

SOCIOLOGY 871: RELIGION AND SOCIETY  
MARGARITA MOONEY  
SPRING 2011  
THURSDAY 2-4:30 P.M.  
HAMILTON HALL 151  
REVISED FEBRUARY 16, 2011

Course Description: What is “religion”? How can we study religion sociologically? Does modernity secularize or not? What influence does religion exert in maintaining and/or challenging established social practices and institutions through politics, cultural transformations or other means? What are some important cross-national differences in how religion interacts with political, economic, and other social spheres of human social life? This seminar examines key exemplars of literature in this area as a means to master sociological approaches to religion as it interacts with other aspects of social life. We will review some of the most important paradigms in the study of religion in the U.S. and Western Europe, and we will read numerous comparative works on religion, politics and social movements from the fields of sociology, anthropology and political science.

#### TEXTS

The books listed below have been ordered through the University Bookstore and should be purchased. They are also on reserve in the library. The readings that are book chapters will be made available electronically. Journal articles are accessible on-line through the UNC library.

Berger, Peter L., Grace Davie, and Effie Fokas. 2008. *Religious America, Secular Europe? A Theme and Variation*. Aldershot, England: Ashgate.

Chaves, Mark. 2010. *Continuity and Change in American Religion*. Princeton University Press.

#### REQUIREMENTS

**Class Participation and Presentations** (50% of final grade): Seminar members are required to attend every class meeting, to complete the week’s readings prior to the meeting, and to participate actively in class discussions. Two seminar members will be asked to lead class discussions each week. Leading class discussion normally entails beginning class with a 10-15 minute presentation of major themes or questions addressed in the week’s readings. The students presenting each week should coordinate their presentations in order to give more breadth to class discussions. You will be graded on these class presentations.

**Writing Requirement** (50% of final grade): This writing requirement can be met in one of two ways.

**Option#1:** Each student must complete three 6 page essays grappling with an idea, concept, theory or question that is central to the course. These essays must compare two or more readings and at least one of the three essays must include research or reading done beyond course materials. These essays will be due on February 10, March 17, and April 21.

**Option #2:** Students may choose to write one 6 page essay as described above and a 15-20 page research paper on a topic related to the course material. This paper can be a literature review on a topic related to sociology of religion or it can be a paper that engages in original empirical research. You may also choose to submit a dissertation prospectus if the topic relates to our course material. This paper must show evidence of reading and/or research beyond our course syllabus. If you choose Option #2, your first essay is due on February 10, an abstract and bibliography of your paper is due on March 17, and your final paper is due on April 21.

#### JANUARY 13: DEFINING RELIGION AND CATEGORIZING RELIGIONS

Asad, Talal. 1993. *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1, "Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category."

Geertz, Clifford. 2000. *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books. Chapter 4 "Religion as a Social System." (pp. 87-125)

Masuzawa, Tomoko. 2005. *The Invention of World Religions, or, How European Universalism was Preserved in the Language of Pluralism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction.

Anna Sun. "Confusions over Confucianism: An Introduction."

#### JANUARY 20: SOME CURRENT DEBATES IN U.S. SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Stark, Rodney and Roger Finke. 2000. *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 6 "Religious Group Dynamics."

Christian Smith 2003. *Moral, Believing Animals: Human Personhood and Culture*. Oxford England: Oxford University Press. Chapter 2 "Human Cultures as Moral Orders," Chapter 4 "Living Narratives," Chapter 5 "On Religion."

Smith, Christian and Michael O. Emerson. 1998. *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 4, "Toward a 'Subcultural Identity' Theory of Religious Strength."

#### JANUARY 27: SECULARIZATION AND MODERNIZATION

\*Joseph

Berger, Peter L., Grace Davie, and Effie Fokas. 2008. *Religious America, Secular Europe? A Theme and Variation*. Aldershot, England: Ashgate.

## FEBURARY 3: RELIGIOUS AMERICA

\*Aseem

Wuthnow, Robert. 1988. *The Restructuring of American Religion: Society and Faith Since World War II*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapter 7.

Warner, R. Stephen. 2005. *A Church of our Own: Disestablishment and Diversity in American Religion*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press. Chapters 1-4. Chapter 1 "Starting Over: Reflections on American Religion;" Chapter 2 "Work in Progress toward a New Paradigm for the Sociological Study of Religion in the United States," Chapter 3 "A Paradigm is not a Theory," Chapter 4 "New Paradigm Histories of American Religion."

## FEBURARY 10: TRENDS IN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

\*Brandon

Mark Chaves. 2010. *Continuity and Change in American Religion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

David Campbell and Robert D. Putnam. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Chapter 11 "Religion in American Politics." Campbell and Putnam, Chapter 11 "Religion in American Politics" and Chapter 12 "Echo Chambers: Politics Within Congregations." Pp. 419-442.

\*Special Guest, Mark Chaves, Duke Department of Sociology, Department of Religion and Divinity School (confirmed)

\*\*first essay due

## FEBRUARY 17: IMMANENT FRAMES AND MULTIPLE MODERNITIES

\*Ali

Here I could cut the bellah piece and hefner piece if needed.

Taylor, Charles. 2007. *A Secular Age*. Cambridge, MA.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Introduction, pp. 1-22.

Jose Casanova. 2006. "Rethinking Secularism: A Global Comparative Perspective." *The Hedgehog Review* 8 (Spring and Summer), 7-22.

Robert Bellah and Mark Juergensmeyer. 2009. "Rethinking Secularism and Religion in the Global Age: A Conversation," *The Immanent Frame* (September 11).  
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2009/09/08/rethinking-secularism-and-religion-in-the-global-age/>

Robert W Hefner. 1998. "Multiple Modernities: Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism in a Globalizing Age." *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 27/1, pp. 83-105.

Eisenstadt, S.E. 2000. "Multiple Modernities." *Daedalus*. Winter 129 (1): 1-29.

#### FEBRUARY 24: RELIGION, POLITICS, STATE BUILDING

\*Emily

Philpott, Daniel. 2007. "Explaining the Political Ambivalence of Religion." *American Political Science Review* 101:505-525.

Kuru, Ahmet T. 2007. "Historical Conditions, Ideological Struggles, and State Policies Toward Religion." *World Politics* 59:568-594.

Anthony Gill. 2005. "The Political Origins of Religious Liberty: A Theoretical Outline", *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*: Vol. 1: No. 1, Article 1.

Grim, Brian J. and Roger Finke. 2010. *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the 21st century*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chp. 1 "Religious Persecution: Pervasive and Pernicious," and Chapter 5 "A Closer Look: China, India and Iran."

Jonathan Fox. 2008. "State Religious Exclusivity and Human Rights." *Political Studies*: Vol. 56, pp. 928-948.

#### MARCH 3: RELIGION AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS

\*Aseem

Rollin F. Tusalem. 2009. "The Role of Protestantism in Democratic Consolidation Among Transitional States." *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 42, no. 7.

Jason Kindopp. 2004. "Policy Dilemmas in China's Church-State Relations: An Introduction," in J. Kindopp and Carol L. Hamrin (eds.) *God and Caesar in China: Policy Implications of Church-State Tensions*, Brooking Institutions Press.

John Anderson. 2004. "Does God Matter, and if so whose God? Religion and Democratization," *Democratization*, vol. 11, no. 4.

Anthony Gill and Arang Keshavarzian. 1999. "State Building and Religious Resources: An Institutional Theory of Church-State Relations in Iran and Mexico" *Politics & Society* September. 27/3 pp. 431-465

#### MARCH 10: NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

#### MARCH 17\*: GENDER AND ISLAM

\*\*This session will now be joint with Jen'nan Read's grad class at Duke on the topic of Islam and gender.

\*Brandon

Jen'nan Read and John Bartowski, "To Veil or Not to Veil."

Wadud, Amina. 2006. *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam*. "Introduction", Pp. 1-13.

Mernissi, Fatima. 2006. "Muslim Women and Fundamentalism," Chapter 11 in *The New Voices of Islam* edited by Mehran Kamrava, pp. 205-211.

Ahmed, Leila. 2005. "The Veil Debate – Again," in *On Shifting Ground: Muslim Women in the Global Era*, edited by Fereshteh Nouraei-Simone, pp. 153-171.

Benard, Cheryl. 2002. *Veiled Courage: Inside the Afghan Women's Resistance*. Chapter 7: "RAWA and the Men's Question," pp.149-180. \*Note: "RAWA" stands for the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan

Khaled Abou El Fadl. *And God Knows the Soldiers*. "Do You Dare Question the Hijab?" 121-138

\*Second essay or paper abstract and bibliography due.

#### MARCH 24: CRITICAL REALISM

\*Joseph

\* Christian Smith will visit our class

Christian Smith. 2010. *What is a Person?: Rethinking Humanity, Social Life, and the Moral Good from the Person Up*. Chapters 1 and 2. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Andrew Sayer. 2000. *Realism and Social Science*. "Introducing Critical Realism." New York: Sage.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 28 (5-7:30 P.M.): RELIGION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

\*Ali

Christian Smith (ed.), *Disruptive Religion. The Force of Faith in Social Movement Activism*. New York: Routledge, 1996. Introduction, "Correcting a Curious Neglect, or Bringing Religion Back In" and Chapter 1, Aldon Morris, "The Black Church in the Civil Rights Movement: the SCLC as the Decentralized, Radical Arm of the Black Church."

Kurzman, Charles. 1998. "Organizational Opportunity and Social Movement Mobilization: A Comparative Analysis of Four Religious Movements." *Mobilization* 3:23-49

Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2008. *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, from Christian Militias to al Qaeda*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 1, 2, 6, & Conclusion.

#### APRIL 7: ISLAM

\*Aseem

Charles Kurzman and Ijlal Naqvi. 2010. "Who are the Islamists?" Pp. 133-158 in *Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism*. Edited by Carl Ernst and Richard Martin. University of South Carolina Press.

Moaddel, Mansoor. 2002. "The Study of Islamic Culture and Politics: An Overview and Assessment." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28:359-386.

Yahya Sadowsky. 2006. "Political Islam: Asking the Wrong Questions." *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Carie Rosefsky Wickham. 2002. *Mobilizing Islam: Religion, Activism, and Political Change in Egypt*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapters 6 and 7.

MONDAY, APRIL 11 (5-7:30 P.M): INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

**\*Emily**

Van der Veer, Peter. 2002. "Religion in South Asia". *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 31: 173-187.

Kaviraj, S. 1997. "Religion and identity in India". *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 20 (2): 325.

Talbot, Ian. 2007. *The Deadly Embrace: Religion, Politics, and Violence in India and Pakistan, 1947-2002*. Karachi: Oxford University Press. Selections TBD.

G.Shani 2004. "Hindu Nationalism: Ideologies and Modern Myths" *Nations and Nationalism* July. 10/3

APRIL 21\*: INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

**\*Brandon**

Seyyed Vali Reza Nasr. 2001. *Islamic Leviathan: Islam and the Making of State Power*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6 "Pakistan: 1977-1997."

Robert Rozehnal. 2007. *Islamic Sufism Unbound: Politics and Piety in Twenty-first Century Pakistan*. Chapter 1 "Sufism and the Politics of Islamic Identity." Palgrave McMillan

Oskar Verkaaik. 2004. *Migrants and Militants: Fun and Urban Violence in Pakistan*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Introduction, Chapter 1 "Ethnicizing Islam," Chapter 6 "Terrorism and the State."

\*final paper or 3<sup>rd</sup> essay due