

**Sociology 211B. Advanced Topics in  
the Sociology of Religion  
Brandeis University  
Fall 2012**

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Class Meetings: Tuesdays 9:00am-11:50am, Pearlman 202  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2:30pm and by appointment

### **Course Description**

This graduate level course introduces you to the tools and concepts central to the sociological study of religion in the United States. It is divided into three sections. In the first section, we discuss what the social scientific study of religion is by readings works by classic and neo-classic thinkers in light of several overviews of the field. The second section focuses on key issues important for anyone trying to understand religion in the United States. The final few weeks will focus on a few (of the many) topics you are interested in as a class. I will provide reading lists for the third section of the course shortly after the semester begins. Materials throughout the course are drawn from across theoretical and methodological approaches.

By the end of the semester you will be able to:

- List key questions that are important to sociologists of religion
- Describe core theoretical concepts in the field
- Provide an overview of current debates in the field
- Be prepared to enter those debates through your own research and teaching.

This syllabus is designed to include most, but not all, of the core readings you will need to read if you are preparing to complete a QPD in the sociology of religion.

### **Course Readings**

The following books are on reserve in the library and for sale at the university bookstore.

- Bender, Courtney. 2010. *The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Berger, Peter L. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Chaves, Mark. 2011. *American Religion: Contemporary Trends*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Dillon, Michele. 2003. *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (recommended)

- Lofton, Kathryn. 2011. *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

All other required course readings are available through Latte except for those listed with web addresses that can be located that way.

## Course Requirements

1. **Attendance** is required. Please be on time out of respect for all of us. This is a seminar based class and will only work if everyone is present and engaged. I will take attendance in each class and will email you if you are not in class. Your class attendance is part of your final grade. The only absences that will not influence your grade are those for religious holidays that you email me about at least one week in advance and those due to serious illness.
2. **Reading** is required. I know I am asking you to do a lot of reading this semester. All course readings must be done for each week, though I encourage you to practice digesting an article or book without reading every word. Start with the contents and read for the main argument (skimming some sections and reading others – especially the introduction and the conclusion –carefully)
3. **Class Participation** is important. I hope this will be a relatively small class in which each participant will speak in every class session. We have all been in classes dominated by one or two voices (sometimes that of the professor!). Please work with me to make sure that does not happen.
4. **A Field Visit** to a religious organization, ceremony, center or location outside the tradition in which you were raised or with which you are most familiar. You do not have to write up fieldnotes based on this visit but do need to make it before our class meeting on **September 25th**. For suggestions of where to visit you might consult:
  - a. Centers listed through the Pluralism Project at Harvard University:  
<http://www.pluralism.org/research/profiles.php#MA>
  - b. The Yellow Pages or Waltham Community Directory:  
<http://www.waltham-community.org/churches.html#BETHEDEN>
  - c. Brandeis University Chaplaincy's Office  
<http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/Chaplaincy/>
5. **Written Assignments**. To help with your reading and any future research in this area, there are three types of writing assignments.
  - a. *Annotated Bibliography*: To build your knowledge (and ability to cite) in this area, you are required to construct an annotated bibliography that includes all of the required readings for this course. I strongly recommend that you download EndNote for free from the LTS webpage (<http://lts.brandeis.edu/techhelp/content/endnote.html>) and put your notes

about these articles/books in EndNote as you read them. This is meant to help you – not be busy work that gets in your way. Each entry should be at least a paragraph and should make clear what the author’s central question and argument is. Many people develop a system by which they answer certain questions in their EndNote files like: research question, sample, argument, why I am convinced or not, and how I might engage with this idea later so they can read their notes rather than the whole book or article again later. How you do this is up to you. Brief notes, incomplete sentences, etc. are fine. You can do this as a group sharing your files but each of you must hand in your own bibliography. By **December 13, 2012 at noon** please email me your annotated bibliography as a Word document (Endnote can output to Word). I will not grade your individual entries but will selectively look to see if they are complete. If the entries are complete, you will receive full credit for this assignment. If not, I will send it back and ask you to complete them so you can receive full credit.

- b. *Discussion Memos*: Three times during the semester you will be responsible for submitting a 2 page (single spaced) discussion memo by **\*noon on the Monday before the class meets.\*** Please send these memos to the class email list to share what you learned and are thinking about. Think about these memos as thought pieces in process – not as finished pieces of writing. The goal is to raise questions for conversation and lay out what you thought about the readings. Students not writing memos for a given week are **required** to read the memos circulated before class each week. Please write your memo assuming that we all did the reading (i.e. don’t summarize). Please consult with the other person writing a memo the week you are to try to loosely cover all of the material for that week. The idea here is to help you share the labor and learn from one another. If I were you, I would be sure to put these memos in my EndNote files so I have them easily accessible for future reference. In your memos, please focus on questions like:
- i. What question is this author trying to answer?
  - ii. How is that question connected to others we have talked about in this class?
  - iii. How is this author conceiving of religion? Is that definition implicit or explicit? What is the author assuming in her/his conceptualization? What other relevant ideas is the author making assumptions about in the article? Are those assumptions laid out? Are they problematic?
  - iv. If the article is empirical, are you convinced by the evidence? Why or why not? If you are not convinced, what else do you want to know and why?
  - v. What does this article contribute analytically to the theme for this week? What does it contribute to the sociological study of religion? To sociology more broadly?

- vi. If you are feeling creative, write a conversation between this author and another author we talked about this semester. Or find a music or film clip you might use to teach this author's ideas to undergraduates, put it in your memo, and comment on how it would help make this idea more accessible.
- vii. Feel free to use a paragraph or so to think (or ask the class to think with you) about how the readings might inform research you are doing or thinking about doing.

While you are not formally required to lead discussion the week you write your memo, please come to class prepared to discuss it (and to share with us any music, film or other visual aids you included).

c. Final Assignments.

**Proposal due Thursday November 1, 2012 (by 5pm by email)**

**Final paper due Monday December 17, 2012 (by 10am in hard copy)**

This assignment can take many forms and is intended to give you the opportunity to synthesize what you have read this semester and apply it to a current or future research project of interest. Some options include:

- i. A detailed and well-focused literature review that draws from material we read in this class and outside articles to frame a particular question or topic. This literature review might serve as a background section for a journal article or dissertation proposal. The goal is to identify and lay out theoretical and empirical debates relevant to a particular issue. This might be a good option for anyone interested in completing QPD in the sociology of religion.
- ii. A research proposal or paper of your choosing related to course materials. If you are already working on a research project relevant to course themes or would like to start one, this might be a good option for you. If you share interests with a colleague in the course and can access data relevant to your question, you might consider putting together a first draft of a journal article and submitting it together as a joint final project. If we as a class share a substantive interest, I am not opposed to a class final project as long as everyone contributes equally and it has publication potential. We will discuss sources of publicly available data throughout the semester.
- iii. Another option you propose and I approve.

During the last class meeting of the semester, you will give a short (10ish minute) "work in progress" talk about your final assignment to share with others what you have been learning.

**Grades** will be based on:

- d. Class attendance and participation (25%)
- e. Completion of Field Visit (10%)
- f. Annotated Bibliography (10%)

- g. Discussion Memos (10% each – 30% total)
- h. Final Paper including proposal and presentation (25%)

**Late Assignments:** I anticipate a busy semester as, I know, do many of you. I plan time into my schedule when your assignments are due to read and comment on them. I will return all assignments handed in on time within a week. Please make *\*every effort\** to submit your work on time. Discussion memos handed in late hurt the whole class (especially people with Monday evening commitments who can't read them at the last minute). If you are having trouble meeting the deadline for the annotated bibliography, final paper proposal, and/or final assignment please let me know as soon as possible. Do not assume that you can turn in all your assignments at the end of the semester without penalty and without first making arrangements with me.

**\*\*All written exercises must be completed to receive a passing grade in this class\*\***

**University Policy on Academic Accommodations:** If you are a student who has academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please be in touch with me. If you have questions about documenting a disability, please contact Katharine Linnehan ([klinneha@brandeis.edu](mailto:klinneha@brandeis.edu), x63418). Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

**Academic Integrity:** You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University's policy on academic integrity: <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/sdc/ai/index.html>. If anything is unclear, please ask.

## Course Outline

### I. Setting the Stage: Conceptualizing and Studying Religion and Spirituality

#### September 4. Introductions

- Bender, Courtney. 2007. "Religion and Spirituality: History, Discourse, Measurement." Social Science Research Council Essay Forum on the Religious Engagement of American Undergraduates: <http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/Bender.pdf>

#### September 11. Recent Overviews of and Approaches to the Field \*

\*We will be rescheduling this class meeting because I will be out of the country. We will talk about this on the first day of class.

Please read *two* of the following *four* articles:

- Bender, Courtney, Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt and David Smilde. 2013. "Religion on the Edge: De-centering and Re-Centering." In *Religion on the Edge: De-centering and Re-centering the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Oxford University Press, p. 1-22.
- Edgell, Penny. 2012 "A Cultural Sociology of Religion: New Directions." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 38: 247-65.
- Sherkat, Darren E. and Christopher Ellison. 1999. "Recent Developments and Current Controversies in the Sociology of Religion." *Annual Review of Sociology* 25: 363-94.
- Smith, Christian. 2008. "Future Directions in the Sociology of Religion." *Social Forces* 98(4):1561-1589.

Please also read

- Ammerman, Nancy. 2003. "Religious Identities and Religious Institutions." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 207-224.
- Chang, Patricia M.Y. 2003. "Escaping the Procrustean Bed: A Critical Analysis of the Study of Religious Organizations, 1930-2001." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 123-136.
- Hout, Michael. 2003. "Demographic Methods for the Sociology of Religion." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 79-84.

Supplemental Reading:

- SSRC Immanent Frame blog on "Toward a New Sociology of Religion:" <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/sociology-of-religion/>

#### September 18. No class

September 25. The Classics: Marx, Weber and Durkheim

- O'Toole, Roger. 1984. *Religion: Classic Sociological Approaches*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, p. 52-184.

Please skim one of the following primary sources for the central ideas (they are not on reserve – let me know if you have trouble locating a copy through the library or a friend):

- Durkheim, Emile. 1965. *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. New York: Free Press.
- Marx, Karl and Frederich Engels. 1978. "The Communist Manifesto" and "the German Ideology," in *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Ed. Robert Tucker. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Weber, Max. 1958. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Charles Scribner.
- Weber, Max. 1978. "Religious Groups (The Sociology of Religion)". *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Supplemental Reading:

- Glock, Charles. 1973. *Beyond the Classics*. New York: Harper Row (c. 1-4).
- Wuthnow, Robert. 1992. *Rediscovering the Sacred: Perspectives on Religion in Contemporary Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Please also come to class having made your field visit. As you think about your visit and these articles together, consider which aspects of what you observed would be captured by the various approaches to religion these authors advance and which would be overlooked. Think about the implications your answer to this question has for the sociological study of religion more broadly.

October 2. Two Neo-classics – Peter Berger and Clifford Geertz (Robert Bellah is usually considered the third)

- Berger, Peter. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. New York: Anchor Books (Section I Systematic Elements p. 3-104, Appendices p. 175-185).
- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Religion as a Cultural System." In *The Interpretation of Culture*. New York: Basic Books, p. 87-125.

Supplemental Reading:

- Bellah, Robert N. 1964. "Religious Evolution," *American Sociological Review* 29 p. 358-374. Reprinted in Bellah, 1970. *Beyond Belief* New York: Harper and Row, p. 20-50.
- Bellah, Robert. 2011. *Religion in Human Evolution: From Paleolithic to the Axial Age*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (see also this interview with Robert Bellah: <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2011/11/02/where-did-religion-come-from/>)

- Berger, Peter L. and Thomas Luckmann. 1966. *The Social Construction of Reality*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Hunter, James D. 1984. "The Phenomenology of Peter Berger." In *Cultural Analysis* Ed. Robert Wuthnow et.al. New York: Routledge.
- Shutz, Alfred and Thomas Luckmann. 1973. *The Structures of the Life-World*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press.
- Wuthnow, Robert. 1976. *The Consciousness Reformation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

October 9. No class

## **II. Key Issues**

October 16. Secularization and Secularism

- Berger, Peter. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. New York: Anchor Books (Section II Historical Elements p. 105-174).
- Gorski, Philip S. and Ates Altinordu. 2008. "After Secularization?" *Annual Review of Sociology*. 34: 55-85.
- Smith, Christian. 2003. "Introduction." *The Secular Revolution: Power, Interests, and Conflict in the Secularization of American Public Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 1-96.
- Warner, Michael, Jonathan van Antwerpen, and Craig Calhoun. Eds. 2010. *Varieties of Secularism in a Secular Age*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. "Editor's Introduction" p. 1-31 and "Afterword" p. 300-321. (See also [http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/secular\\_age/](http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/secular_age/))

Supplemental Reading:

- SSRC Immanent Frame blog on "Rethinking Secularism:" <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/rethinking-secularism/>
- Casanova, Jose. 1994. *Public Religions in the Modern World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Chaves, Mark, 1994, "Secularization as Declining Religious Authority," *Social Forces* 72(3): 749-774.
- Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. 1992. *The Churching of America*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Flory, Richard W. "Promoting a Secular Standard: Secularization and Modern Journalism, 1870-1930." *The Secular Revolution: Power, Interests, and Conflict in the Secularization of American Public Life*. Christian Smith Ed. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 395-433.
- Hout, Michael and Claude S. Fischer 2002. "Why more Americans have no religious preference: Politics and generations." *American Sociological Review*. 67(2): 165-190.

- Stark, Rodney. 1999. "Secularization, RIP." *Sociology of Religion*. 60(3): 249-273.

#### October 23. Pluralism, Competition, and Rational Choice

- Chaves, Mark and Philip S. Gorski. 2001. "Religious Pluralism and Religious Participation." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 261-281.
- Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. 2003. "The Dynamics of Religious Economies." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 96-109.
- Iannaccone, Laurence. 1994. "Why Strict Churches are Strong." *American Journal of Sociology*. 99(5): 1180-1211.
- Marwell, Gerald. 1996. "We Still Don't Know if Strict Churches are Strong, Much Less Why." *American Journal of Sociology*. 101(4). January: 1097-1104.
- Warner, R. Stephen. 1993. "Work in Progress toward a New Paradigm for the Sociological Study of Religion in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology*. 98(5): p. 1044-1093.

#### Supplemental Reading:

- Bruce, Steve. 1993. "Religion and Rational Choice: A Critique of Economic Explanations of Religious Behavior." *Sociology of Religion* 54: 193-206.
- Iannaccone, Laurence 1988. "A Formal Model of Church and Sect." *American Journal of Sociology* 94: S241-S268.
- "Symposium on Rational Choice" 1995. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 34: 76-88, 98-120.

#### October 30. Spirituality and Religious Individualism

- Bender, Courtney. 2010. *The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- See also discussion of the book: <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/the-new-metaphysicals/>

#### Supplemental Reading:

- Bellah, Robert and Richard Madsen, William M. Sullivan, Ann Swidler and Steven M. Tipton. 1985. *Habits of the Heart*. Ch. 9 "Religion" (p.219-249)
- Roof, Wade Clark. 1993 *A Generation of Seekers: The Spiritual Journeys of the Baby Boom Generation*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Roof, Wade Clark. 2003. "Religion and Spirituality: Toward and Integrated Analysis." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 137-150.
- Wolfe, Alan, 2003. *Transformation of American Religion: How We Actually Live Our Faith*. New York: Free Press.

- Wuthnow, Robert. 1998. *After Heaven: Spirituality in America Since the 1950s*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**\*November 1, 5pm, proposal for final paper due by email**

November 6. Religion in American Public Life, An Overview in One Week

Please read at least *four* of the following:

- Bellah, Robert. 1970. *Belief: Essays on Religion in a Post-traditional World*. New York: Harper & Row. (c. 9 Civil Religion in America)
- Edgell, Penny, Joseph Gerteis and Douglas Hartmann . 2006. "Atheists as 'Other:' Moral Boundaries and Cultural Membership in American Society." *American Sociological Review*, 72(2):211-234.
- Lichterman, P. (2008). "Religion and the Construction of Civic Identity." *American Sociological Review* 73(1): 83.
- Lindsay, D. Michael. 2008. "Evangelicals in the Power Elite: Elite Cohesion Advancing a Movement." *American Sociological Review* 73:60-82.
- Pattillo-McCoy, Mary. 1998. Church culture as a strategy of action in the black community. *American Sociological Review* 63.6: 767–784.
- Williams, Rhys H. "Religious Social Movements in the Public Sphere: Organization, Ideology and Activism." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 315-330.

Supplemental Reading:

- Bellah, Robert and Phillip Hammond. 1980. *Varieties of Civil Religion*. New York: Harper and Row Publishers.
- Bender, Courtney and Jennifer Snow. 2006. "From Alleged Buddhists to Unreasonable Hindus: First Amendment Jurisprudence after 1965." In *A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multi-religious America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Fowler, Robert Booth, Allen Hertzke, Laura Olson. 1999. *Religion and Politics in America*. Westview Press
- Hammond, Phillip E. 1998. *With Liberty for All. Freedom of Religion in the United States*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.
- Kurien, Prema. 2006. "Mr. President. Why Do You Exclude Us from Your Prayers? Hindus Challenge American Pluralism." In *A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multi-religious America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

November 13. Denominations and Congregations (in the Context of Trends)

- Cadge, Wendy. 2008. "De Facto Congregationalism and the Religious Organizations of Post-1965 Immigrants to the United States: A Revised Approach." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 76(2): 344-374.

- Chaves, Mark. 2011. *American Religion: Contemporary Trends*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Wuthnow, Robert. 1988. *The Restructuring of American Religion: Society and Faith Since World War II*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (c. 5 The Declining Significance of Denominationalism)

Supplemental Reading:

- Ammerman, Nancy. 2005. *Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and Their Partners*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Becker, Penny Edgell. 1999. *Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ebaugh, Helen Rose and Janet Saltzman Chafetz. 2000. *Religion and the New Immigrants : Continuities and Adaptations in Immigrant Congregations*. Walnut Creek, CA : AltaMira Press.
- McRoberts, Omar. 2004. *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Niebuhr, H.Richard. 1954. *Social Sources of Denominationalism*. Hamden, Conn.: Shoestring Press.
- Putnam, Robert D. and David E. Campbell. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Warner, R. Stephen and Judith G. Wittner. Eds. 1998. *Gatherings in Diaspora: Religious Communities and the New Immigration* Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

November 20. Outside of Religious Institutions

- Lofton, Kathryn. 2011. *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- See also discussion of this book: <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/the-gospel-of-an-icon/>

Supplemental Reading:

- Bender, Courtney. 2003. *Heaven's Kitchen: Living Religion at God's Love We Deliver*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Bender, Courtney and Elta Smith, 2004. "Religious Innovations Among New York's Muslim Taxi Drivers." In Tony Carnes and Fenggang Yang, Eds. *Asian American Religions: Borders and Boundaries*. New York: New York University Press, p. 76-97
- Cadge, Wendy. 2012. *Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Cadge, Wendy 2009. "Saying Your Prayers, Constructing Your Religions: Medical Studies of Intercessory Prayer." *Journal of Religion* 89: 299-327
- Hall, David Ed. 1997. *Lived Religion in America: Toward a History of Practice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- Laird, Lance and Wendy Cadge. 2009. "Constructing American Muslim Identity: Tales of Two Clinics in Southern California" *Muslim World* 99: 270-293

### **III. Select Topics**

November 27. TBA

December 4. TBA

December 11. Your Projects

\*Class presentations of your final projects

**December 13<sup>th</sup> noon, Annotated Bibliography Due by email**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> 10am, Final Paper Due in hard copy to my Department Mailbox**

## **Additional Resources for the Sociological Study of Religion**

### *Data Sources*

Association of Religion Data Archives: <http://www.thearda.com/>

American National Election Studies: <http://www.electionstudies.org/>

General Social Survey: <http://www3.norc.org/GSS+Website>

International Social Survey Program with special religion modules in 1998 and 2008:  
<http://www.issp.org/>

World Values Survey: <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>

### *Syllabi and Reading Lists*

Wabash Center Guide to Religion:

<http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/guide-headings.aspx>

### *Places where interesting related conversation takes place*

<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/>

<http://www.religiondispatches.org/>

[www.religioninsociology.org](http://www.religioninsociology.org)

<http://pewforum.org/>

### *Journals specifically focused on the Sociology of Religion*

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion:

<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0021-8294>

Sociology of Religion: <http://www.sorjournal.org/>

Review of Religious Research: <http://rra.hartsem.edu/reviewof.htm>

Social Compass: International Review of Sociology of Religion: <http://scp.sagepub.com/>

### *Professional Associations specifically focused on the Sociology of Religion*

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: <http://www.sssrweb.org/>

Association for the Sociology of Religion: <http://www.sociologyofreligion.com/>

(and lots of Religious Studies Associations starting with the American Academy of Religion: <http://www.aarweb.org/>)

### *Handbooks*

Beckford, James A., and N. J. Demerath III, eds. 2007. *The SAGE handbook of the sociology of religion*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Clarke, Peter, ed. 2009. *The Oxford handbook of the sociology of religion*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.

Dillon, Michele, ed. 2003. *A Handbook of the sociology of religion*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Turner, Bryan S., ed. 2010. *The new Blackwell companion to the sociology of religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Wuthnow, Robert. 1988. Sociology of religion. In *The handbook of sociology*. 2d ed. Edited by Neil Smelser, 473–509. Newbury Park, CA: SAGE.

*Textbooks*

- Christiano, Kevin J., William H. Swatos Jr., and Peter Kivisto. 2008. *Sociology of religion: Contemporary developments*. 2d ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Johnstone, Ronald L. 2007. *Religion in society: A sociology of religion*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice Hall.
- Kurtz, Lester R. 2006. *Gods in the global village: The world's religions in sociological perspective*. 2d ed. Sociology for a New Century. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge.
- Lundskow, George. 2008. *The sociology of religion: A substantive and transdisciplinary approach*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge.
- McGuire, Meredith B. 2008. *Religion: The social context*. 5th ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

*Sources of funding*

See the list through: [www.religioninsociology.org](http://www.religioninsociology.org)

Discussion Memo Sign Up

September 11. Recent Overviews of and Approaches to the Field

- 1.
- 2.

September 25. The Classics: Marx, Weber and Durkheim

- 1.
- 2.

October 2. Two Neo-classics – Peter Berger and Clifford Geertz

- 1.
- 2.

October 16. Secularization and Secularism

- 1.
- 2.

October 23. Pluralism, Competition, and Rational Choice

- 1.
- 2.

October 30. Spirituality and Religious Individualism

- 1.
- 2.

November 6. Religion in American Public Life, An Overview in One Week

- 1.
- 2.

November 13. Denominations and Congregations (in the Context of Trends)

- 1.
- 2.

November 20. Outside of Religious Institutions

- 1.
- 2.

November 27. Select topics TBA

- 1.
- 2.

December 4. Select topics TBA

- 1.
- 2.