

Professor Mimi Goldman Tuesday 10-12
and appt 731 PLC Ext. 6-5167

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We will have a supplemental webpage up by January 20 with additional materials for fun:
sociology.uoregon.edu/soc461.php

SOCIOLOGY 461/561
Sociology of Religion
Monday 4:00-7:00 in 116 Esslinger

This class will explore relationships between religion and social structure. It is NOT a survey of world or even national religions. It is an exploration of religious structures and processes in contemporary developed societies.

The primary focus is religion in the USA to better understand theories and research about religious institutions in modern and post modern societies, how they have changed and how they will continue to change.

Assigned Readings

There are four books for the class. All of them are in paperback. They are available at the University of Oregon Bookstore and on reserve in the Knight Library.

Robert Bellah, et al. *Habits of the Heart*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1996.

Noah Feldman, *Divided By God*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux. 2005

Lis Harris. *Holy Days: the World of the Hasidic Family*. New York: Simon and Schuster 1995.

Rodney Stark and Roger Finke. *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley: University of California Press 2000.

There will also be several articles that you are expected to access online via Blackboard.

Grading Criteria

Class Participation and Attendance 10 points

Brief Paper on film *Stranger Among Us* 3 pages due at the beginning of class January 23 5 points

Group Project 15 Points February 20 (presentation and 8 page paper for whole group)

Individual paper of 5 points also due on February 20.

Midterm 25 Points (in class-short and long essay)

Comparison Project/Take Home Final: 35 Points March 23 before noon(about 18 pages). You are welcome to turn them in early!

Leave in Professor Goldman's Mailbox in 736 PLC. Please note: Exams delivered after noon on Thursday 3/23 will not be graded until the following term and you will receive an Inc for the class.

One rule: PLEASE turn off mobile phones and put them away. In order to make this rule stick, I have to write it out (Sorry)! If your phone rings during class—you lose five points. If you text message or game during class or exams you lose 20 points. NO EXCEPTIONS

**** Students taking 561 will meet after class today to set a time to discuss their requirements!**

Class Themes and Reading Assignments

Please complete assigned readings prior to class!!

January 9

Introductions

Sociology of Religion Contrasted with "World religions"

What is Religiousness?

The Changing Face of American Religion

A religious Map

BREAK

Film "Protestant Spirit USA"

Discussion for January 16 Assignment

Stark, Introduction from One True God (on Blackboard)

Stark and Finke Introduction

January 16—No Class, BUT there is an assignment due January 23 in reference to a video/dvd on reserve in Knight Library or available in many video stores. I will pass out the assignment the first day of class. I will have an office hour 10-12 January 17 at the regular time. Feel free to e-mail me or Nick regarding the assignment!

Assigned Reading: Harris Chapters 1-6 and especially TEN

January 23

Religion, Sociology, and the Marginalization of Faith

Some terms.

Discussion of visits to religious services and Final Portfolio

Stark and Finke, Intro and Chapters 1-2

Bellah: Updated Introduction

Feldman, Chapters 3,4, and 5

BREAK

The Hasidic World and Religiosity

Harris, Chapters 1 through 6 and 10 and 12

Hasidism as a way of understanding Religiosity

Religion, Modernization and Revival: Dissidents Past and Present

Stark and Finke, Chapters 4 and 5.

Midterm Review

January 30

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

BREAK

Inventing Holidays

Holiday Groups Assigned and First Meeting

February 6

Individualism, Private Life, and Finding Oneself

Bellah, Chapters 1,2, and 3

Feldman, Chapter 8

Leigh Schmidt Reading Online through Blackboard

BREAK

Group Work on Holidays

February 13*Citizenship and Religion*Bellah, Chapters 8 and 9

Feldman, Intro and chapters 1 and 2

*The Free market in Religion*Stark and Finke Chapters 1, 2, and 8**BREAK***Group Work on Holidays***February 20***HOLIDAY PRESENTATIONS!***BREAK**

How religious is the USA??

Feldman, Chapters 1 and 2*The Great Secularization Debate*Bellah, Chapter 11Stark and Finke, Chapter 3**February 27**

Separation of Church and State? Free exercise and Separation

Guest Speaker: UO President Dave Frohnmayer

Feldman, Chapters 7, 8, and ConclusionLarkin v. Grendel's Den on blackboard**BREAK***Religion, Modernization, and Secularization*Philip Gorski Chapter online through Blackboard:Stark and Finke, Chapter 3Feldman, Chapter 7**March 6***Religious Choices and Group Dynamics*Stark and Finke, Chapters 4, 5 and 6*The Growth of Independent Denominations*Stark and Finke, Chapter 8Feldman, Chapter 6**BREAK**

Guest Speaker: Pastor Shannon Kearney from South Hills Church

March 13*Religious Economies Churches, Sects, and New Denominations*Stark and Finke, Chapters 8 and 9*Religious Futures and the Debate over Evolution*Feldman, Chapter 4 and ConclusionGoldman article on line**BREAK***Discussion of Comparison Paper/Final***Final DUE Thursday March 23 PROFESSOR GOLDMAN'S MAILBOX IN 731 PLC!**