



**School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Sociology of Religion
Unit Code	181
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	22
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Jonas Kurlberg
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit provides an introduction to and academic engagement with the central themes of the Sociology of Religion. Students are introduced to the main schools of thought and theories concerning the place of religion in contemporary society. They also study the different social scientific methods available for the study of religion in its social context.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit provides an introduction to and academic engagement with the central themes of the Sociology of Religion. Students are introduced to the main schools of thought and theories concerning the place of religion in contemporary society. They also study the different social scientific methods available for the study of religion in its social context.

AIMS

To develop knowledge and understanding of the sociology of religion and an appreciation of some of the central issues raised by classic and contemporary social scientific analysis of religious discourse and practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Recognise and evaluate concepts central to the Sociology of Religion

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Analyse the main developments in contemporary forms of religion
- Compare different interpretations of the place of religion in contemporary society

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Demonstrate relevant skills required in the study of the Sociology of Religion
- Reflectively evaluate their own learning and personal planning processes

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to think critically

Employability Skills

This unit develops generic skills of managing information, critical thinking and evaluation, which will be important skills in a range of graduate contexts

SYLLABUS

Sessions will normally include:

1. Introduction to Sociology of Religion
2. Defining Religion
3. Theories of Religion I: Karl Marx & Emile Durkheim
4. Theories of Religion II: Max Weber & Stark and Bainbridge
5. Christian Faith and Sociology
6. Secularisation
7. From Religion to Spirituality?
8. Civil Religion
9. The Rise of Fundamentalism
10. Consumerism and the Church
11. Religion in a Digital Age

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

181: Interactive lectures

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 181: An essay plan and indicative bibliography• 8181:	400 words	n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 181: An essay	2000 words	100%

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as Free Choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

Aldridge, Alan, *Religion in the Contemporary World. A Sociological Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity, 2000)
Bauman, Z., *Collateral Damage: Social Inequalities in a Global Age* (Cambridge: Polity, 2011)
Bauman, Z. and Donskis, L., *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity* (Cambridge: Polity, 2013)
Berger, P., *Invitation to Sociology* (London: Penguin, 1963)
Bruce, S., *God is Dead: Secularization in the West* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002)
Davie, Grace, *The Sociology of Religion* (Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2007)
Davie, Grace, Paul Heelas and Linda Woodhead, *Predicting Religion: Christian, Secular and Alternative Futures* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003)
Fenn, R. K., *The Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001)
Giddens, A., *Sociology* (Cambridge: Polity, 1993)
Hamilton, Michael, *The Sociology of Religion* (London: Routledge, 1995)
Milbank, John, *Theology and Social Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1990)
Taylor, C., *A Secular Age* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007)
Zizek, S., *Living in the End Times* (London: Verso, 2010)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 hours

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	