

Sociology 431, section 1 and section 2: Sociology of Religion

Instructor: James J. Preston

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Prerequisites: No

General Education: Upper division Category C3 (Philosophy and Values)

Course Description:

This course examines religious institutions, beliefs and practices from a sociological perspective. Special attention will be given to the role of symbolism and the religious imagination in a variety of major world religions, including unique sects and denominations in American religious traditions. Some of the significant topics to be covered will include studies of religious ritual, sacrifice, miracle traditions, healing, pilgrimage, saints and religious protest movements. Religious institutions will be examined in terms of their contributions to processes of socialization, social change and community building. Attention will be given to problems of secularization and the effects of globalization on religious institutions. Students will have a chance to explore a variety of religious traditions through participation, guest presentations and readings.

Required Texts: Books will be available at North Light Books in Cotati.

Anticipated Course Assignments:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Grade Weight (approx.)</i>
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Project</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Team Presentation</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Participation</i>	<i>10%</i>