# **SOCI 3700 / Sociology of Religion**

# **Spring 2025 / 1/13-3/07 2025 (8 Weeks)**

## **Instructor Contact**

Name: Miles Brickell M.S.

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Office Hours: By appointment either in person or zoom.

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Communication Expectations: Students should communicate with her using the Inbox in Canvas. This is because Canvas automatically sorts students into the courses they are taking. If you email her using the UNT email address, they will kindly request that you communicate in Canvas and will respond to you there.

## **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.

## **Important Dates and Times**

Course Starts January 13th

Most Assignments Due Saturdays before midnight (11:59 p.m.)

Last Week of Course March 3rd – Friday March 7th

**IMPORTANT NOTE** All work in the last week of class is due Thursday, March 6th before midnight (11:59 p.m.).

* Ch11 Quiz due Thursday, 3/6 before midnight (11:59 p.m.)
* Final Exam due Thursday 3/6 before midnight (11:59 p.m.)

Course Ends Friday March 13th at midnight (11:59 p.m.)

## **Course Description**

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 Durkheim and Weber. Includes a sociological analysis of major world religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism.

## **Course Structure**

This course is delivered 100% online in Canvas. It is an 8-week course. There will be 8 modules, and each module can have multiple lessons with assignments and assessments that will be due that week. This course consists of quizzes, Tests, and one research summary.

## **Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions**

There are no prerequisites for the course, but you are expected to be familiar with Canvas using tools such as quizzes and discussions. Additionally, to be successful in this course you will need to:

* Cite sources in your writing, giving credit to where you obtain information.
* Network with others and utilize tact when offered differing perspectives in the course discussions.
* Make the commitment to spend at least 10 hours a week reading the assignments, reflecting on the material covered, and participating in other activities throughout the course.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Remember how sociologists approach the study of religion in society.
2. Find and evaluate sociological research articles in the Sociology of Religion.
3. Remember sociological methods, concepts, terms, and theories about the Sociology of Religion.

## **Required Materials**

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The only required material in the course is Christiano, Swatos, and Kivisto’s textbook, Sociology of Religion, 3rd Edition (2016). Please do not purchase any other edition of this book. If you do, you’ll likely be doing the wrong assignment and studying dated information. You can acquire the book in several ways, depending on your personal preference. Regardless of which modality you choose, you should obtain your book through the UNT bookstore on campus.

ISBN 978-1-4422-1692-1 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-4422-1693-8 (electronic)

## **Teaching Philosophy**

My personal approach to teaching this course involves creating an online atmosphere where students can broaden their perspective on the changing structure of religious life in the United States and really come to understand the history of this subdiscipline of sociology that has occurred over the last 100 years in the United States. To do this, students must cooperate by embracing the material in the assigned text so that they can come to understand the changing nature of religion in the U.S. Students are expected to carefully read the text assigned in the course and critically think about the changing nature of religious organizations, belief systems, and practices. Quizzes and tests will allow you to demonstrate your mastery of the information you learn from the text. It is also important to understand where research comes from and how you can access it. For this reason, I have incorporated a small research summary project in the course where students can find and summarize a piece of research about something that they are personally interested in pertaining to religion in society.

## **Course Technology & Skills**

### **Technical Requirements and Skills**

Here is a list of the minimum technology requirements for students for this course:

* Working Computer
  + If your Internet is out or if your personal computer has an issue, you are expected to use the computer clusters on campus to complete your work.
  + If it is not possible to go to campus, please find another working computer with reliable Internet access to complete your work.
* Reliable internet access
* Microsoft Office Suite
* Uploads to Canvas have been set to only accept .pdf .doc .docx files.
  + If the professor or TA cannot open your document, you will be awarded a zero and you should contact them as soon as possible to discuss.
* Note that Canvas does not interface well with Pages and Google Docs. Do not upload your files using these word processing systems.

### **Rules of Engagement**

Here are some general guidelines for the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructor and TA online:

* While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
* Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
* Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
* Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
* Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
* Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
* Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
* Avoid using “text-talk”. This is not permitted by your instructor.
* Proofread and fact-check your sources.
* Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

## **Late Work and Missing Work**

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 the professor to arrange for an online meeting (via Zoom, FaceTime, or Skype) to discuss the missed assignment.
* If your emergency situation is serious, the professor may recommend that you contact the Dean of Students to receive a blanket excuse for all of your courses.
* Whenever possible, students should strive to contact the professor **prior to** missing an assignment. Extensions are routinely granted if asked for in advance of missing an assignment.

## **Course Requirements**

Below are listed the required assignments and point values for the course.

## **Assignments and Point Values**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment Description** | **Points/Percentage** |
| **12 Quizzes**   * The first quiz is the Syllabus quiz and it is required by all students in Week One of the course. It is worth 100 points.   **CS&K Chapter Quizzes**   * There are 11 chapters in CS&K. Each chapter has a quiz. * Each of these quizzes is worth 100 points * Must take 9 of the 11 quizzes * Can skip 2 with no penalty * If you take all 11, the lowest 2 grades will be dropped | 1000 Pts / 50% |
| **1 Research Article Overview (REQUIRED BY ALL STUDENTS TO PASS)**   * Step 1 – Find an appropriate research article (100 Pts) * Step 2 – Read and summarize the research article using the RAO Template (300 Pts) | 400 Pts / 20% |
| **3 Tests**   * Each test is worth 200 points * Must take all 3 * Test 1 – Part 1 of CS&K (Chs. 1-4) 10% * Test 2 – Part 2 of CS&K (Chs 5-7) 10% * Test 3 – Part 3 of CS&K (Chs 8-11) 10% | 600 Pts / 30% |
| **Total** | 2000 Pts / 100% |

## **Course Grading Scale**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Percent** | **Letter Grade** |
| 90-100% of 2000 Points | A |
| 80-89% of 2000 Points | B |
| 70-79% of 2000 Points | C |
| 60-69% of 2000 Points | D |
| 59% or less of 2000 Points | F |

## **More Details on Course Assignments**

### **Syllabus Quiz (100 Points)**

### At the end of week one of the course, all students are required to take the Syllabus quiz. If you’ve read the syllabus, poked around in Canvas, and watched Dr. Gregg’s video introducing you to the course, you will do fine on the Syllabus quiz.

### **CS&K Chapter Quizzes (900 Points)**

After reading each chapter in the CS&K 3rd Ed. text, students are required to take a short 30-minute Quiz. If you have carefully read the chapter, have taken good notes while you read, and watched the video lectures created for the course, you should do very well on the Quizzes.

#### **Details**

* There is a quiz for each chapter in the CS&K 3rd Ed. text (11).
  + You are required to take 9 of the 11 quizzes.
  + If you take them all, your lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.
  + Students should not miss more than 2 quizzes 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.). This means everyone has seven days to complete each of quiz.
  + **NOTE:** If you do not finish your quiz before midnight, the quiz will count as a zero. Even if you’ve started the quiz and answered some of the questions, the system will not count any of your work. You must finish and submit your quiz before the deadline.
* Each Quiz is worth 100 Points.
* As you take the quiz, you will be presented with10 true or false or multiple choice questions.
* Each student will be presented with a random set of questions drawn from a test bank that Dr. Gregg wrote and has vetted with past students for about two years. All answers can be found in the CS&K 3rd Ed. text. Answers range from easy to moderate or difficult.
* Students are allowed 30 minutes to complete each quiz. After 30 minutes your quiz will automatically submit, and your grade will be recorded in the grade book.
* You are only permitted one attempt on each quiz.
* Quizzes are open book and students can use their notes to take the quizzes.
* 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 for help with this.
* If you miss a quiz, the grade book will be populated with a zero. Again, students should not miss more than one quiz in this course.

### **Three Tests (600 Points)**

There are three parts to the CS&K book. After completing a part to the book, you will be expected to take a one-hour test demonstrating your mastery of the material in that part of the book. If you have kept up with the readings, taken good notes in lecture, and watched all of the videos for the chapters, you should do very well on the tests.

### **Details:**

* Each Test is worth up to 200 points.
* As you take the test, you will be presented with a combination of 25-40 true or false and multiple choice test questions to answer.
* Test questions will be separated into sections for each chapter.
* There is only one best answer for each question.
* You are permitted 1 hour to take each test (60 minutes). After that, your test will automatically submit, and your grade will be recorded in the grade book.
* You are only permitted one attempt for each test.
  + **NOTE:** If you do not finish your test before midnight, the test will count as a zero. Even if you’ve started the test and answered some of the questions, the system will not count any of your work. You must finish and submit your test before the deadline.
* The tests are open book and students can use their own notes 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 during Final Exams week. Consult the syllabus (page 1) for the exact date and time for the final exam. Test 3 will be due at that time.
* If you need to arrange for a different date or time for one of the tests, you must request this from The instructor at least one week in advance of the due date for the test. If you do this, they 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.

### **Research Article Overview (RAO) (400 Points)**

#### **Step 1**

There are two steps to the RAO assignments. The following describes Step 1.

## **Summary of RAO Assignment and Values**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria for RAO Assignment** | **Step 1** | **Step 2** |
| Find, read, and summarize a research article about religion and a topic of your choosing from an appropriate academic journal in the Sociology of Religion. | After finding a research article that meets all the criteria for the assignment, save it as a PDF and upload it to Canvas for approval.  (100 Pts) | After receiving approval for your research article, read it and summarize it filling in the relevant details using the RAO Template.  (300 Pts) |

## **Step 1 of RAO Assignment:**

Using the UNT library system, students should find a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal article pertaining to the sociology of religion. The research article you find can be about anything you are interested in understanding more deeply in the sociology of religion. The research article you find must come from one of the top 4 journals in 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 (ASR)*

All four of these journals are available using the UNT library system. Dr. Gregg has made a video showing you how to use the library system’s search feature. Please watch this video if you need assistance finding an appropriate research article for this assignment.

There are five 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 listed above.
2. Article must be dated 2010 or more current.
3. The article you find and read should analyze data of some form. 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,[[1]](#footnote-2) book reviews, or theoretical articles. None of these analyze data. So, these publications do not meet the criteria for this assignment.)
4. The article you find should pertain to religion AND **a topic of interest to you** in the sociology of religion.
5. The research article is 25 or more pages in length.

If you miss any one of these criteria, you will earn zero (0) point for Step 1 of the assignment. The research article you find must meet all of the criteria to earn any points.

Once you find an appropriate research article, save it as a PDF file and then upload it to Canvas in the appropriate spot. I will only accept PDF files for Step 1. If I cannot open your file, you will earn zero (0) for Step 1.

Below is a rubric for how you will be graded.

## **Grading Research Rubric for Research Article Submission**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Points** |
| Student does the following:   1. Finds research article one of the 4 approved journals. 2. Research article is 2010 or more current. 3. Research article analyzes data of some form. There is a data/methods section in the research article. 4. Research article pertains to religion and a topic of interest to the reader. 5. The research article is 25 or more pages in length. | (0 or 100 points)  If the research article submitted does not meet all 5 of the criteria on the left, student earns 0 points. |

## **Step 2 of RAO Assignment:**

There are two steps to the RAO assignment. The following describes Step 2.

## **Summary of RAO Assignments and Values**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria for RAO Assignment** | **Step 1** | **Step 2** |
| Find, read, and summarize a research article about religion and a topic of your choosing from an appropriate academic journal in the Sociology of Religion. | After finding a research article that meets all the criteria for the assignment, save it as a PDF and upload it to Canvas for approval.  (100 Pts) | After receiving approval for your research article, read it and summarize it filling in the relevant details using the RAO blank form and RAO Template.  (300 Pts) |

## **Step 2 of RAO Assignment:**

For Step 2, you will read and summarize the research article that you found for Step 1. Research articles are hard to read. Everyone knows this, but it is still an important skill to learn how to do. This is why you will use a Template (or a form) to guide you for what to look for so that you understand the meaning of the research being conducted.

## **For Step 2, do the following:**

1. Carefully read the approved research article you found.
2. While reading you will need 2 documents: 1) the Blank RAO form; and 2) the RAO Template.
3. As you read, complete the Blank RAO form summarizing the article you found. To do this, look at the directions on the RAO Template that explains what to look for and how to complete the blank form.
4. Fill in all the relevant details summarizing your research article according to the prompts on the form and on the template. It is helpful to think of the prompts as a **Written Exam** over your research article.
5. It is okay to use a Word or PDF document for Step 2. If The instructor or the TA can open it, it will be graded. If the document you submit cannot be opened, you will earn zero (0) for Step 2.
6. Once you have finished summarizing all the relevant details, upload the completed RAO to Canvas in the correct spot by the correct due date and time in the syllabus.

## **More Details for Completing RAO:**

1. Use your best college writing when filling in the relevant details of the research article.
2. Strive to answer all questions asked on the template. If you cannot find the information, say that. For example, if the research article does not discuss how the research was funded, say this in your RAO. Note that if The instructor (or the TA) CAN find where the funding is discussed, you will lose points in this section of the assignment.
3. Single-space your writing. Do not double space.
4. Do not use the language in the **Abstract** to fill in the details of the RAO. This is the same as cheating. The idea is for you to practice reading scholarly research and practice summarizing the relevant details in a succinct manner. If you use language from the **Abstract**, you will be awarded a zero (0) for Step 2 of the assignment.
5. As much as possible, use your own words when summarizing the details. Write in a narrative format. Do not use bullet points to summarize any of the sections of the RAO.
6. It is okay to quote from your research article in your summary, but if you do, use quotation marks, and cite appropriately (i.e., put the page number for the quote).
7. About quantity: Try to fill 2 pages of single-spaced type, but please do not go over 2 pages. If you do, you will lose points.
8. Use 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Do not tinker with these settings.
9. Students will be graded for accuracy of what they describe from their article, as well as the quality and quantity of writing.

Below is a rubric for how you will be graded.

## **Grading Completed Research Article Overviews:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points |
| **Directions/Writing**:   * Title is correct – Research Article Overview * Leaves the bolded and underlined prompts and deletes directions * Doesn’t go over 2 pages * Single spaces writing * Uses BEST COLLEGE WRITING (sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, cite quotes properly) * Doesn’t skip a section * Doesn’t steal language from the **Abstract** (results in 0 for the entire assignment) | (50 Points) |
| **Fully describes research article in each part of RAO (doesn’t skip a section):**   * Study Rationale (25 points) * Study Design / Data Collected (25 points) * Literature Review (2 things learned & cites well) (50 points) * Main findings/results/conclusions (25 points) * Criticisms/Opinion (25 points) | (150 Points) |
| **Good connections between research article and CS&K**:   * Writes about what they are learning from CS&K * Quotes CS&K and cites like this: (CS&K Pg #) * Makes a clear connection between CS&K and the research article under review. * Quotes from the research article under review. * Connection(s) are explained well. Make sense. | (100 Points) |
| **TOTAL** | **(300 Points)** |

## **Course Evaluation**

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. These evaluations are very important to professors. When the time comes, please take the time to complete the course evaluation for The instructor.

## **Course Policies**

Below is a list of items that you can expect from your professor (and TA if there is one), as well as a list of items that, if you choose to stay in this course and not drop it, you are agreeing to abide by in this course. Please consider these expectations our Course Policies.

### **What you can expect from your professor (and TA):**

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

### **What the professor expects from you:**

1. Patience with the professor, TA, and with all others who participate in this class.
2. To read the syllabus carefully each week and know what is supposed to happen. This is our contract. The professor (and TA) will do all that they can to abide by the syllabus, so they expect you to do the same.
3. Active participation in our class in the Canvas environment as required by the syllabus.  If it appears you are not actively engaged in this course, the professor (and/or TA) will use the UNT Care Team reporting system to make recommendations.
4. To complete all assignments as they are scheduled in the **Tentative Course Schedule** in the syllabus.
5. To act with academic integrity during any quizzes or exams, and in all writing. Your work should be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated! See UNT policy on academic dishonesty.
6. To read the grading comments that the professor and TA provide on all your assignments. They will incorporate tips for how to do better on future assignments.
7. To put assignments in the correct spot in Canvas. If you put things in the wrong spot, you will receive a zero (0) and your work will not be graded. If this happens, you have one week to rectify the situation with The instructor. After that, the zero (0) will stand.
8. To follow all directions in the syllabus for all course assignments. If you do not follow all directions (especially for the RAO assignment), you will automatically receive a zero (0).
9. To buy and use the correct version of the required book for the course. Right now, that is the 3rd Edition of Christiano, Swatos, and Kivisto’s text, Sociology of Religion.
10. If you analyze something other than what everyone else is analyzing in your assignments, or if you misquote something from the book, you will receive a zero (0). This is especially important when completing the RAO assignment.
11. To buy and use the correct version of the book by Week One of the course and appropriately cite all your work.
    * If the professor or TA happen look up something you quote from 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.
12. To be responsible for your work and prepare for and handle situations of computer and Internet difficulties. All students are expected to have a working computer and reliable Internet access. If your Internet is out, go somewhere where it is working so that you do not miss quizzes or other assignments. Everyone in the course has 7 days each week to complete the work items for the week. Do not wait until the last minute to begin your work. That way, if you do have some technical difficulty, you’ll have time to correct it.
13. To contact the professor or the TA to make an appointment if you find that you need additional help in this course. Online meetings using a teleconferencing usually help students get on track.
14. 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>

Dean of Students telephone number and email: (940) 565-2648
deanofstudents@unt.edu


**Attendance Policy**An attendance policy is required for every UNT syllabi. Visit the [University of North Texas’ Attendance Policy](http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5) (http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-) to learn more. [Faculty should adapt their class attendance policy to suit their circumstances] [Insert Instructor’s regular attendance policy here].

## **COVID-19 Impact on Attendance**

While attendance online is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

## **UNT Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

### **ADA Policy**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence).

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

### **Student Evaluation Administration Dates**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\spot@unt.edu).

### **Survivor Advocacy**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

### **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

* The work is used only once.
* The work is not used in its entirety.
* Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
* The student is not identified.
* The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

**Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses**

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

## **Academic Support & Student Services**

### **Student Support Services**

#### **Mental Health**

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

* [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
* [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
* [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

#### **Chosen Names**

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

* [UNT Records](https://registrar.unt.edu/transcripts-and-records/update-your-personal-information)
* [UNT ID Card](https://sfs.unt.edu/idcards)
* [UNT Email Address](https://sso.unt.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO;jsessionid=E4DCA43DF85E3B74B3E496CAB99D8FC6?execution=e1s1)
* [Legal Name](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)

*\*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

#### **Pronouns**

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don’t assume someone’s name, we should also ask and not assume someone’s pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18406-42121184808) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

* [What are pronouns and why are they important?](https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why)
* [How do I use pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/how)
* [How do I share my pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/sharing)
* [How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?](https://www.mypronouns.org/asking)
* [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](https://www.mypronouns.org/mistakes)

#### **Additional Student Support Services**

* [Registrar](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\Registrar) (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
* [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
* [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
* [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
* [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
* [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

### **Academic Support Services**

* [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/Coursera/student-resources)
* [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
* [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
* [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

# **Tentative Course Schedule**

Module 1 / Week 1 (1/13 – 1/19)

Ch1 By Way of Introduction

Ch2 Studying Religion

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch1 and Ch2, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to the definitional problem of religion (Ch1).
* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to methods and theory related to studying religion in society (Ch2).

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
|  | Take the Syllabus Quiz. | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch 1 Assignments:   * Read Ch1 * Watch videos * Take Ch1 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch2 Assignments:   * Read Ch2 * Watch videos * Take Ch2 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 2 / Week 2 (1/20 – 1/26)

Ch3 The “Religion” of Secularization and the History of Religions

Ch4 Religion in the United States: Denominationalism and Beyond

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch3 and Ch4, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to secularization theory (Ch3).
* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion in the United States (Ch4).

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
|  | Ch 3 Assignments:   * Read Ch3 * Watch videos * Take Ch3 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch4 Assignments:   * Read Ch4 * Watch videos * Take Ch4 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 3 / Week 3 (1/27 – 2/2)

Conclude Part 1 of CS&K book.

Learning Objectives

After completing the reading in Part 1 of CS&K’s book, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 1-4.

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
|  | * Review CS&K Chs. 1-4 to prepare for Test 1. |  |
|  | * Take Test1 over Chs. 1-4. | Test1 due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 4 / Week 4 (2/3 – 2/9)

Ch5 Social Class, Religion, and Power: A Classic Field of Inquiry

Ch6 Religion and Ethnicity: A Complex Relationship

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch5 and Ch6, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to social class, religion, and power (Ch5).
* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion and ethnicity (Ch6).

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
|  | Ch 5 Assignments:   * Read Ch5 * Watch videos * Take Ch5 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch6 Assignments:   * Read Ch6 * Watch videos * Take Ch6 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 5 / Week 5 (2/10 – 2/16)

Ch7 Gender, Sexuality, and Religion: Spirituality in Different Voices

Conclude Part 2 of CS&K book.

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch5 and Ch6, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to gender, sexuality, and religion (Ch7).

After completing the reading in Part 2 of CS&K’s book, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 5-7.

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
|  | Ch7 Assignments:   * Read Ch7 * Watch videos * Take Ch7 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | * Review CS&K Chs. 5-7 to prepare for Test 2. |  |
|  | * Take Test2 over Chs. 5-7. | Test2 due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 6 / Week 6 (2/17 – 2/23)

RAO, Step 1 (Week 1)

Ch8 Religious Change: The Case of Catholicism in the United States

Ch9 The Globalization Dynamic: Historic Animosities or Postmodern Politics?

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch8 and Ch9, 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. (Ch8).
* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to globalization and historic animosities (Ch9).

After completing the readings so far in CS&K’s book, students should be able to:

* Find research article related a topic of interest to you in the Sociology of Religion journals.

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
| Step 1 | * To complete Step 1, find research article that meets all the criteria assigned and upload as a PDF document in Canvas. | PDF due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch 8 Assignments:   * Read Ch8 * Watch videos * Take Ch8 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch9 Assignments:   * Read Ch9 * Watch videos * Take Ch9 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 7 / Week 7 (2/24 – 3/2)

RAO, Step 2 (Week 2)

Ch10 Mediating Meaning: Religion in – and as – Contemporary Culture

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch10, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to religion in contemporary culture (Ch10).

After completing the readings so far in CS&K’s book, students should be able to:

* Evaluate research article related a topic of interest to you in the Sociology of Religion.

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
| Step 2 | * To complete Step 2, read the research article found in Step 1 of the RAO process. * Fill in the relevant details of your research article using the RAO template. * Upload your RAO to Canvas. | RAO due Saturday before midnight. |
|  | Ch 10 Assignments:   * Read Ch10 * Watch videos * Take Ch10 Quiz | Quiz due Saturday before midnight. |

Module 8 / Week 8 (3/3 – 3/7)

Ch11 Boundary Issues: Church, State, and new Religions

Conclude Part 3 of CS&K book.

Course officially ends on Friday, 3/7. Due dates for this week are Thursday.

Learning Objectives

After reading Ch11, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to boundary issues (Ch11).

After completing the reading in Part 3 of CS&K’s book, students should be able to:

* Recall and identify concepts, terms, theories, and research related to chapters 8-11.

To Do

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check**  **Off** | **Description** | **Assessment and**  **Due Date** |
|  | Ch11 Assignments:   * Read Ch11 * Watch videos * Take Ch11 Quiz | Quiz due Thursday, 3/6 before midnight. |
|  | * Review CS&K Chs. 8-11 to prepare for Test 3. |  |
|  | * Take Test3 over Chs. 8-11. | Test3 due Thursday, 3/6 before midnight. |

**Research Article Overview Template**

**(Directions)**

**Your Name:**

**Date:**

**Topic of RAO**: Tell me your topic of choice. What were you searching for?

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

**Title of Research Article Under Review:** For purposes of SOCI 3700, I will only accept articles from these top 4 journals in the Sociology of Religion (all are available using the UNT library system):

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 (ASR)*

**Name of Journal:** *Italicize this.*

**Date Research 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? What do the researchers hope to find?)

**Study Design/Data Collected:** How do the researchers propose to study the issue/topic related to religion? How will they go about collecting their data? Are they using survey data? Who will they study? What is the population? Where is the study conducted? Is the study quantitative or qualitative? How can you tell? What kind of data do the researchers collect? (Interviews, Surveys, Participant Observation, Records, Archives, etc…?) When did the study take place? How much time did it take the researchers? Did the researchers receive funding for this study? If so, from who?

**Literature Review:** (Researchers must make a case for what they study. To do this, they do research themselves. They cite other studies to build a case for what they want to examine themselves. 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.) Tell me at least 2 things you learned from the literature review that these researchers conducted for their research. It is okay to say something like, “The first thing I learned from the article I read was that…”.

**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 in their rationale?

**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?

**Making Connections to Course Material (CS&K):** 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 the points for the RAO. So, in this part of the RAO your aim is to connect different points in your research article with different information you learned from CS&K. Then fully explain what you think the connections you make mean. You should use quotes from the research article and from CS&K to illustrate your points. When you do so, cite like this: (CS&K Pg#) or (Author(s) Pg#).

**Research Article Overview Template**

**(Blank Form)**

**Your Name:**

**Date:**

**Topic of RAO**:

**Author Name(s):**

**Title of Research Article Under Review:**

**Name of Journal:**

**Date Research Published:**

**Study Rationale:**

**Study Design/Data Collected:**

**Literature Review:**

**Main findings/results/conclusions:**

**Criticisms/Opinion:**

**Making Connections to Course Material (CS&K):**

1. Research Notes are written in response to an earlier publication. They are usually shorter. That’s why they do not meet the criteria for this course. To be safe, find research articles that are 25 or more pages in length. If you submit a short article (<25 pages), you will earn zero in Step 1 of this assignment. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)