

HUMN 3075 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 101359

Coordinator David Tittensor ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/David Tittensor/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/David%20Tittensor/))

Description In this subject some of the main sociological approaches to the study of religion will be considered. The subject will be orientated particularly to the tension between religion and social theory in the evolution of sociological thought. It addresses the impact of religion and religious bodies on Australian society and politics. The unit will focus on the relation of theory and practice, on the research of contemporary religious practice, and on the contemporary relevance of major theorists in the sociology of religion. It will address issues such as Buddhism, Fundamentalism(s), gender in religion, globalisation, Islam, modernity/post modernity, neo-paganism, networks in spiritualities, New Age, popular culture, and new religious movements.

School Social Sciences

Discipline Sociology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 3 subject

Equivalent Subjects Unit LGYB 5040 - Sociology of Religion

Restrictions

Successful completion of 80 credit points of study.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Provide a critical introduction to some of the major theorists in the sociology of religion.
2. Explore the major rationales for religion as a belief system and their relevance to the contemporary and historical development of institutionalised, and networking forms of, religious practice - with particular reference to the secularisation debate.
3. Investigate the formation of major religious institutions and emergent religious groups, the part they have played in the formation and support of dominant ideologies and the existing social structure, and how these factors have influenced the peculiar nature of religion in Australia.

Subject Content

1. Religion ideology and the individual (the nature of belief systems and the role of sociology in the analysis of religion)
2. Is the influence of religion in society declining? Modernity and the secularisation debate.
3. Durkheim and the functions of religious belief. Religion, community and integration in contemporary society.
4. Weber - Religion and the rational overview
5. State and Religion- The Church of England and the Catholic Church.
6. Islam
7. Buddhism and Eastern Religions

8. New Religious Movements and Cults.

9. Alternative Spiritualities (New Age and Neo-Paganism)

10. Post-modern religions: Fundamentalism(s), Consumer Religions and Hyper-Real Religions.

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Essay	1,000 words	30	N	Individual
Quiz	10 weeks x Weekly quizzes (4 Q's per week)	20	N	Individual
Proposal	500 words	10	N	Individual
Report	1,500 words	40	N	Individual

Prescribed Texts

- Possamai, A. & Tittensor, D. (2022) Religion and Change in Australia London: Routledge.

Teaching Periods

Autumn Penrith (Kingswood)

Day

Subject Contact David Tittensor ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/David Tittensor/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/David%20Tittensor/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN3075_22-AUT_KW_D#subjects)

Liverpool

Day

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Sydney City Campus - Term 1 Sydney City

Day

Subject Contact Andrey Zheluk ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Andrey Zheluk/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Andrey%20Zheluk/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN3075_22-SC1_SC_D#subjects)