



California River of Life University

Sociology of Religion (CC 501/CC 801 for Doctorate Students)

[Fall/2026]

Professor: Jin H. Kim Ph.D.

I. Course Description

Religion is the most important in human life despite all the talk about us living in a “secular” society, persistent component of human experience. This course will 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 modern world.

II. Course Objectives

By the end of the semester I hope you will be able to:

- List key questions that are important to sociologists of religion
- Describe core theoretical concepts in the field
- Provide an overview of current debates in the field
- Be prepared to enter those debates through your own research.

III. Course Requirements

1. Class Participation.

Your participation will be an important element in your grade.

Read the class notes and books which I will Email you and engage in Class Discussion.

If you do not engage the discussion, I will assume that you did not prepare the class.

2. Book Review with this format:

- Title of the Book with author and publishing company – follow the format
- Summary of the Book: 1-2 pages
- Critique: 1-2 pages

✓ MDiv student – 2 books

✓ Doctorate student – 3 books

3. Research Paper – Write a research paper

a). You may choose one of the topics in the last page of this syllabus.

b). Follow the Format

- Research Title
- Scope of the research
- Methodology
- Introduction
- Main Body

- Conclusion

➤ If you don't follow this format, I will assume that you copy from somewhere or somebody. It means you might commit plagiarism, and it is a serious crime.

c). Page Limit

- Attach the cover page
- Master of Divinity student – page limit 15-20
- Doctorate student – page limit 21 or more

d). Presentation Schedule

- I will set the presentation date at the first class. The order will be Doctoral student first and the MDiv students. Each doctorate student will have 15 minutes' presentation and 45 minutes defense. MDiv students will have 10 minutes' presentation and 20 minutes for defense.

d). Due Date –

All the students must submit their research paper by **Midnight of September 4.**

4. Grading:

- 1). Class discussion participation – 30%
- 2). Research Paper – 40%
- 3). Book Review – 30%

The Grade: A 90 and more, B 81-89, C 71-79, D 61-69

IV. Text Books:

Mark Chaves, American Religion: Contemporary Trends (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017).

Lynn Davidman, Tradition in a Rootless World: Woman Turn to Orthodox Judaism (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991).

Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (New York: Routledge, 2001).

Phil Zuckerman, Faith No More: Why People Reject Religion (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Research Topics;

Compare and contrast [A] and [B] over the religion –

- Origin – Birth and history
- Affects to the human life including moral & ethics, culture, politics, Social structure, economy, education, etc. with your critique

For example:

John Locke's political philosophy blended Christian theology with natural law theory, profoundly shaping the American Constitution through the principles of natural rights, the social contract, and limited government. His writings argued that humans are created equal by God, possessing inherent rights that governments must protect through the consent of the governed rather than divine right

- 1). Emile Durkheim and Max Webber
- 2). Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx
- 3). Emile Durkheim and Sigmund Freud
- 4). Max Webber and Karl Marx.
- 5). Max Webber and Sigmund Freud
- 6). Max Webber and Hegel
- 7). Karl Marx and Hegel
- 8). Karl Max and Sigmund Freud
- 9). To what extent has religion been influencing your local area including moral & ethics, culture, politics, social structure, economy, education, etc.?
Write with your critique?
- 10). To what extent has religion been influencing your country including moral & ethics, culture, politics, social structure, economy, education, etc.?
Write with your critique?