OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE 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 – see course syllabus available from instructor

SOC 440  Social, Cultural and Media Studies  4
COURSE NAME/NUMBER  FACULTY/DEPARTMENT  UFV CREDITS
Selected Topics in the Sociology of Religion
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
An advanced course in the sociology of religion. Topics will change from term to term.

PREREQUISITES: 60 credits, to include at least 9 credits of Sociology and/or Religious Studies.
COREQUISITES:
PRE or COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces: SCMS 440
(b) Cross-listed with:
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 60
TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course: Hours per day:

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:
Lectures: 30 Hrs
Seminar: 30 Hrs
Laboratory: Hrs
Field experience: Hrs
Student directed learning: Hrs
Other (specify): Hrs

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment: 25
Expected frequency of course offerings:
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

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

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 1998
COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2010
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: (four years after UPAC approval) February 2014

COURSE DESIGNER(S): Stephen Piper
Department Head: Eric Spalding  Date approved: January 12, 2010
Supporting area consultation (Pre-UPAC)  Date of meeting: January 15, 2010
Curriculum Committee chair: Moira Kloster  Date approved: January 15, 2010
Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte  Date approved: January 15, 2010
Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UPAC) approval  Date of meeting: February 26, 2010
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a greater knowledge of historical patterns of development of religion and society
- critically discuss a substantive religious issue
- analyze the interplay of material and ideological social forces in a particular case
- demonstrate the acquisition of an informational and theoretical base relevant to the special topic
- use sociological and anthropological approaches to understand a specific topic in religion and society
- carry out independent library research on a specific topic related to the theme of the course

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

A combination of lectures, discussions, AV presentations, and library research.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☐ Examination(s)    ☐ Portfolio assessment    ☐ Interview(s)

☒ Other (specify): Methods will be considered on a case-by-case basis

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: [Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]


Loewen Royden (2006) *Diaspora in the Countryside: Two Mennonite Communities and Mid-Twentieth Century Rural Disjuncture*. University of Toronto Press.


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

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

Midterm exam 30%
Final exam 30%
Research paper 30%
Participation 10%

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

This course content is based on a version of the course taught as: “*Faith and Society: The Mennonites*”

Mennonite history both supports and challenges conventional theories of religion. In the context of social and economic changes in 16th century Europe, the Mennonites developed a radical ideology that was at the same time separatist and accommodationist. This course explores the ways in which a dissident religious group can survive and grow in adverse social conditions, accommodating to social demands while preserving an independent social space. It explores the ways in which periodic persecution and migration strengthen group solidarity and create new identities. It also explores the conditions under which such dissidents can achieve success in normative social terms and become a significant social force while still adhering (to a greater or lesser degree) to their beliefs and promoting their values in society.
Course content continued

- A general history of Christianity
- Theories of religion and society: Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Malinowski, Hobsbawm, millenarianism, religious economy, weapons of the weak (Scott)
- The social roots of the Protestant Reformation, the Radical Reformation and the Anabaptists
- The Mennonite story
- Schisms among the Mennonites and comparisons with other Protestant denominations
- Persecution and diaspora: identity formation and group solidarity
- Church and state
- Mennonite sects and denominations
- Mennonites in Canada
- Mennonites in Latin America
- Ideology and social action
  - Non-violence and peacebuilding
  - Social justice and development (the MCC)