

Religious Studies 1: Introduction to the Study of Religion

Course Website: <http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>

Logistical Details:

Class Time: TR, 11:00-12:15

Classroom: IV Theater 2

Instructor: Gregory Hillis ghillis@religion.ucsb.edu.

Teaching Assistants: Rico Monge ricomonge@gmail.com, Jennifer Hahn jenniferlhahn@gmail.com, Martin Becker epictobecker@yahoo.com.mx.

Office: HSSB 3060

Office Hours: MW 11:00-1:00

Course Description:

A general introduction to the academic study of religion focused primarily on the problem of defining religion. This course examines classic approaches to defining religion and the theories of religion's role or purpose in each. The primary goal of the class is for all students to learn to define, accurately describe, and compare in a non-evaluative manner in order to find significant similarities and differences among forms of observable human behavior. NOTE: This course is *not* an introduction to world religions; rather, it is an introduction to the study of religion where religion is conceived as an ordinary aspect of human culture and history.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation: 20%. Attendance is required for lectures and discussion sections. Mere presence in the classroom does not constitute full attendance. Active participation in class discussions can raise your overall grade. More than one unexcused absence will lower your grade. You are expected to complete the readings and consult the recommended websites ahead of time to be adequately prepared. In addition, TAs may require you to complete weekly responses or summaries to the current reading, take quizzes, or make presentations. **SECTIONS WILL COMMENCE NEXT WEEK.**
2. Four Essays: 60% (15% Each). Each student will submit four 5-page analytical essays explicating and comparing the theories of 2-3 prominent scholars. Papers are to be submitted to your TA **IN CLASS** on the due date. Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. Extensions due to extenuating circumstances may be requested directly from your TA.
3. Final Examination: 20%. Three or four comparative/analytical essay questions.

Required Texts:

1. Pals, Daniel L. *Eight Theories of Religion* (2nd Edition) (New York: Oxford University Press) ISBN 978-0195165708
2. Pals, Daniel L. *Introducing Religion: Readings from the Classic Theorists* (New York: Oxford University Press) ISBN 978-0195181494
3. Additional supplementary course readings and other material on Gauchospace (<http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>).

Miscellaneous:

1. Take advantage of all instructors' office hours to discuss course-related and academic matters!
2. No cell phones, mp3 players, or text messaging whatsoever during class!
3. Check course website (<http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>) regularly for important announcements and information!
4. Course will be conducted according to the Academic Standard of Honesty and Responsibility as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/regulations/student_conduct.aspx).

Schedule and Assignments:

Week One

Thursday 9/27/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: General Introduction; What is the Academic Study of Religion?• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, "Introduction," pp. 3-17; <i>Introducing Religion</i>, "Introduction," pp. xiii-xxvi.
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Week Two

Tuesday 10/02/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Animism and the Origin of Religion: E. B. Tylor• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 18-31; <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 1-35.
Thursday 10/04/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Magic and the Rise of Religion: J. G. Frazer• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 31-48; <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 37-70.

Week Three

Tuesday 10/09/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion and Personality: Sigmund Freud• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 53-84.
Thursday 10/11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion as Neurosis: Sigmund Freud• Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 71-97.• FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week Four

Tuesday 10/16/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Society as Sacred: Émile Durkheim• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 85-117.
Thursday 10/18/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Society as Sacred: Émile Durkheim (cont.)• Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 99-142.

Week Five

Tuesday 10/23/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion as Alienation: Karl Marx• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 118-148.
Thursday 10/25/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion as Agent of Economic Oppression: Karl Marx• Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 143-170.

Week Six

Tuesday 10/30/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: The Testimony of Religious Experience: William James• Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 171-203.
Thursday 11/01/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion and the Sense of the "Numinous": Rudolf Otto• Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 205-235.• SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week Seven

Tuesday 11/06/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion as a Source of Social Action: Max Weber• Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 149-192.
Thursday 11/08/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture: Religion and Culture Interwoven: Max Weber• Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 237-270.

Week Eight

Tuesday 11/13/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Reality of the Sacred: Mircea Eliade • Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 193-228.
Thursday 11/15/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Reality of the Sacred: Mircea Eliade (cont.) • Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 271-308.

Week Nine

Tuesday 11/20/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Society's "Construct of the Heart": E. E. Evans-Pritchard • Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 229-259. • THIRD PAPER DUE IN CLASS
Thursday 11/22/12	• NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Week Ten

Tuesday 11/27/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film: "Strange Beliefs" • Readings: <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 309-340.
Thursday 11/29/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Religion as Cultural System: Clifford Geertz • Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 260-291; <i>Introducing Religion</i>, pp. 341-372.

Week Eleven

Tuesday 12/04/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Recent Theoretical Developments • Readings: <i>Eight Theories</i>, pp. 292-323
Thursday 12/06/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Conclusions • Readings: No new reading • FOURTH PAPER DUE IN CLASS

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, 12/12/12, 12:00-3:00 PM