

**SOCI 3334/W01**  
**RELIGION AND SOCIETY**

Spring 2017 Matthew Irvin, Ph.D.

Email: please use D2L

Online Office Hours

Online Office Hours: I will be available LIVE for instantaneous responses on Sunday nights from 8 to 9 PM I will respond to all other e-mails within 24 hours unless I otherwise notify you

( I might take a day off , every now and again) Email [mirvin4@kennesaw.edu](mailto:mirvin4@kennesaw.edu)

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**This class is an online class using D2L**

**KSU uses D2L for all online courses.**

**This link will help you to navigate to a host of online resources, including the Desire to Learn site:**

<http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/resources/index.php>

**For technical support, please go to**

<http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/resources/tech.php>

**For Student Support resources, please go to**

[http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/resources/student\\_support\\_resources.php](http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/resources/student_support_resources.php)

**A link to Kennesaw State's online library is available at**

<http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/resources/library.php>

[how to navigate online support site video](#)

### **Taking This Course**

Make sure when you enter Desire2Learn (D2L) that you run the "System Check," which you can begin by clicking the "Please click here for a System Check before you login" link.

**To contact IT with a specific question email**

[studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu](mailto:studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu)

**Catalogue Description:** Examination of religion as a social institution in historical, comparative, and contemporary terms. World religions and new religious movements are studied as sociocultural processes involving the need to know, to deal with problems and to adapt to change.

### **Overview:**

This course provides students with a sociological understanding of religion. The interaction between society and religion is central in our exploration of religion as a cultural and social phenomenon. Religious life both shapes and is shaped by U.S. Society. We will be looking at the diversity of religious groups in the United States, the interface between religion and politics, the economy, how religion is affected and affects the gender, race and social class composition of communities of religious participants.

We will examine how religion serves as a power agent of socialization, a way for individuals to integrate within group life, and a way for social integration with the larger society.

We will examine how some religious groups stand apart, often in extreme ways, from mainstream American culture, views and norms.

We will examine the central role of religion in shaping often diametrically opposing points of view in American society.

There are two central points that we need to cover as we move forward with our discussions.

- 1) This is a *sociology* course. We may have strongly held beliefs- this is entirely okay- or we may have no beliefs at all. This is not a course in the comparative superiority or inferiority of beliefs, values, or behaviors. As such, please be courteous and mindful of this as we move forward with our discussion
- 2) There are going to be occasional examinations of material, sometimes of a nature that is not particularly pleasant. Be aware of this as we move through the course. The presentation of this material is of an ANALYTICAL nature. We are ascertaining its reasons, in relation to other social processes, for the underlying motivations for why groups sometimes behave in manners that are antithetical to mainstream American life.

The major part of this course is online at a time that is convenient for you. Course requirements include weekly online discussions, tests, and a series of short papers designed to examine the diversity of religious life in the United States. Weekly discussions and field assignments should take approximately 2-3 hours a week, not including reading, writing and studying time.

Assignment due dates are posted in the drop box for the assignment. Discussions must be completed in the discussion period. See below for due dates. Papers are staggered in terms of due dates. You are responsible for checking due dates and submitting the material via drop box. Check the link to the assignment for due date details. It is your responsibility to check D2L sometime during the week for all instructional details and updates.

### **Course Prerequisites:**

To take this course you must have completed either

**SOC 1101**

or

**ANT 1102**

### **Resources and Materials**

1. *Religions In Society : A Sociology of Religion* by Ronald L. Johnstone. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Prentice-Hall.
2. The Pew Forum on Religious Life <http://religions.pewforum.org/>
3. Other embedded websites in course assignments.
4. Access to a computer with reliable internet access and sound and video capabilities.

Note: Many of our videos are in Flash and require a program like iTunes or RealPlayer to view. Both are available free—iTunes is available at <http://www.apple.com/itunes/overview/?cid=OAS-US-DOMAINS-itunes.com>, and RealPlayer is available at [www.RealPlayer.com](http://www.RealPlayer.com).

Because many of our videos are in Flash, you will not be able to rely solely on an iPad or iPhone to successfully complete this course. You will need a desktop or laptop computer or a tablet computer that runs Flash.

### **Student Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- describe demographic patterns of religious participation in the United States
- examine the role of religion in the socialization process
- evaluate what is- and is not- a sociological explanation of religious life.
- compare and contrast how the three sociological paradigms approach the sociology of religion
- appraise the process whereby religious groups become bureaucracies
- Evaluate the role of religion in political and economic life in the United States
- Evaluate religious controversy and the impact of controversy on cultural values in the United States
- Assess sociological approaches to religious integration with society outside of the religious group in the United States

### **Course Technology**

Instructional video clips (downloaded or linked on D2L)

Other Websites are found in course modules

### **READING DISCUSSION, EXAM, and ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

The Reading Schedule posted on the course content page will be followed for reading assignments, test dates, paper due dates. THE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES ARE IN THE MODULE FOLDERS. These due dates are shown on the schedule below. Please put these in your personal calendars.

## GRADING RUBRIC

You will be evaluated on the following criterion for a total of 100 points.

1. Discussion posts: There are six discussion posts. Each discussion post requires that you a) answer the question for the discussion post; and b) provide a minimum of two substantial responses to your peer classmates and/or to me. 4 points each for a total of 24 out of 100 points.

2. Short Written assignments. There will be eight short assignments. We will explore pertinent websites for relevant data, and a brief analysis and written explanation. These are guided exercises that will assess the degree to which you understand the concepts and are able to apply these concepts to data. You will find links to websites for each assignment. 5 points each for a total of 40 out of 100 points.

3. Exams. There will be two exams. These will be multiple choice, true/false, and short essay question formats. There will be from 30 to 50 questions for each exam. Each exam is worth 18 points each for a total of 36 points.

<b>Discussion Posts:</b> points	6 Discussions at 4 points each	24
<b>Short Written Assignments:</b> points	8 Written Papers at 5 points each	40
<b>Exams</b> <u>Points</u>	2 Exams at 18 points each	<u>36</u>
<b>Total:</b> <b>Points</b>		<b>100</b>

### Grading:

**A: 90-100 points**

**B: 80-89 points**

**C: 70-79 points**

**D: 60-69 points**

**F > 60 points**

**COURSE ORGANIZATION:** This course is organized in *modules*. Each module contains either a discussion post or a short written assignment. The first module is two weeks long. Each subsequent module is one week long. The modules begin at 12:01 each Monday and end at 11:59 the following Sunday: one week long for each module. You are expected to turn all work for each module in within the week time-frame of the module. You will be penalized up to one point for work submitted after the module deadline, and no work will be accepted after one week after the due date. What this means is that you cannot submit work in clusters at the end of the grading period. It will not be accepted.

**COURSE POLICIES: late work and attendance.**

- 1. ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to log into each module and participate at least twice weekly.
- 2. For Module One, you will have two weeks from the first day to complete the course (Monday January 11 through Sunday January 24)**
- 3. For modules two through fourteen, including tests and reviews, you will have one week to complete each module. You will have an extra two days to submit the module concurrent with Spring break.**
- 4. Your work will be graded within one week of the due date.**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**Please contact professor privately for all personal hardships.**

### **disAbled Student Support Services**

Kennesaw State University welcomes all students, recognizing that variations of abilities contribute to a richly diverse campus life. Prospective students are encouraged to visit the university -- explore the campus and talk with faculty, staff and current students. Find out that KSU is the place for you.

[http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss/dsss.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html)

### **ADA Compliance**

Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. Students who require accommodation in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the Assistant Director for Disabled Student Services to arrange an individual assistance plan. Accommodations may include classroom accessibility, modified computer equipment, disability-accessible parking, assistance with note-taking sign language interpreting or captioning services, class materials in alternate format, library and laboratory assistance, and other accommodations. Determination of appropriate accommodations to be provided will be based upon documentation of the disability. Members of the public who require specific accommodations in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the office sponsoring the service, program or activity at least five days in advance to arrange individual accommodations. Eligible students deliver certification letters to faculty at the beginning of each semester identifying the accommodations approved for that student. Faculty members are also instructed that they must provide students with special needs appropriate accommodations in a timely manner. The Assistant Director for disAbled Student Support Services will work with faculty members to ensure that students receive appropriate accommodations. A student should notify Disabled Student Support Services in writing within two (2) days of any disagreement between the student and the faculty member if agreed upon academic adjustments are not provided in order to seek a resolution. A student who alleges discrimination on the basis of disability may file a grievance through the University's established grievance procedures. The following have been designated by the President of the University to provide assistance and ensure compliance with the ADA. Should a student require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact either the ADA Compliance Officer for Students at [770-423-6443](tel:770-423-6443); the ADA Compliance Officer for Facilities at [470-578-6224](tel:470-578-6224);



or the Director of Human Resources, ADA Compliance Officer for staff and faculty at [470-578-6030](tel:470-578-6030). For more information, go to [kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss](http://kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss).

**Student Success Services (SSS):** The SSS center (Kennesaw Hall, Room 2401; phone: 770-423-6600) provides year-round counseling, advising, and testing services. For incoming students, First Year, Transfer and Parent Orientation services are also available. They have recently added a program devoted to Alcohol and Drug Education & Prevention and a Collegiate Recovery Center. The SSS website is <http://www.kennesaw.edu/studentsuccess/>

**KSU's Student Development Center:** The Student Development Center (Carmichael Student Center, Suite 267; phone: 770-423-6443) provides information of particular interest to adult learners, minority students, multicultural and international students, and disabled students; and provides links to opportunities for student community service and a peer mentor program. The Student Development website is [http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/home/home.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/home/home.html)

**KSU's English as a Second Language (ESL) Study and Tutorial Center:** The ESL Study and Tutorial Center (Library, Room 442) offers tutoring in writing a paper, reviewing grammar, reading, and preparing for the Regents' tests. Appointments are usually necessary. For an appointment, contact David Schmidt at (770) 423-6377, or [dschmidt@kennesaw.edu](mailto:dschmidt@kennesaw.edu). The ESL Study and Tutorial Center website is <http://www.kennesaw.edu/uc/esl/>

### **Netiquette:**

Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and the informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. This page provides links to both summary and detail information about Netiquette for your browsing pleasure. <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

**Writing Center:** "The KSU Writing Center is a free service offered to all KSU students.

Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process on concerns such as topic development, revision, research,

documentation, grammar, and mechanics. For more information or to make an appointment (appointments are strongly encouraged), visit

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter>

Or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

NOTE: If you use campus computers, please do not save your work on the computers. Use a usb drive or email it to yourself. Computers are periodically wiped clean and your work will be lost. This is not an excused reason to not turn in papers on time.

## **ASSIGNMENT AND DISCUSSION DATE DUE SCHEDULE**

(Subject to change with prior notice announced and posted on D2L)

**ASSIGNMENT AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE. See modules for detailed directions and reading assignments. Read ALL readings for the week to completing assignments or submitting discussion posts**

Please see the module overview on the D2L site for a complete listing of module assignments and readings.

### **Learning Assessments: Written Assignments ( short papers) and Discussions.**

There are Fourteen modules. Below are the due dates for each module. You can also find due dates for each module located in the Course Calander.

Each module has one (1) learning assessment. Some are written papers, some are discussions. Below is a schedule of each, with due dates, and weeks. Please copy this schedule into your calendar. Each module assignment goes online at the beginning of the week (Sunday at 11:59 PM and each module is due at the END of the week

(Sunday, at 11:59 PM) Please etch this rhythm into your life. I cannot accept late work unless you have a compelling medical, work, or family emergency, in which case, you must communicate with me. **PLEASE SEE COURSE CONTENT and COURSE CALENDAR** for detailed module information. Please note that we are 'doubling up' as we get to the end of the semester and take note of this as you plan your life.

Module One:	Learning Activity: Discussion	1/9-1/22
Module Two:	Learning Activity: Discussion	1/23-1/29
Module Three:	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	1/30-2/5
Module Four:	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	2/6-2/12
Module Five:	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	2/13-2/19
Module Six:	Learning Activity: Discussion	2/20-2/26
Module Seven:	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	2/27- 3/5
Test One Review and Test:		3/6-3/12
Module Eight	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	3/13-3/19
Module Nine	Learning Activity: Discussion	3/20-3/26
Module Ten	Learning Activity: Discussion	3/27-4/1
<b><i>Spring Break April 1 through April 7</i></b>		
Module Eleven	Learning Activity: Discussion	4/10-4/16
Module Twelve	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	4/10-4/16
Module 13	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	4/17-4/23
Module 14	Learning Activity: Written Assignment	4/17-4/23
Test Two and Review:		4/24-4/28