OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use. Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department and the material will vary—see course syllabus available from instructor.

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT: Social, Cultural & Media Studies

SOCIOLOGY 340

COURSE NAME/NUMBER

FORMER COURSE NUMBER

UCFV CREDITS

Sociology of Religion

COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the classical theories and modern research used to explain religion and its role in society and social change. Topics may include Australian totemism; the growth and spread of Christianity; Protestantism and capitalism; religion as the opiate of the masses; secularization and fundamentalism; Liberation Theology; "spirituality" vs. "organized religion;" cults, the New Age and "Turning East;" the feminist critique of religion; religion in the media.

PREREQUISITES: 45 credits, including ANTH 130 and three Sociology credits.

COREQUISITES: None

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces: N/A
(b) Cannot take: N/A

SERVICE COURSE TO:

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 60

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

LECTURES: 35 ± 45 Hrs
SEMINAR: 30 Hrs
LABORATORY: Hrs
FIELD EXPERIENCE: Hrs
STUDENT DIRECTED LEARNING: Hrs
OTHER (SPECIFY): PRESENTATION 15 ± 25 Hrs

LENGTH OF COURSE: HOURS PER DAY:

MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT: 25

EXPECTED FREQUENCY OF COURSE OFFERINGS:

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only) Yes ☐ No ☑

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department) Yes ☐ No ☑

TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE: Yes ☐ No ☑

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): D. Wyatt
Chairperson: J. Snodgrass (Curriculum Committee)
Department Head: J. Ballard
Dean: J.D. Tunstall

PAC Approval in Principle Date: PAC Final Approval Date: May 26, 1999
LEARNING OBJECTIVES / GOALS / OUTCOMES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To familiarize students with the classical theories and modern research used to explain religion and its role in society and social change.
To enable students to use concepts/methods learned in their own personal analysis of religion and society.

METHODS:

Lecture, readings, videos, discussion, student presentations.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR (Please check :)  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

Typically either textbook (e.g., Andrew Greely, The Sociology of Religion: A Collection of Readings, Ronald L. Johnstone, Religion in Society: A Sociology of Religion), or instructor constructed reading package including materials on subjects listed in the course description. Some may come from textbooks such as those listed above, others from other sources, e.g., from Rodney Stark, The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

In-class and/or take-home exams/papers, student presentations.
E.g., three exams (25% each, one a take-home), student presentation (25%)

COURSE CONTENT:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

1. What’s the “Sociology of Religion;” Why the Sociology of Religion?
2. The development of the discipline – study vs. faith in religion; Durkheim, Weber, Marx and other pioneers.
3. The growth and spread of Christianity – sociological vs. religious views.
4. Protestantism and capitalism.
5. Secularization and fundamentalism; the decline of mainline Christianity. Jewish and Muslim responses to secularization.
7. “Spirituality” vs. “organized religion;” cults, the New Age and “Turning East.”
8. Feminist critiques of religion.
9. Religion in the media – just the Flanders and bewildered Nuns?