

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



**VICTORIA**  
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

*Te Kura Mahinga Tangata*

**Sociology and Social Policy**

**SOSC 205**

**Sociology of Religion**

**Course Outline**

**CRN 1623 : 22 POINTS : Trimester 2, 2006**

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**LECTURES: TUES, WED, FRI 9 - 9.50 AM - MY LT101**

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## **LECTURE TIME**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9-9.50am

## **LOCATION**

Murphy Building, MY LT 101

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Head of School: Assoc. Prof Jenny Neale, MY1013  
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Liaison person for students with disabilities: Dr Rhonda Shaw, MY1022  
Tel: 463 6134 E-m: [rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz)

School Manager: Kaye McKinlay; MY918 Tel: 463 6546  
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MY921 Tel: 463 5317 or 463 5258  
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Any notices for Sociology courses are posted on the Sociology Notice Boards on levels 9 and 10 of Murphy Building.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is concerned with the sociological interpretation of religious beliefs and organisation, with particular reference to Christianity. It concentrates on two major aspects:

1. The most important theoretical approaches, with particular emphasis on sociology's 'Holy Trinity' - Marx, Weber and Durkheim - and on the contribution of classical sociology to our understanding of contemporary religion.
2. The sociology of Western Christianity, with special reference to processes of social change, contemporary millennial movements, secularisation, and the rise of 'new' religions in modern society, including New Zealand. Attention will be paid to the controversy surrounding cultic and sectarian groups, to the 'satanism scare', and to the position and experiences of women within religious organisations.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Lectures are not compulsory but regular attendance is advised if students wish to meet the overall objectives for the course.

## **WORKLOAD**

The workload for this course will depend on your background in sociology and religious studies. If you have completed SOSC 101 or SOSC 111 you will already be familiar with sociological perspectives whereas if you have studied some religious studies courses you will have a knowledge of religions. However the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty recommendation for second year courses is a workload of 15 hours a week.

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at [www.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.vuw.ac.nz).

## **Student and Staff Conduct**

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect.

The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at: [www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct). The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: [www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct)

## **Academic Grievances**

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; the class representatives may also be able to help you. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at: [www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances)

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)

## Students with Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building: telephone: 463-6070, email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:disability@vuw.ac.nz)

The School of Social and Cultural Studies' Disability Liaison Person is

Dr Rhonda Shaw, MY1022, telephone: 463 6134 E-m: [Rhonda.Shaw@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Rhonda.Shaw@vuw.ac.nz).

## Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, MY407, telephone: 463 5676. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: [student-services@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-services@vuw.ac.nz)) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at: [www.vuw.ac.nz/st\\_services/](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/)

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at [education@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:education@vuwsa.org.nz)) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building

## READING

- **An important note:** What follows is a very comprehensive bibliography which parallels the lectures but which also goes wider. **You are not intended to read it all!** The purpose of giving you this range of material is to allow you to browse in the Library and to explore possible topics for Essay 2.

The recommended reading for the course is: Alan Aldridge Religion in the Contemporary World: A Sociological Introduction (Polity Press, 2000) – 2005, cost \$60.95.

The following very useful reference - containing a number of the items listed on your reading list - has been placed in Study Hall. If you have a look at it early in the course, and perhaps photocopy the contents pages, you could save yourself a lot of time subsequently:

Steve Bruce (ed.) **The Sociology of Religion - Vols 1 & 2**

## **GENERAL SOURCES**

A number of the books listed for SOS211 - Interpreting Society - are very relevant to the early part of this course, which was originally designed to complement the 200-level theory course. Look at the books listed under SOS211 in Study Hall.

An encyclopaedia which contains a mine of substantive material on just about every aspect of religion is The Encyclopedia of Religion. This is an excellent source for getting started on projects because each item is followed by a bibliography. However obscure the idea you begin with appears to be - 'Clowns', 'Dogs', 'Horses', and 'Swans' are all there, for instance - have a look at this encyclopedia for further leads.

There is a recently published general encyclopaedia which is valuable for this and other courses in Sociology. This is The International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences: look for it in the Reference section of the Library.

And although the course does not assume any prior historical or theological knowledge, you may occasionally come across theological terms and names which are unfamiliar. A good reference work in such cases is:

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church

Another dictionary which has useful content for this kind of reference (and which incidentally, contains a section on religion in the Pacific) is:

The Penguin Dictionary of Religions

Most general works on sociological theory also contain important sections on the place of religion in the overall thought of classical and more recent theorists.

You might also look at:

Keith Crim (ed) Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions

A number of basic textbooks and general studies have appeared which give overviews, from different theoretical starting-points, of the field covered by the Sociology of Religion. Some of these are listed, with comments:

Bainbridge, W.S. The Sociology of Religious Movements (Looks at a range of religious movements, including adventist, communitarian, and New Age, and focuses on tensions with the sociocultural environment).

Hargrove, B. The Sociology of Religion: Classical and Contemporary Approaches (links classical approaches with contemporary changes in religion: good on 'primitive' survivals and the role of women in religion).

Hill, M. A Sociology of Religion (out of print now but looks at basic issues, the development of the subject and sections on some central Weberian themes).

McGuire, Meredith B. Religion: The Social Context (Fourth Edition) (takes a fresh look at a number of fundamental aspects of the sociology of religion: good on 'official' and 'unofficial' religion and on typologies of religious collectivities).

Roberts, K. A. Religion in Sociological Perspective (a comprehensive treatment, including material on conversion, charisma, and typologies).

A particular area of interest in the study of contemporary religion is that of New Religious Movements (NRMs). There are fairly extensive bibliographies on new religious movements and societal reactions to them. Look at:

Beit-Hallahmi, B. An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Active New Religions, Sects and Cults

### **Contemporary religion, 'sects', 'cults', and New Religious Movements (NRMs):**

The following is not an exhaustive list of references on contemporary religion and new religious movements (NRMs) but identifies a number of the more interesting contributions:

Barker, E. (ed.) New Religious Movements: A Perspective for Understanding Society. (contains articles on the concept of sect, eastern vs. western religion, encounter groups as a form of 'secular pietism', fundamentalists and the Third Reich, 'seekership' and cultic conflict).

Barker, E. (ed) Of Gods and Men. New Religious Movements in the West. (contains an article by Lofland on conversion, articles on the 'moral majority' and the new religious-political right in America, and a study of the fun-seeking movement in California).

Barker, E. The Making of a Moonie (the most definitive study to date of the process by which people are - or are not -recruited into the Unification Church. Meticulous as a piece of sociological research, it investigates a number of controversial aspects of



Moonie membership in a thorough and balanced way).

Barker, E. New Religious Movements. A Practical Introduction (provides exactly what its title says, with lots of valuable information).

Barker, E., Beckford, J.A. and Dobbelaere, K. (eds) Secularization, Rationalism, and Sectarianism (evangelicals in South America, religion and the media, and charisma are just some of the topics).

Beckford, J.T. Cult Controversies (begins by surveying the range of NRMs and then examines controversial aspects such as conversion, societal and parental reactions and the legal response both to cults and to 'de-programming' in a number of societies).

Carter, L.F. Charisma and Control in Rajneeshpuram: The Role of Shared Values in the Creation of a Community (a study of the charismatic guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the internal conflicts in the community he founded, and the mounting confrontation between the community and the surrounding society as it tried to establish a theocracy in Oregon).

Chryssides, G.D. Exploring New Religions (accessible and straightforward).

Dawson, L. Comprehending Cults: The Sociology of New Religious Movements (one of the best recent books on NRMs, examining what they are, why and how they emerge, who joins, is it 'brainwashing'?, and why do some become violent?).

Dawson, L. (ed) Cults in Context: Readings in the Study of New Religious Movements (variety of aspects of NRMs, such as who joins and why, is conversion coerced, the satanism scare, and violence in NRMs).

de Blecourt, W. Hutton, R. And La Fontaine, J. Witchcraft and Magic in Europe: The Twentieth Century (sections by Hutton, who is *the* authority in Britain on neo-paganism and Wicca - look also at his books on Celtic religion - and Jean La Fontaine, who wrote the 1994 report for the British government on allegations of satanic ritual abuse).

Ellis, B. Raising the Devil: Satanism, New Religions, and the Media (traces the origins of the satanism scare and its links with fundamentalist Christianity, then looks at several media panics, including the 'vampire' of Highgate Cemetery, London).

Hall, J.R. Apocalypse Observed (deals with violent religious groups - Jonestown, Waco, Aum Shinrikyo, Solar Temple, and Heaven's Gate).

Hanegraaff, W.J. New Age Religion and Western Culture: Esotericism in the Mirror of Secular Thought (a highly comprehensive recent study, looking at major trends in New Age religion, varieties of New Age experience, and an interpretation of New Age religion in terms of traditional esotericism).

Heelas, P. The New Age Movement (especially useful because it gives a clear depiction of what the New Age consists of, a history of its development, and various explanations of its appeal).

Kaplan, J. and Loow, H. (eds) The Cultic Milieu: Oppositional Subcultures in an Age of Globalization (contains Campbell's seminal paper on the concept of a 'cultic milieu', then has chapters on Goth subculture and a variety of ultraconservative, far right, and racist subcultural groups).

Kaslow, F. and Sussman, M.B. (eds) Cults and the Family. (articles from a variety of perspectives - sociological, psychological, family counselling - on the different responses of families to a member who joins a NRM. Asks the question 'who owns the child?').

Lamb, C. and Bryant, M.D. (eds) Religious Conversion: Contemporary Practices and Controversies (looks at conversion in the world religions, then at more specific forms such as charismatic and pentecostal conversion).

Lewis, J.R. (ed) The Gods Have Landed: New Religions From Other Worlds (a variety of chapters on such things as UFO abductions, Raelians – the 'cloning' group – and 'Bo and Peep', later immortalised as Heaven's Gate)

Lewis, J.R. Cults in America (interesting material on Heaven's Gate, "brainwashing" and a chapter which lists and briefly describes a large range of NRMs: good if you want to know just what "Santeria" is, for instance).

Lewis, J.R. (ed) From the Ashes: Making Sense of Waco (a very full collection including such topics as millennialism, law enforcement, mass suicide, and the impact of the media).

Lewis, J.R. and J. Gordon Melton (eds) Perspectives on the New Age (origins and directions of different aspects of the New Age - including an analysis of its appeal to feminist thought).

Lewis, J.R. Satanism Today: An Encyclopedia of Religion, Folklore, and Popular Culture (full of material, including sections on satanic ritual abuse, possession and exorcism, and neopagan witchcraft; but also containing sections on Dungeons and Dragons, Goth subculture, Heavy Metal Music, and movies with occult or satanic themes).

Lewis, J.R. (ed) The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of New Age Religions (a very comprehensive volume, with chapters on specific groups such as Findhorn and the Aquarian Foundation, a section on spiritual commodification and sociological issues, and sections on Theosophy and Spiritualism).

Lifton, R.J. Destroying the World to Save It: Aum Shinrikyo, Apocalyptic Violence, and the New Global Terrorism (an in-depth study of the Japanese nerve gas cult with some fascinating interviews of members).

McGuire, M.B. Pentecostal Catholics. Power, Charisma and Order in a Religious Movement. (based on extensive interviews and participant-observation this study examines such processes as conversion and commitment and the extent to which Catholic charismatics have a sectarian or cultic involvement in the movement).

McSweeney, B. Roman Catholicism. The Search for Relevance (a perceptive sociological analysis of the place of Catholicism in the contemporary world against the background of the church's confrontation with modernism and secularisation).

Medway, Gareth J. Lure of the Sinister: The Unnatural History of Satanism (for a thorough debunking of some of the wilder fictions about satanism and the 'Black Mass', this is essential reading).

Mullan, B. Life as Laughter. Following Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. (an empathetic account of counter-culturalist romps. Somewhat light in content but contains jokes by the Bhagwan).

Oakes, Len Inside Centrepoint. The Story of a New Zealand Community (the origins, history and social composition of North Shore encounter groupies).

Palmer, S.J. and Hardman C.E. (eds) Children in New Religions (looks at the impact children have on NRMs, how the movements socialise their children, and the issue of religious freedom. Groups include Wiccans, Hare Krishnas, and evangelical Christians)

Reader, I. A Poisonous Cocktail? Aum Shinrikyo's Path to

Violence (a study of the factors and elements that conditioned the Japanese poison gas movement in its path to violence).

Richardson, J.T. (ed) Conversion Careers: In and Out of the New Religions. (contains a discussion of conceptual approaches to the process of conversion, with studies of the topic in a number of different groups).

Robbins, T. and Anthony, D. (eds) In Gods We Trust. New Patterns of Religious Pluralism in America. (religion in the US as 'public piety' with a trend towards 'therapeutic' religion of the private sphere. Fundamentalism, Jonestown, re-socialisation of drug users and survey of ex-Moonies).

Robbins, T. And Palmer, S.J. (eds) Millennium, Messiahs and Mayhem: Contemporary Apocalyptic Movements (a collection of articles on factors which disrupt apocalyptic movements and sometimes lead to violent confrontation: Waco, Solar Temple, and Aum Shinrykyo are here).

Saliba, J.A. Perspectives on/ Understanding New Religious Movements [same book, different editions] (looks at several aspects of NRMs, including historical, psychological, legal, sociological, and counselling perspectives).

Shupe, A.D. Six Perspectives on New Religions: A Case Study Approach (in many ways an extended literature review showing how the different perspectives - criminological, philosophical, anthropological, social psychological, social structural and historical - throw light on the interpretation of NRMs).

Stark, R. & W.S. Bainbridge Religion, Deviance, and Social Control (a rather mixed volume which seems to have been produced in a hurry! But there are sections on religion and suicide - showing how Durkheim cooked the books! - and on religion and mental health).

Tabor, J. and Eugene Gallagher Why Waco? Cults and the Battle for Religious Freedom in America (a range of aspects of 'the wacko from Waco', together with a detailed account of how the government agents precipitated the final cataclysm).

Wallis, R. (ed) Millennialism and Charisma (a collection of papers on a diverse and fascinating range of new religious movements - including Bo and Peep's UFO cult which turned into Heaven's Gate).

Wallis, R. The Elementary Forms of the New Religious Life. (a review of some recent

studies of NRMs with a suggested reformulated typology in which 'world-affirming' and 'world-rejecting' directions figure prominently).

Wessinger, C. (ed) Millennialism, Persecution, and Violence (looks at the dynamics of millennial movements and the factors which are likely to lead a group into violent confrontation - with some practical advice for police).

Wilson, B.R. Religion in Sociological Perspective (a broad overview of current trends in western religion with a particular emphasis on sectarianism).

Wilson, B.R. Social Impact of New Religious Movements. (another contemporary collection with some conceptual articles and others on particular groups, such as the Moonies).

Wilson, B.R. (ed) Religion: Contemporary Issues. (a variety of essays on such topics as women in the clerical profession, televangelism, and New Zealand's 'cultic milieu').

Wilson, B.R. and Cresswell, J. (eds) New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response (some recent articles on the New Age, mass media and NRMs, women in NRMs, and some global examples).

Zablocki, B. And Robbins, T (eds) Misunderstanding Cults: Searching for Objectivity in a Controversial Field (focuses on the controversy surrounding the study of 'cults', on the issue of children in these groups, and a big up-to-date section on the 'brainwashing' controversy).

Zellner, W.W. and Petrowsky, M. (eds), Sects, Cults, and Spiritual Communities: A Sociological Analysis (chapters on a variety of NRMs including Heaven's Gate, Jesus People, Santeria, and Scientology).

## **JOURNALS**

Journals specific to the study of religion, a number of which contain excellent articles on contemporary NRMs, are:

Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions (BL3 A673)

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion (BL1 J85)  
Review of Religious Research (BL1 R454)

Social Compass (BT738 S678)

## Sociological Analysis/ (now Sociology of Religion) (HN51 S677)

In order to make life easier in searching the above periodicals, the course organiser keeps a 'Current Contents' file consisting of title pages from the above 5 journals from 1970 onwards. Especially when thinking about projects or if you are interested in material on a specific group, half an hour with the file could save you hours of fruitless searching. You are advised to consult it at an early stage in the course.

The 'Current Contents' file is kept in my room, and cannot be removed from the Department. Please ask if you want to use it.

### **WEB SITES**

Web sites on religion, especially its newer forms, are plentiful but you need to exercise great caution in using them. Many of them are in the business of making claims either for or against particular forms of religion and spirituality and while this might be a source of data for an essay on religious controversy it is definitely **not** a source of balanced and neutral information. Thus you would not expect an unbiased account of Satanism on a Christian fundamentalist web site; nor would you expect a detached account of Scientology on a Scientology web site. A discriminating use of such material will be one test of a good essay. If you are interested in the topic of internet religion, including an account of how one sociologist in the USA set up a web site as a way of encouraging his postgraduate students to collect material, see Jeffrey K. Hadden and Douglas E. Cowan (eds) (2000) Religion on the Internet: Research Prospects and Promises.

The following web sites **are** reliable and are easily accessible using Google. Just type in the following in inverted commas to reach the sites: further detail to confirm you have the right site is in brackets:

“religioustolerance” (Ontario)

URL: <http://www.religioustolerance.org/>

“religiousmovements” (Hadden – the university sociology site referred to above)

URL: <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/>

“virtualreligion” (Index)

URL: <http://virtualreligion.net/vri/>

“Satanic Media Watch” (and News Exchange)

URL: <http://users.cybercity.dk/~ccc44406/smwane/>

“CESNUR” (Massimo Introvigne – another excellent sociology site)

URL: <http://www.cesnur.org/>

“skepsis.nl” (‘Cults’ and NRMs – whole text articles)

URL: <http://www.skepsis.nl/onlinetexts.html>

## **DETAILED READING**

The sections below contain readings which are relevant to the lectures, as well as including some additional topics. Where there is an appropriate section in the Aldridge text it is included as AA.

### **1. Basic Perspectives in the Sociology of Religion**

AA chap 1

Berger, P.L. & Luckmann, T. ‘Sociology of Religion and Sociology of Knowledge’, Sociology and Social Research, Vol. 47, July 1963, No.4.

Curtis, T.E., Robbins, T. and Anthony, D. ‘The limits of symbolic realism: Problems of empathic field observation in a sectarian context’, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Vol. 12, June 1973, p.259.

McGuire, M.B. Religion: The Social Context (Fourth ed.), chap. 1

Wallis, R. ‘The Moral Career of a Research Project’ in C. Bell & H. Newby (eds) Doing Sociological Research.

### **2. The Problem of Definition**

AA chap 2

Berger, P.L. The Sacred Canopy (Appendix 1).

Berger, P.L. ‘Some second thoughts on substantive versus functional definitions of religion’, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Vol. 13, June 1974, p. 125.

Monahan, S.C., W.A. Mirola, and M.O. Emerson (eds) Sociology of Religion: A Reader, part 1

### **3. Early Theorists: Gibbon and Hume**

Gellner, E. 'A pendulum swing theory of Islam' in Robertson, R. (ed) Sociology of Religion

Gibbon, E. The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (chap.15 on 'The Rise of Christianity'; chap.37 on 'The Origin of the Monks').

Hume, D. The Natural History of Religion; also Hume on Religion (intro R. Wollheim)

### **4. Evolutionary theories of religion**

AA pp 56-60

Bellah, R.N. 'Religion Evolution', American Sociological Review, vol XXIX, June 1964

Birnbaum, N. & Lenzer, G. (eds) Sociology and Religion (sections on Comte, Spencer, Taylor, Frazer - also includes Bellah).

Hamilton, M.B. The Sociology of Religion, chap. 2

### **5. Marx's Theory of Religion**

Birnbaum, N. 'Beyond Marx in the Sociology of Religion?' in Glock, C.Y. and Hammond, P.E. (eds), Beyond the Classics

Hamilton, M.B. The Sociology of Religion, chap. 6

McLellan, D. Karl Marx

Marx, K. and Engels, F. On Religion

Thrower, J. Marxist - Leninist 'Scientific Atheism' and the Study of Religion and Atheism in the USSR, ch. 1



## **6. The Weberian Theory of Religion: (1) Religion and Western Capitalism**

AA pp 22-24

Campbell, C. The Romantic Ethic and the Spirit of Modern Consumerism; also 'Romanticism and the Consumer Ethic: Intimations of a Weber-style Thesis', Sociological Analysis, vol. 44 no. 4, 1983, pp 279-296.

Eisenberger, R. Blue Monday: The Loss of the Work Ethic in America

Eisenstadt, S.N. The Protestant Ethic and Modernisation

Furnham, A. The Protestant Work Ethic: The Psychology of Work-Related Beliefs and Behaviours

Levy, M.J. 'Confucianism and Modernization', Society, May/June 1992: 15-18.

Marshall, G. In Search of the Spirit of Capitalism.

Rose, M. Re-Working the Work Ethic

Wallis, R. and Bruce, S. 'The Threatened Elect: Presbyterians in Ulster and South Africa', in Sociological Theory, Religion and Collective Action

Weber, M. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (new translations by Kalberg, S. (2002) and Baehr, P. (2002).

Wiener, M.J. English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit 1850-1980.

## **7. The Weberian Theory of Religion: (2) Charisma**

Eisenstadt, S.N. Max Weber on Charisma and Institution Building

Gager, J. Kingdom and Community

Hill, M. A Sociology of Religion, chaps 7 and 8

Wallis, R. Millennialism and Charisma

Wilson, B.R. The Noble Savages: The Primitive Origins of Charisma and its Contemporary Survival

## **8. Durkheim's Theory of Religion**

AA pp 24-26

Abercrombie, N. et al. The Dominant Ideology Thesis, ch. 2

Durkheim, E. The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life

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Lewis, J.R. Satanism Today: An Encyclopedia of Religion, Folklore, and Popular Culture

## **11. Types of Religious Organisation**

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McGuire, M.B. Religion: The Social Context (Fourth ed.), chap. 5

Wallis, R. (ed) Sectarianism

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York, M. The Emerging Network, chap. 7

## **12. Communitarian Groups**

Campbell-Jones, S. In Habit

Hill, M. The Religious Order (chs 1-4)

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Kephart, W.M. Extraordinary Groups

Sargisson, L. and Sargent, L.T. Living in Utopia: New Zealand's Intentional Communities

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Cohn, N. The Pursuit of the Millennium.

Hall, J.R. (ed.) Apocalypse Observed: Religious Movements and Violence in North America, Europe, and Japan

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Beckford, J.A. Social Theory and Religion, chap. 2

Berger, P.L. A Rumour of Angels

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## **16. The Satanism Scare**

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## **17. `Civil Religion'**

AA chap. 7

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Heelas, P. The New Age Movement; and 'Cults for Capitalism: Self Religions, Magic, and the Empowerment of Business' in P. Gee & J. Fulton (eds) Religion and Power: Decline and Growth [copy available]

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Cheyne, C. Made in God's Image: A Project Researching Sexism in the Catholic Church of the Province of New Zealand

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Kirkman, A. 'Ties that bind: Recognising the spiritual' in A. Laurie (ed) Lesbian Studies in Aotearoa/New Zealand, 211-227

Kohn, R. 'Radical subjectivity in 'self religions' and the problem of authority' in A.Black (ed) Religion in Australia. Sociological Perspectives

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Palmer, S.J. Moon Sisters, Krishna Mothers, Rajneesh Lovers

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## LECTURE PLAN

July 11	Introduction, assessment and administration
July 12	An overview of the sociology of religion
July 14	Definitions of religion
July 18	Major approaches in the sociology of religion; the problem of 'objectivity'
July 19, 21	Evolutionary approaches
July 25, 26, 28, August 1, 2	Major theoretical approaches to the sociology of religion: classical themes and contemporary implications.
<b>August 4</b>	<b>Workshop: Sociological approaches to religion</b>
August 8, 9	Witchcraft - historical and contemporary
August 11	Religion and deviance
August 15, 16, 18	Types of religious organisation
August 16	<b>ESSAY 1 DUE</b>

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### **AUGUST 19 - SEPTEMBER 3      MID-TRIMESTER BREAK**

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September 5, 6, 8	New religious movements
September 12, 13, 15	The satanism scare
<b>September 19</b>	<b>CLASS TEST</b>
September 20, 22	Civil religion
September 26,27,29	Religion and gender – Allison Kirkman
October 3, 4, 6	Gender, sexuality and religion – Allison Kirkman
October 10, 11, 13	Millennial movements
<b>October 11</b>	<b>ESSAY 2 DUE</b>

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### **SECOND TRIMESTER ENDS OCTOBER 13**

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## **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is internal and involves three pieces of work:

**ESSAY 1 - DUE ON AUGUST 16 (at 4pm)**

**CLASS TEST - TO BE SAT ON SEPTEMBER 19**

**ESSAY 2 - DUE ON OCTOBER 11 (at 4pm)**

Completion of all three pieces of work is a mandatory course requirement.

### **ESSAY 1 – Assessment Component 30%**

Write an essay of not more than 2,000 words on ONE of the following topics:

1. “Man... looked for a superhuman being in the fantastic reality of heaven and found nothing there but the reflection of himself.” (Marx) Assess Marx’s critique of religion.
2. Examine some of the social and economic implications of the Calvinist work ethic as outlined by Weber.
3. Durkheim argued that religion was a principal means of cementing social solidarity but also argued that it would change as the type of social solidarity changed. Outline and comment on these arguments.

The essay is due on **August 16**.

### **CLASS TEST – Assessment Component 30%**

At the lecture on September 8 a list of test questions will be given out (and will be available from the School Office afterwards for those who missed the lecture). The test will then be sat in the lecture period on September 19. This is an open-book test so you may bring any material with you to the test - but your answers must be written during the 50-minute test period. Attendance at this test is compulsory and this assessment component - like the others - must be completed as a mandatory requirement of the course.

### **ESSAY 2 – Assessment Component 40%**

A project of not more than 3,500 words on a topic of your choice, to be decided after consultation with the course co-ordinator. The essay is due on **October 11**. The topic should be discussed with the co-ordinator and a title agreed before commencing on this project.

## **ASSIGNMENT BOX**

**Assignments must be placed in the assignment box rather than being given to the lecturers.**

They **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeon-holes, or under staff office doors.

This is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted, and to avoid problems which have arisen in the past, when work has “gone missing”.

At 4 p.m. the Administrators will empty the box, date-stamp work and record its receipt, before handing it to the appropriate markers.

**STUDENTS MUST KEEP A PHOTOCOPY OF EVERY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT.**

**Unless students have followed this procedure, the School will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.**

## **COVER SHEETS**

Please include the School's Assignment Cover Sheet (a sample of which can be found on page 30 of this outline) as a front sheet when submitting your assignments. This ensures that you have provided essential information. You may wish to have a front page of your own on your assignment, but the top sheet must be the School's Assignment Cover Sheet. Further copies can be found at the School's Administration office on level 9 of Murphy building, and also on the School's assignment box.

## **GRADES**

The Sociology and Social Policy Programme follows University policy in giving letter grades for all internally assessed work instead of giving numerical marks. The following table sets out the range of marks within which each letter grade is assigned. Your final grade and marks for the course will be an aggregate of the grades you achieve during the course.

PASS:	A+	85% or over
	A	80% - 84%
	A-	75% - 79%
	B+	70% - 74%
	B	65% - 69%
	B-	60% - 64%
	C+	55% - 59%
	C	50% - 54%

FAILURE:	D	40% - 49%
	E	Below 40%

All the course instructors are requested to make sure that each student is informed about the above system of assessment.

## **LATE PENALTIES**

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e.

Mark out of maximum of:	Then deduct the following marks for each day it is late:
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10	$\frac{1}{2}$
20	1
30	$1\frac{1}{2}$
40	2

Where the due date is a Friday, any written work not handed in by 4 p.m. will be liable to a two-day penalty. To be effective, this policy will be consistently applied in all courses.

Office use only

Date Received:

(Date Stamp)

# School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

**CRIMINOLOGY**

**SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY**

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**

## Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Course (eg ANTH101):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tutorial Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tutorial Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tutor (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

*I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.*

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_