

SOCI 377 (SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION)			
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI 201		
Instructor:	Mojtaba Rostami	Lecture Location:	ES 162
Phone:		Lecture Days/Time:	Tue-Thu 15:30 – 16:45
Email:	mojtaba.rostami1@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 943	Office Hours:	By appointment
Instructor Email Policy	<p>Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining to assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person (or virtually) during my office hours.</p>		

Course Description

Despite all the talk about us living in a “secular society”, religion continues to be a powerful and persistent force in our social life. As a social phenomenon, religion exists in a social and cultural context, meaning that it is shaped by and in turn influences its social environment. This course is an introduction to the theories and concepts utilized by sociologists to interpret religious behavior and the organization of religion both historically and in the contemporary world with a primary, although not exclusive, focus on Canadian society. The intent is, therefore, not to judge the truth claims made by or about religions, but to introduce students to the sociological study of religion and provide them with the theoretical tools necessary for thoughtfully analyzing the place of religion in the contemporary society. Among the topics this course will address are: provision of meaning and belonging by religion for the individual; religious belief and behavior over the span of the individuals life in relation to gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status; the types and dynamics of religious communities and institutions; the increasing significance of the “spiritual but not religious” and the religious “nones”; and finally the interplay of religion with popular culture, politics, human rights, education, etc.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to:

1. Introduce concepts that are fundamental to a sociological understanding of religion.
2. Familiarize students with the major theoretical approaches to explaining religion as a social phenomenon and a social institution, individual and collective religious behavior, the intergroup relations among religious communities as well as religious organizations.
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various research methodologies and tools that sociologists adopt to study religion in society.
4. Encourage students to connect the core concepts, theoretical frameworks and the research methods explored throughout the course and practice applying them to some recent issues related to religion in the Canadian society.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

McGuire, M. (2008). *Religion, the social context* (5th ed.). Waveland Press, Inc.

There will also be selected articles, book chapters and videos assigned for this course accessible through the University of Calgary Library or on D2L under the course content section.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Dates & Topics	Required Readings	Assessment
Week 1: Defining of Religion		
Tuesday, Jan 10	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Jan 12	TBA on D2L	
Week 2: Sociological Theories of Religion		
Tuesday, Jan 17	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Jan 19	TBA on D2L	
Week 3: Religion, Meaning & Belonging		
Tuesday, Jan 24	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Jan 26	TBA on D2L	
Week 4: Religion in the Individual's Life		
Tuesday, Jan 31	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Feb 2	TBA on D2L	
Week 5: Official & Nonofficial Religion		
Tuesday, Feb 7	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Feb 9	TBA on D2L	
Week 6: Dynamics of Religious Collectivities		
Tuesday, Feb 14	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #1 Opens</i>
Thursday, Feb 16	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #1 Due</i>
February 20-24: Term Break		
Week 7: Religion, Social Cohesion & Conflict		
Tuesday, Feb 28	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Mar 2	TBA on D2L	

Week 8: Religion & Social Change		
Tuesday, Mar 7	TBA on D2L	<i>Midterm Exam Opens</i>
Thursday, Mar 9	TBA on D2L	
Week 9: Religion & Secularization		
Tuesday, Mar 14	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Mar 16	TBA on D2L	<i>Midterm Exam Due</i>
Week 10: Religion & Popular Culture		
Tuesday, Mar 21	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Mar 27	TBA on D2L	
Week 11: Religious Diversity		
Tuesday, Mar 28	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Mar 30	TBA on D2L	
Week 12: Religion in Canada (1)		
Tuesday, Apr 4	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #2 Opens</i>
Thursday, Apr 6	TBA on D2L	<i>Quiz #2 Due</i>
Week 13: Religion in Canada (2)		
Tuesday, Apr 11	TBA on D2L	
Thursday, Apr 13	TBA on D2L	

Methods of Assessment & Grading Weights

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Quiz 1	15%	Thursday, Feb 16
Midterm Exam	30%	Thursday, Mar 16
Quiz 2	15%	Thursday, Apr 6
Analysis Paper	40%	Thursday, Apr 20
Total	100%	

Course Requirements

1. In addition to the assigned readings, the topics and ideas covered in the lectures and class discussions will also be drawn upon for assessment purposes. Therefore, regular and punctual attendance is essential for optimal performance in this course. Students are encouraged to attend all sessions and to contribute to making this our class by keeping abreast of the required readings, being attentive in class and sharing their insights on a regular basis.
2. Students' understanding of the course material will be evaluated through 2 quizzes each constituting 15% of the final grade. The quizzes will be available via D2L on the Tuesday of the week they're due at 18:00 and will close at 23:59 on Thursday, the due date.
3. For the midterm exam, students will answer three essay questions each addressing some aspect of religion in the Canadian society applying some of the theoretical concepts studied in class. The answer to each question should be no more than 250 words in length. The questions will be posted on D2L on Tuesday March 7th at 18:00 and are due by 23:59 via the D2L Dropbox on Thursday, the 16th of March 2023. 5-point penalty per one day delay out of a total of 30 points will be applied. Submissions will not be accepted if turned in more than 3 days late unless extenuating circumstances have been pre-approved by the instructor.

4. Students will write a final sociological analysis paper on a documentary video assigned by the instructor applying some of the relevant theories and concepts studied in class. The paper must be no more than 1250 words in length excluding the title page and references, due by 23:59 on Thursday, April 20, 2023, via the D2L Dropbox. 5-point penalty per one day delay, out of a total of 40 points will be applied. Papers will not be accepted if submitted more than 3 days late. This assignment can be completed in teams of two. Further guidelines will be given in class unless extenuating circumstances have been pre-approved by the instructor.

Missed Quiz or Exam

Students are expected to make every reasonable effort to complete all scheduled work and evaluations at the dates and times stated above. A make-up on an alternate date and time can be scheduled by the professor, only if the student provides a valid reason for missing the original. Otherwise, a grade of 0 will be recorded for the missed work. If an evaluation is missed due to illness or other reason, the student must inform the professor at the earliest opportunity.

Final Examination

There will be no final exam for this course.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website, go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of that email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.