In your post, first identify the chapter you are discussing. Say something like this: “*This week I will be discussing something I thought was important from Ch1 of the CS&K text.”*
2. Next, in about 3-5 sentences describe the one thing that stood out to you as important. It is okay to quote CS&K here.
3. To conclude your post, in another 3-5 sentences explain why learning this was personally important to you.
4. Finally, end your post with a relevant question that you want to know from others in the course. Your question should pertain to what you thought was important. Ending with a question will make it easy for others to respond to your post.
5. The last thing you should do is read other students’ posts and choose (at least) one to respond to. Try to answer the question they posed at the end of their post.

**Note:** It is fine to quote something from the Coakley text in your discussion. If you do this, use quotation marks, and cite your quote like this: (Coakley 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.

## **Dr. Gregg’s Example Discussion Post (More than 8 sentences)**

This week I will be discussing something I thought was important from Ch6 of the CS&K text. In this chapter CS&K discuss the specter of race and that race is a highly controversial topic. I learned from the text that there isn’t consensus on how many races there actually are, but that race is generally based on perceived physical differences between people. This is personally important to me for several reasons. First, 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. Second, 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 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 estimated that only 7 percent of congregations are multiracial (CS&K. 173). To me, for this day and age that seems like a low percentage that is important to take note of.

**Question:** 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. (10 Pts)
* Identifies the Chapter. (5 Pts)
* Writes 3-5 sentences describing something important from the reading. (10 Pts)
* Writes another 3-5 sentences explaining why it is important. (10 Pts)
* Ends post with relevant question(s). (5 Pts)
* Responds to at least one other person in a meaningful way. (10 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 and Dr. Gregg will promptly file an academic integrity violation with UNT.

### **3 Tests (400 Points)**

There are three parts to the CS&K text. As we conclude a part, students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge by completing an online test over the chapters covered. Students should plan to take all three tests, but only two will count toward their final grade. This means that their lowest score will be dropped. Each test is worth up to 200 points toward your final grade.

#### **Details:**

* There are 3 tests planned for this course. Students should take all 3 tests. The lowest test score will be dropped at the end of the semester. This means only 2 test scores will count toward your final grade.
* Each test is worth up to 200 points.
* As you take the test, you will be presented with a combination of 25-40 True/False and/or Multiple Choice test questions for which there is only one best answer.
* 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 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 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 close to the end of the semester. Consult the syllabus for the exact date and time for the final exam. Once Test 3 is over, the course should be considered closed.
* 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.
* The course is considered over after the Final Exam time ends.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

## **Focused Individual Study (FIS) (500 Points)**

To supplement what we are learning in the CS&K text, over the course of the semester students will enhance their learning of religion in society by individually studying one of four religious worldviews of: 1) Christianity; 2) Judaism; 3) Islam; or 4) Atheism. To do this, early in the semester students will choose one of the following very short books for their individual study.

* *Christianity*, A Very Short Introduction by Linda Woodhead. (2014) Oxford University Press.
* *Judaism*, A Very Short Introduction by Norman Solomon. (2014) Oxford University Press.
* *Islam*, A Very Short Introduction by Malise Ruthven. (2012) Oxford University Press.
* *Atheism*, A Very Short Introduction, 2nd Ed. by Julian Baggini. (2021) Oxford University Press.

***1st FIS Reflection Discussion* (100 Points*)***: After choosing a book (and before reading it), students will participate in the 1st Reflection 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.

***Written Report* (300 Points):** Students should then take the time to 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 report). Students are expected to complete their focused individual study by Week 10 of the semester. Their study culminates into a written report on the religious worldview they chose. Below are instructions for what and how to write this report that will fall due during Final Exams time. Students are expected to follow the structure of their paper as outlined below. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade on the report.

#### **Instructions:**

1. **Specifics (25 points):** Students should use MLA formatting to format their papers. 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. The only source that should be listed on the Works Cited page is the book you read for this report. No other sources should be used.
2. **Introduction (25 Points):** Write an introduction introducing the religious worldview you chose and the book and author of *A Very Short Introduction* that you chose. Then, explain **monotheism** (see pages 254-255 of CS&K text) and what the religious worldview has to do with it.
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.
4. **Religious Practices (25 Points):** The next paragraph (or two) should describe and explain the religious practices of the religious worldview. What do adherents do? Do they meet? Do they have rituals? Do they adhere to a particular calendar of events? Explain the reasoning behind these practices.
5. **Application of Terms (75 Points):** Two of the major terms from this course have been **soteriology** and **theodicy**. In the next paragraph and in your own words succinctly explain these two concepts and then discuss how the religious worldview you studied relates to each term. (See pages 16-17 of CS&K.)
6. **Application of Terms (75 Points):** In Ch9 (and then afterwards elsewhere), we learn about different religious worldviews that fit the terms **particularistic universalism** and **universalistic particularism**. Using the CS&K text, succinctly explain these terms and then make an argument for which one of these best fits the religious worldview you studied.
7. **Conclusion (50 Points):** To conclude your report, address the following prompts:
   * Tell the reader what you learned about religion from reading this - *A Very Short Introduction -* that you did not already know.
   * Make some connection with the CS&K text. What did CS&K discuss in the text that connects to your *A Very Short Introduction*? To make this connection, quote from the CS&K text. Cite like this: (CS&K 25). Show the page number where quote appears in book.
   * End your paper by telling the reader whether or not you recommend this book.
8. 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 (25 Pts)
* Follows directions for Introduction – discusses *monotheism* (25 Pts)
* Reports on basic tenets of belief system (25 Pts)
* Reports on religious practices (25 Pts)
* Applies terms *soteriology/theodicy* to religious worldview (75)
* Applies terms *Particularistic Universalism/Universalistic Particularism* to religious worldview (75)
* Follows directions for what to write in conclusion (50)

**2nd *FIS Reflection Discussion* (100 Points*)***: After writing and submitting their FIS report (during Final Exams time), students should participate in a second reflective discussion in Canvas 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.

* Which *A Very Short Introduction* you chose to read? Briefly explain why.
* What was your level of knowledge about this worldview before reading the book?
* What did you learn (that you did not know already) about the worldview from reading the book? (In other words, did something strike you as interesting, remarkable, noteworthy?)
* Conclude by either recommending the book or not. In either case, explain why.