Soc 265 Sociology of Religion
Fall 2005 (fulfills M3 requirement)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:50 – 2:00; PPHAC 232

Professor Daniel Jasper
PPHAC 316
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00, or by appointment
djasper@moravian.edu
610.625.7882

Course Overview: From the beginning of the sociological endeavor, the study of religion has been central to the understanding of modern societies. Early sociologists such as Max Weber and Emile Durkheim made inquiries into religion the foundations of their larger research agendas. This course will continue in this tradition by surveying the interactions between religion and society while developing the sociological approach to the study of religion as a social institution. Students will become familiar with:

- how religion is shaped by and, in turn, shapes the larger social field in which it exists.
- different social structures of religion, including secularization, new types of religious organizations,
- the ways in which religion interacts with other social institutions such as the state and economy, and culture.
- the changing nature of religious pluralism in the United States.

Course Requirements and Expectations: In addition to assignments, for students to do well in this course, they will need to read and think systematically about religion over the course of the semester. It is expected that all students will have thoroughly and thoughtfully completed the weekly readings, and be prepared to discuss these, by our first meeting of each week. Students are expected to regularly contribute to in-class discussions with reactions and responses that deal directly with the issues and texts being considered. This participation will count for 10 % of the final grade. Students will also have the opportunity to share their insights in writing through weekly reading logs (these will be discussed the first week of class). Reading logs will be collected only on the first course meeting of each week, graded on a scale of 0 – 4, with the ten highest scoring counting for 10 % of the final grade.

Other requirements:
- Class presentation and discussion leadership – 20 % of final grade
- Comparative Review of 2 Academic Journal Articles – 20 % of final grade
- Analytic Review of cultural text that involves religion – 20 % of final grade
- Final Exam – 20 % of final grade

Repressive Policies and other mechanisms of social control:
Your attendance at all class sessions is expected. Tardiness and absences will negatively impact the participation portion of your grade. It is each student’s responsibility to arrive for each course meeting on time.

Please read, and familiarize yourself, with the policy on Academic Honesty in your student handbook. Cheating and Plagiarism will result in failing this course.
Students who wish to submit their writing assignments through electronic mail may send it to my email address only as an attached Word document. Assignments submitted in this way must be received by 10:00pm the evening before the due date. No late reading logs will be accepted, other late assignments will be penalized 10 % per day.

**Required Text:**


All other required texts are either available online, in the library, or will be distributed.

**Course Outline**

Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes are possible as the semester progresses.

**Week 1** (August 30 & September 1) Course Introduction

No assigned reading. However, you should familiarize yourself with the text, as well as relevant websites.

**Week 2** (September 6 & 8) Defining Religion

CSK, ch. 1


**Week 3** (September 13 & 15) Sociology and the Study of Religion

CSK, ch. 2

**Week 4** (September 20 & 22) Religious Organizations

CSK, chs. 4, 11


**Week 5** (September 27 & 29) Religion and Social Location

CSK, ch. 5

Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Cheese and the Worms* pp. 1-17


**Week 6** (October 4 & 6) Religion and Gender

CSK, ch. 7

Hawkins, Billy “A Critical Reading of a Promise Keepers event: The interworkings of race, religion, and sport” Sociology of Sport Online Vol. 3, issue 1, 2000. [http://physed.otago.ac.nz/sosol/v3i1/v3i1a2.htm](http://physed.otago.ac.nz/sosol/v3i1/v3i1a2.htm)

Week 7 (October 13) Religion and Society: Secularization
CSK, ch. 3

Week 8 (October 18 & 20) Religion and Society: Culture
CSK, ch. 10

Week 9 (October 25 & 27) Religion and Politics
CSK, ch. 9

Week 10 (November 1 & 3) Debates over Evolution
http://www.pluralism.org/research/reports/white/KansasEvolution.pdf

Week 11 (November 8 & 10) Religion and Ethnicity
CSK, ch. 6
Immigration and the New Religious Pluralism
http://irpp.georgetown.edu/eck.pdf

Week 12 (November 15 & 17) Religion and the new immigration
http://irpp.georgetown.edu/casanova.pdf

Week 13 (November 22) Religion and the Clash of Civilizations?
The new zones of contact: immigration to the US

Week 14 (November 29 & December 1) The new zones of contact: immigration and violence in Europe

Week 15 (December 6 & 8) Course Conclusion