

Fall 2009

SOCIOLOGY 461/561
Sociology of Religion
 Classroom: HED 142

M Goldman
 Office Hours: After Class
 And by appointment

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This class will explore relationships between religion and social structure. It is NOT a survey of world or even national religions. It is an overview of religious processes and structures in the USA and Western Europe. We will examine two complementary approaches to religion: Structural and Personal.

Structural approaches focus on religious organizations and doctrines. Personal or lived religion approaches consider people's relationships with their deity and with people inside and outside their religious spheres.

There are five books and one monograph assigned for the class. Stark, Wellman, and Bader et al. are primarily structural. Goldman, McGuire, and Orsi deal primarily with personal religion.

Assigned Reading

The books are in paperback. They are available at the University of Oregon Bookstore. And they are also on reserve in the Knight Library. The class films will also be on reserve.

Marion S. Goldman. *Passionate Journeys: Why Successful Women Joined a Cult*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1999.

Meredith McGuire. *Lived Religion: Faith and Practice in Everyday Life*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2008.

Robert Orsi. *Between Heaven and Earth: The Religious Worlds that People Make and the Scholars Who Study Them*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2005.

Rodney Stark. *One True God: Historical Consequences of Monotheism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2001.

James Wellman. *Evangelical Versus Liberal: The Clash of Christian Cultures in the Pacific Northwest*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2008.

Monograph: PDF on Blackboard. Bader and the BSIR Study Group. 2002. *American Piety: The*

Baylor Religion Survey. Waco, Texas: Baylor University. 2002. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CLASS!

Articles about Pastor Rick Warren on PDF posted on Blackboard under Documents

Lectures will be posted on Blackboard under Soc 461/561 in the "Documents" section the Friday before class, so that you can go over them with your reading. Please print this syllabus and the lectures and bring them to class, so that we can have a more informal discussion and still cover all of the points.

Undergraduate Grading Criteria

Total: Participation and Attendance 16 points. Points can be lost because of in class texting, twittering, or surfing. I do not make a big deal of it in class, but the results show up on your final grades. Attendance is only posted on Blackboard 3 times per term. Your Attendance is valued at 12 points (1 1/2 per class and participation is an additional four points).

Two take-home assignments valued at 14 and 15 points each for a total of 29 points

One midterm of one hour and twenty minutes with closed books and closed notes On November 2. Total 25 points.

Take home final that is due no later than 3:15 on Thursday, December 10, but it can be turned in earlier. Exams delivered later will not be graded until Winter Term

Total 30 points

TOTAL CLASS POINTS: 100

Graduate Students may substitute a 45 point paper for the second assignment and the final exam.

Reading Assignments and Class Themes

Please complete assigned Reading prior to class, except for September 28.

September 28

No Class. But In order to cover everything this term, there is a reading assignment for Week 1, and also a DVD/Video *The Long Search: Protestant Spirit USA* that will be on reserve in the Knight Library starting Tuesday,

September 29. Readings are Wellman: prologue and Chapters 1 and 2. Please see *Protestant Spirit USA* before October 2.

October 5

Reading: Wellman Prologue and Chapters 1, 2 (again) and 5. *American Piety* on Blackboard

Introductions and Syllabus

Sociology of Religion Contrasted with "World Religions"

What is Religiousness?

The Changing Face of American Religion

BREAK

A Religious Profile of the USA

Discussion of Assignment 1. Due on or before October 19

October 12

Reading: Blackboard Materials: "Saddleback Church History," "Obama's Choice of Pastor Creates Furor," and "You're Likeable Enough Gay People."

Wellman Chapters 8,9,10,11, and 12

Religious Worldviews and Social Organization

BREAK

Religion and Politics

The Continued Debate Over Reverend Rick Warren

More Discussion of Assignment 1.

October 19

Reading: Orsi Introduction, Chapters 1,3, 5, and 6

Insiders, Outsiders, and Personal Saints the Sociology of Religion

Film: Legacy of Spirits. Also on reserve and recommended regarding American Catholicism and ethnicity "Heaven Touches Brooklyn in July"

BREAK

Religion, Earth, and Heaven

October 26

American Society and the Study of Religion

Reading: Orsi Chapter 6 (Again), Stark Chapter 6

BREAK

Midterm Review

November 2

MIDTERM IN CLASS

BREAK

Intense Religion: *Film: "Jesus Camp."* This will be the basis of Assignment 2 that is passed out on November 9.

November 9

Reading: Stark Introduction and Chapters 1,2, and 3. Re-read *American Piety*.
Theories of God and the Triumph of Monotheism in the West

BREAK

Religious Conflict

Discussion of Assignment 2: Due on or before November 23 at 2:00

November 16

Reading: Stark, Chapter 5 and Goldman, Introduction and Chapters 1, 5,6, and Epilogue.
Civility and Incivility Between Established Religions and Cults

BREAK

Psychoanalytic Theory and the Sociology of Religion

November 23: No Class Because of Thanksgiving Week. But please feel free to make a phone or in person appointment for November 23.

November 30

Readings: McGuire Chapters 1,2, 3 ,5,6 and 8

Religious Experience and Mysticism

Religious Experience Exercise

Popular Religion Bricolage, and Syncretism

BREAK

Discussion of Take Home Final

FINAL DUE BY 3:15 ON Thursday, December 10