RS 15 RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY
Fall Quarter, 2011

Instructor:  Dr. Wade Clark Roof
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Office Hours:  Dr. Roof:  Tuesday, Thursday:  1:30-3 PM or by appointment;
TAs office hours to be announced.

TAs:  Jennifer Hahn – jhahn@umail.ucsb.edu
Dusty Hoesly – hoesly@umail.ucsb.edu
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Description:  This is a course on religion and the “inner life” – described variously as
“soul,” “mind,” or “psyche.”  The focus is upon humanistic psychology -- on questions of
identity, meaning, and big issues in life.  Attention is given primarily to Western
psychology and applications of its theories to contemporary life.

Internet Resources:  There are thousands of web sites on religion, quite a number on the
psychology of religion.  You will find it helpful to check out, in particular, the Virtual
Religion Index at Rutgers University:  http://virtualreligion.net/vri/

Required Texts:
Frankl, V.  Man’s Search for Meaning
Csikszentmihalyi, M.  Finding Flow
Beaudoin, T.  Virtual Faith
Kimball, C.  When Religion Becomes Evil
Forsyth, James  Psychological Theories of Religion

Course Requirements:
1.  Attend lectures and discussion sections
2.  Read assignments in timely order
3.  Two examinations, Mid-term and Final
4.  Short paper (6-8 typewritten, double-spaced pages) – A separate memo will
describe the assignment

Examinations:  Mid-term and Final.  Both cover films, lectures, readings, and discussion.
The final is cumulative.  Each examination will include both objective and short answer
and/or essay questions.

Make-Up Examinations:  Available only for those who present written medical
verification of illness from a physician or an obituary of the death of a family member.
No exceptions.
Cheating and Plagiarism: Serious offenses. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing even once risks dismissal from the course. Continued registration in the course is regarded as acknowledgement of this risk and its consequences.

Rules of the Classroom (from the time instruction begins until class dismissed):

1) Cell Phones -- if they ring in class, you will be asked to vacate classroom.
2) Texting during class – prohibited. If caught, you’re asked to vacate classroom.
3) Late Attenders to Class -- sit at back of the room. Continued registration in class implies consent to these rules.

Grading: Final grades to be determined on the basis of the following distribution of points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Section</td>
<td>10</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Sept. 22: INTRODUCTION: RELIGION, MODERNITY, AND YOU
Reading: Peter Berger
www.cepchile.cl/dms/archivo_3532_1879/r98_berger_ing.pdf
Book: Virtual Faith

Key Questions:
1) What is religion? What is spirituality?
2) Religion in culture, culture in religion
3) Religion and Modernity: What has Happened to Religion
4) Contemporary American culture

Sept. 27: The Centrality of the Experiential
Exercise: Go to http://pewresearch.org/millennials/
Check out “How Millennial Are You?”

Sept. 29: The “Spiritual” versus the “Religious” -- Jennifer Hahn

Oct. 4-6: RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
Theories of William James
Conversion, Mysticism, Spirituality
Triggers of Religious Experience: Hearing, Seeing, Touching, Ingesting, Fasting, Pain
Reading: “William James,” in J. Forsythe, Psychological Theories of Religion, pp. 103-131

“The Religious Experience” – Video

Key Questions:
1) What makes an experience religious?
2) What is central for James in defining religion?
3) The “reality of the unseen” – what is meant by this?

Oct. 11-13: THE SEARCH FOR MEANING
Theories of Viktor E. Frankl
Threat of Chaos
Logotherapy
Suffering
Meaning as “Tragic Optimism”
Reading: Man’s Search for Meaning and “Viktor Frankl,” in Forsyth, pp. 223-243.

Key Questions:
1) What factors figure into the “Making of Meaning?”
2) What can we learn from Frankl’s horrific experience as it applies to our ordinary lives?
3) What is his philosophy about life and struggle?

Oct. 18-20: THE HIDDEN SELF
Theories of Sigmund Freud
Need for Protection
Religion as Illusion
Dreams and Wish-fulfillment
Reading: “Sigmund Freud,” in J. Forsyth, Psychological Theories of Religion, pp. 1-50

Film: “The Hidden Nature of Man”

Key Question: Do you really know yourself?

Oct. 25-27: THE UNDISCOVERED SELF
Theories of Carl G. Jung
Collective Unconscious
Archetypes
Individuation
Personality Types
Key Question: Are there identities within you yet to be discovered?
Read: Jung on the Native American Medicine Wheel
What do you learn?

Nov. 1: Review

MID-TERM --- Nov. 3

Nov. 8: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY – Michael Kinsella
Read:
http://psychology.about.com/od/cognitivepsychology/f/cogpsych.htm
Key Question: How much influence do our brains have over us?

Nov. 10: THE DEVELOPING SELF
Theories of Erik Erikson
Life-Cycle and Religious Change
Attachment Theory
Women and Men
Key Question: In what directions am I evolving?
Read:
http://www.learningplaceonline.com/stages/organize/Erikson.htm
http://psychology.about.com/od/loveandattraction/ss/attachmentstyle.htm

Nov. 15-17 WHEN RELIGION IS BAD
Reified Reality
Authoritarianism
Coercion and Violence
Self-Destruction
Watch:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqSZhwu1Rwo
Key Question: How bad is bad? What is bad religion?

Reading: Kimball, When Religion Becomes Evil

Nov. 22: WHEN RELIGION IS GOOD
Maslow and Self-Actualization
Fromm: Authoritarian vs. Humanistic Religion
Allport: Extrinsic vs. Intrinsic Religion

Key Question: How good is good? What is good religion?

Read: On Maslow, pp. 195-220 in Psychological Theories
On Fromm, pp. 135-162 “ “
On Allport, pp. 165-192 “ “

Csikszentmihali, Finding Flow

Nov. 29: IS RELIGION GOOD FOR MENTAL HEALTH? – Dusty Hoesly

Dec. 1 SUMMATION

PAPERS DUE ON Nov. 29

FINAL EXAMINATION - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 8-11 AM