

SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Robert Wuthnow

These readings will expose you to the central ideas that have shaped the sociology of religion. The list emphasizes major theoretical and theoretically informed substantive contributions, including some from anthropology and history as well as sociology. The basic readings are starred (*) and should be read carefully. Following each set of basic readings is a short selection of supplementary readings. These are meant to provide more recent and/or advanced understanding of how the core perspective has been extended or applied, or in some cases to suggest alternative approaches and applications. You should pick one of these supplementary readings from each section. In most instances, you may pick either a more theoretically oriented reading or a more empirically oriented study, depending on your interests.

Mastering the basic readings and one supplementary reading from each section will give you about 90 percent of what you need to know for the General Examination in sociology of religion. The remaining 10 percent should be composed of recent literature in a sub-area related to your dissertation interests.

The reading course will meet each week for one to one and a half hours. Please write and circulate a two-page memo in advance summarizing your thoughts about what you have read and raising questions for discussion. If the week's readings are new to you, focus on the basic readings; if you are already familiar with the basic readings, review them and come prepared to make a short presentation about one of the supplementary readings.

For an extensive bibliography and sampling of topics covered in an undergraduate course in sociology of religion, see Meredith McGuire, *Religion: The Social Context*, 5th ed.

1. Capitalism and Religion

*Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology*

*Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Terry Eagleton, *Criticism and Ideology*, ch. 2

Perry Anderson, *Considerations on Western Marxism*

William C. Dowling, *Jameson, Althusser, Marx*

John Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory*, ch. 7

Paul E. Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium*

Liston Pope, *Millhands and Preachers*

2. Religion and Rationality

*Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

*Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, ch. 6

*Hans Gerth and C. Wright Mills (eds.), *From Max Weber*, Part III

Robert K. Merton, *Science, Technology and Society in 17th Century England*
Michael Walzer, *Revolution of the Saints*
David Zaret, *The Heavenly Contract*
Randall Collins, *Weberian Sociological Theory*, ch. 3
Robert Wuthnow, *Poor Richard's Principle*
Gorski, Philip S. "The Protestant Ethic Revisited: Disciplinary Revolution and State Formation in Holland and Prussia," *AJS* 99 (1993): 265-316.

3. Moral Community and the Sacred

*Emile Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*
*Robert Bellah (ed.), *On Morality and Society*, Introduction and ch. 12

Stephen R. Marks, "Durkheim's Theory of Anomie," *AJS* 80 (1974)
Robert Orsi, *The Madonna of 115th Street*
Kai T. Erikson, *Wayward Puritans*
Robert Wuthnow, *Meaning and Moral Order*, ch. 4

4. Social Differentiation and Religion

*H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Social Sources of Denominationalism*

Bryan Wilson, *Religion in Sociological Perspective*, ch. 4
Wade Clark Roof and William McKinney, *American Mainline Religion*

5. Ethnicity, Identity, and Religion

*Will Herberg, *Protestant-Catholic-Jew*

Gerhard Lenski, *The Religious Factor*
Charles Glock and Rodney Stark, *Religion and Society in Tension*
Lynn Davidman, *Tradition in a Rootless World*

6. Transcendence and the Social Construction of Reality

*Peter Berger, *The Sacred Canopy*
*Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality*

Thomas Luckmann, *The Invisible Religion*
Herbert Fingarette, *The Self in Transformation*, chs. 1, 2
Peter Berger (ed.), *The Desecularization of the World*, ch. 1
Nancy Ammerman, *Bible Believers*
James Davison Hunter, *American Evangelicalism*

7. Modernity and Civil Religion

*Robert Bellah, *Beyond Belief*, chs. 1, 2, 4, 9, 15

*Robert Bellah, *The Broken Covenant*

*Robert Bellah, et al., *Habits of the Heart*, ch. 9

Robert Bellah and Philip Hammond, *Varieties of Civil Religion*

Steven M. Tipton, *Getting Saved from the Sixties*

Robert Wuthnow, *Acts of Compassion*

8. Religion and Cultural Systems

*Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, chs. 1, 4, 5, 6

Sherry Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26 (1984), 126-66.

Clifford Geertz, *Local Knowledge*, Introduction and chs. 2, 8

Susan Harding, *The Book of Jerry Falwell*

James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*

9. Structures of Morality and the Sacred

*Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*

*Mary Douglas, *Natural Symbols*

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Michel Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge*

Robert Wuthnow, et al., *Cultural Analysis*

Robert Wuthnow, *Meaning and Moral Order*, chs. 1, 2

10. Religious Movements and Social Structure

*Robert Wuthnow, *Meaning and Moral Order*, chs. 5, 6, 7

Robert Wuthnow, *Communities of Discourse*

José Casanova, *Public Religions in the Modern World*

Benjamin Zablocki, *The Joyful Community*

Eileen Barker, *The Making of a Moonie*

11. Religion and Social Change

*Robert Wuthnow, *The Restructuring of American Religion*

James Davison Hunter, *Culture Wars*

Christian Smith, *American Evangelicalism*

Robert Wuthnow, *After Heaven: Spirituality in American Since the 1950s*

12. Religion as Social Practice

*David Hall (ed.), *Lived Religion*, chs. 1, 4, 8, 9

*Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, ch. 14

*Jeffery Stout, *Ethics After Babel*, ch. 12

Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*

Richard Jenkins, *Pierre Bourdieu*, ch. 4

Robert Wuthnow, *Producing the Sacred*

Marie Griffith, *God's Daughters*