

RS 15 RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY
Fall Quarter, 2011

Instructor: Dr. Wade Clark Roof
Office: 3001 HSSB (Tel. 893-2562)
Email: wcroof@religion.ucsb.edu
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
Michael Kinsella – michaelskinsella@mac.com

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.	<u>Man’s Search for Meaning</u>
Csikszentmihalyi, M.	<u>Finding Flow</u>
Beaudoin, T.	<u>Virtual Faith</u>
Kimball, C.	<u>When Religion Becomes Evil</u>
Forsyth, James	<u>Psychological Theories of Religion</u>

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:

Mid-term	30 points
Final	40 points
Paper	20 points
Discussion Section	10 points

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

Reading: "C.G. Jung," in J. Forsyth,
Psychological Theories of Religion pp. 51-
102.

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
