

Psychology of Religion
Psy 490.1
Fall 2009 Dr. McCabe

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This course examines how the field of psychology has studied and understood religion and religious and spiritual experience. We will be reading about current research and thinking in the field of religion and spirituality, visiting a sacred site of your choice, and doing a research project on some issue of special interest to you.

Text

Hood, R., Hill, P. & Spilka, B. (2009). *The psychology of religion: An empirical approach* (4th Ed.). New York: Guilford.

Reader

The Reader will be available the second week of classes at the College Center Copy Shop, 1435 E. Cotati, 2 blocks down from the campus, hours Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., phone 792-0995. You will need it for the fourth week of readings to be read by Sept. 21.

Students with Special Needs

If you are a student with special learning needs and you think you may require accommodations, your first step is to register with the campus office of Disabled Student Services, Salazar 1049, phone 664-2677. DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. You then present this recommendation to the instructor, who will discuss the accommodations with you.

Evaluation

There are three in-class midterms, a sacred site visit with short write-up and class presentation about it; and one research project with short presentation about it and a paper on it. Through the semester we'll be learning about different assessment measures and research methodologies, so we'll be doing in-class work with scales and methods.

Active engaged participation is essential for the class. This and on-time attendance can bring your final grade up or down. The breakdown for the final grade is as follows:

- Midterm 1: Oct. 12. 10%
- Midterm 2: Nov. 9. 10%
- Midterm 3: Dec. 14. 10%
- Project 1: Sacred site visit, completed by Oct 5, with 2 page writeup. 10%
- Presentation 1: On sacred site visit, with pictures/powerpoint, 5". 10%
- Research Project: Paper due Dec. 7. 30%
- Presentation 2: Presentation of research project, 5-10". 10%

Research Project. The research project is designed to get you thinking about issues in psychology and religion. You're asked to look through the readings and think about your knowledge of religious behavior, and come up with a topic that you'd like to research. You'll do research on this area, go out into the community and gather information if relevant, synthesize what you've learned, suggest ideas for research using your knowledge of research methodologies, and present your ideas to the class. All of this will be written up in a paper. We'll meet in small groups arranged by interest areas to develop ideas for the project.

Databases & Resources

The Psychology of Religion text can provide you with good references for your topic, so check the chapters references listed in the back of the book. You'll also need to know how to use the library resources and databases for the research project, as most current articles are available online through searching databases. Make sure to attend the library's help sessions on using databases if you don't know how to use them. Major journals in the field are listed below.

Journals

The International Journal for the Psychology
of Religion
Review of Religious Research
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Psychology of Religion and Spirituality
Mental Health, Religion, and Culture
Journal of Psychology and Theology
Journal of Personality and Social
Psychology

Journal of Religion and Health
Journal of Religious Gerontology
Spirituality and Health International
Journal of Psychology and Christianity
Journal of Psychology and Judaism

Journal of Psychology and Theology

Web Sites

Map of world religions <http://www.wamware.com/world-religions/map.htm>
Pluralism Project, Harvard, Guidelines for Research www.pluralism.org/research/guidelines.php
Research guide, Santa Clara University
<http://scu.edu/cas/religiousstudies/lrp/research/guide/main.cfm>
Association of Religion Data Archives <http://www.thearda.com/>
Center for the Study of Religion and culture <http://www.iupui.edu/~raac/home.html>
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion <http://www.ssrweb.org/links.cfm>
International Association for the Psychology of Religion <http://www.iapr.de/index.htm>
Michael Nielsen's Psychology of Religion pages <http://www.psywww.com/psyrelig/>
Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life <http://pewforum.org/world-affairs/countries/?CountryID=222>
Youtube video world religions http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd5hvXgI_bQ

Schedule of Readings

Aug. 22 Ramadan begins (Islam; Mohammed's revelation of the Koran; fasting sunrise to sunset)

Aug. 31 What is Religion? What is Psychology?

The psychology of religion, Ch. 1, 2

Sept. 7 Labor Day: No Class

Sept. 14 Religious and Spiritual Experience

The psychology of religion, Ch. 10

Sept. 19-20 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish; new year, time of introspection, abstinence, prayer)
Sept. 20 Ramadan ends (Islam)

Sept. 21 Religion and Attachment

The psychology of religion, Ch. 4, pp. 89-108

Reader, Kirkpatrick, *Attachment theory and religious experience*

Reader, Beit-Hallahmi, *Object relations theory and religious experience*

Sept. 28 Religion and Neuroscience. Furlough Day: No Class

The psychology of religion, Ch. 3

Sept. 28 Yom Kippur (Jewish; day of atonement with fasting and repentance)

Oct. 5 Religion and Neuroscience

Reader, Newberg, D'Aquili & Rause, from *Why God won't go away*

Reader, Fuller, *The chemistry of consciousness*

Oct. 12 Religion, Morality, Prejudice

The psychology of religion, Ch. 12

Midterm 1

Oct. 19 Religion and Health

The psychology of religion, Ch. 13

Term project proposal due

Oct. 26 Mystical Experience

The psychology of religion, Ch. 11

Nov. 2 Religion, Young Adulthood

The psychology of religion, Ch. 5

Nov. 9 Religion in Adulthood

The psychology of religion, Ch. 6

Midterm 2

Nov. 16 Religion and Violence

Reader, Jones, *Blood that cries out from the earth*, Ch. 2, 5, 6

Nov. 23 Religion and Pilgrimage. Furlough Day: No Class

Reader, from Wolfe's *One thousand roads to Mecca*

Nov. 25-28 Hajj (Islam; pilgrimage rites in Mecca) Nov. 27 Eid al Adha (Islam; Feast of sacrifice concluding hajj)

Nov. 30 Religion and Pilgrimage

Reader, Turner, *Pilgrimage as a liminoid phenomenon*

Dec. 7 Religion and Aging

The psychology of religion, Ch. 7

Dec. 12-19 Hanukkah (Jewish; festival of lights commemorating Maccobees retaking temple in Jerusalem)

Dec. 14 Final 2-3:50pm

Midterm 3

Readings

Kirkpatrick, *Attachment theory and religious experience*
Beit-Hallahmi, *Object relations theory and religious experience*

Newberg, D'Auqili & Rause, from *Why god won't go away*
Fuller, *The chemistry of consciousness*

Jones, from *Blood that cries out from the earth*

Wolfe, from *One thousand roads to Mecca*

Turner & Turner, *Pilgrimage as a liminoid phenomenon*

Reader References

- Beit-Hallahmi, B. (1995). Object relations theory and religious experience. In R. Hood (Ed.), *Handbook of religious experience* (pp. 254-268). Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press.
- Newberg, A., D'Auqili, E. & Rause, V. (2001). *Why god won't go away: Brain science and the biology of belief* (pp. 1-127). New York: Ballantine.
- Fuller, R. (2008). *Spirituality in the flesh: Bodily sources of religious experience* (pp. 75-98). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hill, P. & Hood, R. (Eds.) (1999). *Measures of religiosity*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press.
- Jones, J. W. (2008). *Blood that cries out from the earth: The psychology of religious terrorism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kirkpatrick, L. (1995). Attachment theory and religious experience. In R. Hood (Ed.), *Handbook of religious experience* (pp. 446-475). Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press.
- Turner, V. & Turner, E. (1978). Pilgrimage as a liminoid phenomenon. In V. Turner & E. Turner, *Image and pilgrimage in Christian culture* (pp. 1-39, Appendix). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Wolfe, M. (Ed.) (1997). *One thousand roads to Mecca: Ten centuries of travelers writing about the Muslim pilgrimage*. New York: Grove Press.