

The University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology  
SOC 2380, A01 3 credit hours  
SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE

308 Tier

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 am - 10:20 am

January - April 2015

Professor C. Axelrod

Office: 301-D Isbister Building

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Phone: 474-8458

**Readings:**

1. Mircea Eliade, The Sacred and the Profane
2. Lorne L. Dawson and Joel Thiessen, The Sociology of Religion: A Canadian Perspective, 1<sup>st</sup> edition
3. Max Weber, The Sociology of Religion, 4<sup>th</sup> edition
4. (Optional) Emile Durkheim, Elementary Forms of the Religion Life
5. (Optional) Sigmund Freud, Future of an Illusion
6. (Optional) Sigmund Freud, Totem and Taboo

**Course Objectives:**

This course will examine from a sociological perspective the institution, beliefs, and practices of religion.

Topics to be dealt with are:

What is religion?

What are gods?

What differing social and economic conditions provide the background for the different beliefs and practices of the various religions?

### Assignment 1:

Essay test written in class on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, dealing with the Eliade's The Sacred and the Profane and lecture material up to that point. The test will count for 20% of the final grade.

### Assignment 2:

One essay, approximately 1000 words. You will have a choice to write either on Freud or Durkheim. The topic will be assigned one week before the essay is due, and will count for 30% of the final grade. With regard to format, papers must conform to any standard work of reference, as for example *A Manual of Style* (University of Chicago), or J. Buckley's *Fit to Print*.

### Assignment 3:

Essay test on Weber written in class on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to count for 30% of the final grade.

### Assignment 4:

Essay test on Dawson and Thiessen's *The Sociology of Religion*, written in class on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, to count for 20% of the final grade.

## GRADING SCALE

Your work is being evaluated on a letter grade system, not on a point system that is converted to a letter grade. The main benchmarks for the grade ranges can be described as follows:

D/F= an answer which is factually weak, faulty analysis, and very poor organization.

C= an answer which is mostly complete in terms of facts but suffers from poor analysis, organization and integration. Knowing the facts is a good start, but only a beginning.

B= answer is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated.

A= answer factually complete, well organized, sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a good degree of comprehension.

Make-up tests or late assignments except for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness as attested by a medical certificate) will be reduced by a half grade.

Voluntary Withdrawal Date: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Note: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and cheating" (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html> . Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.