

# **SOC 435/SOC 5435 RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

## **- 3 hours credit**

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

### **II. SCOPE OF THE COURSE:**

Historical, anthropological, psychological and, of course, sociological analysis of religious belief and practice with special reference to American society. The works of Weber, Marx, Durkheim, Freud and others will provide theoretical frameworks for examination of the emergence, evolution and disintegration of religious movements, as well as for investigation of the interaction between religion and other social institutions. Of particular significance will be exploration of the future of religion in American society as religious tradition wrestles with secularization.

### **III. REQUIRED TEXT:**

*The Future of Religion* by Stark and Bainbridge

### **IV. ASSIGNED READING:**

Each student is expected to read chapters of the text as assigned. Additional readings will be assigned from the library collection for graduate students.

### **V. SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

Each student will write three position papers on topics assigned by the professor. Class time (30 min.) will be allocated for these papers on unannounced dates. Topics will be relevant to class discussions and assigned readings.

Graduate students will critique ten scholarly articles. Papers are expected to reflect students' efforts in composition, organization, documentation, and analysis. Detailed instructions will be provided.

### **VI. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture will be the primary method used, with significant time allocated for class discussion.

### **VII. METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

A. Two tests, a mid-term and comprehensive final exam, will be administered on announced dates. Both tests will be essay. The mid-term will count 25 percent of the course grade with the final exam representing 35 percent.

B. Each position paper will represent 10 percent of the course grade for undergraduates and 5 percent for graduate students.

C. A class participation grade, reflecting the professor's assessment of a student's frequency and quality of participation, will be assigned. Class participation represents 10 percent of the course grade for undergraduate students and 5 percent for graduate students.

D. Graduate student article critiques will represent 20 percent of the course grade.

E. Grades will be weighted as described, with the following grading scales employed: (Grades will NOT be curved.)

Undergraduates	Graduates
A = 90-100	93-100
B = 80-89	85-92
C = 70-79	75-84
D = 60-69	65-74
F = 0-59	0-64

F. Under no circumstances will extra-credit assignments be given.

G. Students will not be allowed to make up tests or turn in assignments late unless:

1. a student is ill and provides evidence of same.

2. a student's family experiences serious illness or death -- evidence of such may be required.

3. a student's absence is related to a school function approved by the academic dean (does not apply in the case of late assignments).

4. a student secures prior excuse from the professor for reasons other than 1-3.

#### **VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

If a student accumulates (for any reason) more than 4 absences each additional absence must be removed by writing a three page, double-spaced, typed paper with at least three sources other than an assigned reading on a subject related to the missed class.

Failure to complete this assignment for each absence above the maximum allowed will result in two points subtracted from the student's semester grade average for each paper not turned in to the professor. Papers are due no later than one week after the student's return to class or when the final exam is administered, whichever is applicable. The student assumes the responsibility to secure an assignment from the professor if absences exceed the maximum allowed.

#### **IX. POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

As noted in the university catalogue, academic dishonesty violates the philosophy of Christian education embraced by Mississippi College. Cheating on tests, assignments and/or papers will result in a grade of "F" for that assignment and referral of the student to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

#### **POST SCRIPT**

The professor reserves the right to deviate from the information contained in this document.