

**Sociology of Religion**  
**Preliminary Examination Reading List**  
**Last Edited: June 2007**

*Note: Students will be responsible for all readings in Section I and for readings in four subcategories in Section II.*

*Overviews and Basic Concepts (optional)*

- Sherkat, Darren E. and Christopher G. Ellison. 1999. "Recent Developments and Current Controversies in the Sociology of Religion." *Annual Review of Sociology* 25: 363-394.
- Smith, Christian, and Robert D. Woodberry. 2001. "Sociology of Religion." Chapter 8 in *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology*, edited by Judith R. Blau. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell.
- Stark, Rodney and Charles Glock. 1968. "The Nature of Religious Commitment." Ch. 1 of *American Piety: The Nature of Religious Commitment*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Warner, R. Stephen. 1993. "Work in Progress toward a New Paradigm for the Sociological Study of Religion in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:1044-93.
- Wuthnow, Robert J. 1986. "Sociology of Religion." Ch. 15 in *The Handbook of Sociology*, edited by Neil Smelser. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

*Section I: Classic Social Scientific Approaches to Religion*

- Durkheim, Emile. 1912 [1995]. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Translated and with an Introduction by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press. Introduction; Book I, Ch. 1, 4; Book II, Ch. 1-3, 7; Book III, Ch. 1-3; Conclusion.
- Marx, Karl. 1844 [1978]. "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction." Pp. 53-65 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Weber, Max. 1904 [1958]. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Scribner's.
- Weber, Max. 1922 [1963]. *The Sociology of Religion*. Boston: Beacon Press. Introduction, Ch. 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16.

*Section II: Ongoing Theoretical and Research Traditions*

(Choose 4 on which to concentrate for the exam)

A. *The Social Organization of Religion*

- DiMaggio, Paul. 1998. "The Relevance of Organizational Theory to the Study of Religion." Pp. 7-23 in *Sacred Companies: Organizational Aspects of Religion and Religious Aspects of Organization*, edited by N. J. Demerath III, Peter Dobkin Hall, Terry Schmitt, and Rhys H. Williams. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Harrison, Paul M. 1959. *Authority and Power in the Free Church Tradition: A Social Case Study of the American Baptist Convention*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Iannaccone, Laurence R. 1988. "A Formal Model of Church and Sect." *American Journal of Sociology* S241-S268.
- Johnson, Benton. 1963. "On Church and Sect." *American Sociological Review* 28:539-549.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. 1929. *The Social Sources of Denominationalism*. New York: Henry Holt. Ch. 1.
- Stark, Rodney and William Sims Bainbridge. 1985. *The Future of Religion: Secularization, Revival, and Cult Formation*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 1, 2.
- Stark, Rodney and Roger Finke. 2000. *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 6 and 10.
- Troeltsch, Ernst. 1911[1981]. *The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 2, Section 9, pp. 328-343; Conclusion, pp. 991-1013.
- Weber, Max. Selections from "Charisma and Its Transformation." Chpt. 14 in *Economy and Society*, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978 edition. Sections I.1-3, 5, II.1, 2, 8, 9.
- Wilson, Bryan R. 1959. "An Analysis of Sect Development." *American Sociological Review* 24:3-15.

*B. Rational Choice and Economic Approaches to Religion*

- Bruce, Steve. 1999. *Choice and Religion: A Critique of Rational Choice Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1, 2, 5.
- Chaves, Mark and Philip Gorski. 2001. "Religious Pluralism and Religious Participation." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27:261-281.
- Chaves, Mark and James Montgomery. 1996. "Rationality and the Framing of Religious Choices." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 35:128-144.
- Finke, Roger and Stark, Rodney. 1988. "Religious Economies and Sacred Canopies: Religious Mobilization in American Cities, 1906." *American Sociological Review*. 53: 41-49.
- Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. 2005. *The Churching of America, 1776-1990: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*, Revised edition. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Green, Donald P. and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory: A Critique of Applications in Political Science*. Ch. 2 and 3.
- Iannaccone, Laurence. 1994. "Why Strict Churches are Strong." *American Journal of Sociology*. 99(5): 118-1211. And the exchange between Iannaccone and Marwell, *American Journal of Sociology* 101:1097-1108.
- Phillips, Rick. 1998. "Religious Market Share and Mormon Church Activity." *Sociology of Religion* 59:177-130.
- Stark, Rodney and Roger Finke. 2000. *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 2, 4, 6, 8.
- "Symposium on the Rational Choice Approach to Religion." 1995. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 34:76-120.
- Voas, David, Daniel V. A. Olson, and Alasdair Crockett. 2002. "Religious Pluralism and Participation: Why Previous Research is Wrong." *American Sociological Review* 67:212-230.
- Young, Lawrence (ed.). 1997. *Rational Choice Theory and Religion: Summary and Assessment*. New York: Routledge. Ch. 2, 6, 7, 9, & 10.
- Warner, R. Stephen. 1993. "Work in Progress toward a New Paradigm for the Sociological Study of Religion in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:1044-93.

Lechner, Frank. "The 'New Paradigm' in the Sociology of Religion: Comment on Warner." *American Journal of Sociology* 103:192-198.

Warner, R. Stephen. 1997. "A Paradigm Is Not a Theory: Reply to Lechner." *American Journal of Sociology* 103:182-198.

### *C. Religion and Social Change*

- Berger, Peter L. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. Garden City, New York: Anchor Books. Ch. 1, 2, & 6.
- Billings, Dwight B. 1990. "Religion as Opposition: A Gramscian Analysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 96(1):1-31.
- Casanova, Jose. 1994. *Public Religions in the Modern World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1, 2, 8.
- Chaves, Mark. 1994. "Secularization as Declining Religious Authority." *Social Forces* 72:749-774.
- Collins, Randall. 1997. "An Asian Route to Capitalism: Religious Economy and the Origins of Self-Transforming Growth in Japan." *American Sociological Review* 62:843-865.
- Douglas, Mary. 1982. "The Effects of Modernization on Religious Change." *Daedalus* 111(Winter):1-20.
- Gorski, Philip. 2000. "Historicizing the Secularization Debate: Church, State, and Society in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe, ca. 1300-1700." *American Sociological Review* 65:138-167.
- Martin, David. 1978. *A General Theory of Secularization*. Oxford, England: Blackwell. Ch. I, II.
- Norris, Pippa and Ronald Inglehart. 2004. *Sacred and Secular*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5.
- Stark, Rodney and Roger Finke. 2000. *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 3.
- Smith, Christian. 2003. *The Secular Revolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction and selected chapters of interest.
- Smith, Christian with Michael Emerson, Sally Gallagher, Paul Kennedy, and David Sikkink. 1998. *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Wilson, Bryan. 1992. "Reflections on a Many Sided Controversy." Ch. 9 in *Religion and Modernization: Sociologists and Historians Debate the Secularization Thesis*, edited by Steve Bruce. Oxford University Press.
- Young, Michael P. and Stephen M. Cherry. 2005. "The Secularization of Confessional

Protests: The Role of Religious Processes of Rationalization and Differentiation.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44:373-395.

*D. Religious Movements and Religious-Based Social and Political Activism and Movements*

- Beyerlein, Kraig and Mark Chaves. 2003. "The Political Activities of Religious Congregations in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 42: 229-246.
- Festinger, Leon. 1956. *When Prophecy Fails*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Ch. 1, 7, 8
- Fields, Karen. 1982. "Charismatic Religion as Popular Protest: The Ordinary and Extraordinary in Social Movements." *Theory and Society* 11(3):321-361.
- Harris, Fredrick. 1999. *Something Within: Religion and African-American Political Activism*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hoffman, Bruce. "Holy Terror": The Implications of Terrorism Motivated by a Religious Imperative. *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 18: 271-284.
- Lofland, John and Rodney Stark. 1965. "Becoming a World Saver: A Theory of Conversion to a Deviant Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 30:862-74.
- McRoberts, Omar. 2003. *Streets of Glory: Church Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 6.
- McVeigh, Rory and David Sikkink. 2001. "God, Politics, and Protest: Religious Beliefs and the Legitimation of Contentious Tactics." *Social Forces* 79: 1425-1458.
- Pattillo-McCoy, Mary. 1998. "Church Culture as a Strategy of Action." *American Sociological Review* 63:767-84.
- Riesebrodt, Martin. 1993. *Pious Passion: The Emergence of Modern Fundamentalism in the United States and Iran*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 1 & 4.
- Smith, Christian (ed.). 1996. *Disruptive Religion: The Force of Faith in Social-Movement Activism*. New York: Routledge. Introduction and selected chapters of interest.
- Smith, Christian. 1996. *Resisting Reagan*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Snow, David and Cynthia Phillips. 1980. "The Lofland-Stark Conversion Model: A Critical Reassessment." *Social Problems* 27 430-447.
- Snow, David A. and Richard Machalek. 1984. "The Sociology of Conversion." *Annual Review of*

*Sociology* 10:167-90.

Young, Michael P. 2002. "Confessional Protest: The Religious Birth of U.S. National Social Movements." *American Sociological Review* 67:660-688. And the exchange between Tilly and Young on pp. 689-695 of the same issue.

Verba, Sidney, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry E. Brady. 1995. *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.  
Ch. 11 & 13

Melissa, Wilde. 2004. "How Culture Mattered at Vatican II: Collegiality Trumps Authority in the Council's Social Movement Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 576-602.

Wood, Richard L. 1999. "Religious Culture and Political Action." *Sociological Theory* 17:307-332.

*E. American Religion: Institutions and Demography*

Chaves, Mark. 2004. *Congregations in America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Ch. 1, 2, & 8.

Fisher, Claude S. and Michael Hout. *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Ch. 8.

Hadaway, C. Kirk, Penny Long Marler, and Mark Chaves. 1993. "What the Polls Don't Show: A Closer Look at U.S. Church Attendance." *American Sociological Review* 56:741-752.

Hout, Michael, Andrew Greeley, and Melissa Wilde. 2001. "The Demographic Imperative in Religious Change in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 107:468-500.

Hout, Michael and Claude S. Fischer. 2002. "Why More Americans Have No Religious Preference: Politics and Generations." *American Sociological Review* 67:165-190. And the exchange between Hout and Fischer and Marwell and Demerath, *American Sociological Review* 68:314-318.

Lenski, Gerhard. 1961. *The Religious Factor: A Sociological Study of Religion's Impact on Politics, Economics, and Family Life*. New York: Doubleday. Ch. 1, pp. 1-28; Ch 8, pp. 319-330.

Levitt, Peggy. 2007. *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*. New York: New Press.

Lincoln, C. Eric, and Lawrence Mamiya. 1990. *The Black Church in the African American Experience*. Durham NC: Duke University Press. Ch. 1 & 13.

Presser, Stanley and Linda Stinson. 1998. "Data Collection Mode and Social Desirability Bias in Self-Reported Religious Attendance." *American Sociological Review* 63:137-145.

Putnam, Robert. 2000. "Religious Participation." Chapter 4 in *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Roof, Wade Clark and William McKinney. 1987. *American Mainline Religion: Its Changing Shape and Future*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. Ch. 3, 4, 5, 7.

Smith, Tom W. and Seokho Kim. 2005. "The Vanishing Protestant Majority." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44:211-223.

Wuthnow, Robert. 1988. *The Restructuring of American Religion: Society and Faith Since World*

*War II*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 5, 6, 7.

Yang, Fenggang and Helen Rose Ebaugh. 2001. "Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications." *American Sociological Review* 66:269-288.

## *F. Religion and Culture*

- Becker, Penny. 1999. *Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, 8.
- Bellah, Robert. 1966 [1970] "Civil Religion in America." Ch. 9 in *Beyond Belief*. New York: Harper and Row.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Religion as a Cultural System." Ch. 4 in *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
- Grant, Don. 2001. "Symbols, Stories, and Practices: New Empirical Directions in the Study of Religious Meaning." *Sociological Quarterly* 42:233-251.
- Hunter, James Davison. 1991. *Culture Wars*. New York. Selected Chapters.
- Kniss, Fred. 1997. *Disquiet in the Land: Cultural Conflict in American Mennonite Communities*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press. Ch. 1 & 9
- Miller, Alan S. and John P. Hoffman. 1999. "The Growing Divisiveness: Culture Wars or a War of Words." *Social Forces* 78:721-746.
- Nelson, Timothy J. 2004. *Every Time I Feel the Spirit: Religious Experience and Ritual in an African American Church*. New York: New York University Press.
- Rappaport, Roy. 1999. *Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-4.
- Emerson, Michael O., Christian Smith, and David Sikkink. 1999. "Equal in Christ, but in the World: White Conservative Protestants and Explanations of Black-White Inequality." *Social Problems* 46: 398-417.
- Wuthnow, Robert. 1989. *Communities of Discourse: Ideology and Social Structure in the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and European Socialism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Introduction and Ch. 16, 17, 18.
- Wuthnow, Robert. 1987. *Meaning and Moral Order: Explorations in Cultural Analysis*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 1, 2, 4, & 10.

### *G. Individual-Level Religious Effects*

There is an enormous literature in the sociology of religion devoted to the basic question of how—and in what ways—people’s religious affiliation, practices, commitments, identities, participation, etc. affect a variety of attitudes and behaviors, such as altruism, civic engagement, deviance, educational attainment, sexual activity, or voluntary organization membership.

Students wishing to examine this subset of the literature should assemble a list of 10-15 articles, books, book chapters, or a combination that (1) contains individual-level analyses in which religion is a *key* independent variable and (2) coheres around a particular theme of religious effects.

The student’s proposed reading list for this subset must be approved by readers of the religion preliminary examination no later than one month before the scheduled exam. To facilitate this, students choosing this subcategory should submit their reading lists, along with one-paragraph abstracts for each reading, to Kraig Beyerlein or Don Grant no later than six weeks before the scheduled exam. Students wishing to pursue this option are advised to talk with both Kraig and Don at an early stage of their preparation for the exam.