

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

137 Isbister

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

January - April 2011

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. Max Weber, The Sociology of Religion, 4th edition FitzHenry and Whiteside
3. Homer, The Iliad, translated by Richard Lattimore
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?

Assignments:

1. Essay test written in class on January 28th, 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.
2. Two short essays (approximately 1000 words each) will be required during the term. Each will be assigned at least one week before it is due, and will count for 30% of the final grade. One of these will be a choice of either an essay on Freud or on Durkheim. The other will be an essay on Homer. 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*.
3. Essay test on Weber written in class on April 6th 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.

No make-up tests or late assignments except for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness as attested by a medical certificate).

Note: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Voluntary Withdrawal Date: March 18, 2011.