



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3348G - 001**  
**Sociology of Religion**  
**Winter 2023**  
**Tuesdays 1:30 to 4:30 UC 3225**

**Instructor:** Dr. Teresa Abada

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM you must set up an appointment with me first and we will meet on Zoom

**Department of Sociology, Office:** SSC 5429

**Email:** tabada@uwo.ca

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**Course Description: Course Description:**

In the last two decades, the dramatic resurgence of religions around the world has negated the assumption that secularization has led to the dissipation of religion in public and private life. Instead, religion has become a pervasive public force and vital influence in our personal lives. This course is a critical and sociological exploration in the sociology of religion. Students will have the opportunity to analyze the interrelationships of culture, society and religion, paying attention to the changing role of religion in society. It will examine the role of religion in various aspects of social life including the gender and family, immigration, the political sphere, the environment. It will also examine the increasing role that religion plays in violent conflicts today.

**Prerequisite(s):** 0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level and registration in third or fourth year of any program.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Anti-requisite(s):** None.

**Required Readings:** All readings can be downloaded from [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca). The course readings will also be provided on OWL. Note that I will also bring additional news articles that will be of relevance to the weekly topics

**Learning Outcomes**

- Synthesize and critically evaluate theoretical arguments and published research from a sociological perspective

- Critically assess social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience from a sociological perspective as they pertain to Sociology of Religion\*
- Demonstrate an ability to present and discuss ideas clearly and articulately through effective oral and written communication
- Demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly discussion and debate in formal and informal learning environments
- Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the complexity of knowledge, the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines.

### **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. You can contact me via email [tabada@uwo.ca](mailto:tabada@uwo.ca). I try and reply within 48 hours Monday to Friday from 9AM till 5PM.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

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| First Essay - Due on February 28, 2023 | 25% |
| Group Presentation - To be scheduled   | 25% |
| Class Participation - Ongoing          | 7%  |
| Essay - Due last day of class          | 43% |

**The First essay** should address the secularization topic and provide evidence using the Census of any country, (e.g USA, Australia, Canada, UK or any country of your choice.). This should be 5 pages double spaced or 1500 words using Times New Roman, plus a minimum of 5 references (Journal articles, book chapters, Reports on the Census). In discussing the results of the Census, you must provide some sociological explanations as to why these trends are observed, and discuss what may be the social and policy implications. The 1500 words do not include any tables or the reference section. Assignments should be submitted on OWL the Dropbox section.

**The Final Essay** is due on the last day of class. It can be on any topic of your choice as long as it relates to the themes covered weekly. Note that some of the topics may overlap in any of the weeks and that is OK too. You are welcomed to discuss your essay topic with me beforehand to ensure you are on the right track. The final essay is about 7 to 10 pages double spaced about 3150 to 4500 words not including references and any tables you will use. This must be submitted on OWL in the Dropbox section.

The papers can either be reviews that bring together the literature and information on a specific question, The paper needs to relate to this course, so you should be able to put the topic somewhere in the course

outline. Another way of saying this is that the paper needs to relate to the Sociology of Religion and include discussion (in terms of theoretical perspectives and the substantive issues that are relevant to this course).

The term paper should be seen as an investigation (through library research), where you put together the evidence, think through the implications. It is important that a term paper be unified around a central topic ("purpose" or "thesis"), and that the reader be able to follow the plan of the paper.

In reading the paper, one needs to have a good sense of what has been investigated/researched, and what was the conclusion of the investigation. Introductions and conclusions of papers are particularly important. The parts of the paper should be readily identifiable, normally through headings and transitions that make the reader aware of the logic of the plan of the paper. The paper should be well organized and checked for errors (including typos and spelling). Scholarly standards of referencing are expected. Referencing in the text should be used, rather than through footnotes. The referencing style of the American Psychological Association (APA) is to be used. If tables or figures are used in the paper, they should be properly labelled so that the reader knows when to look at given tables. The text of the paper needs to be typed, but tables/figures may be photocopied from other sources, or hand-written, as long as they are numbered in accordance with your usage in the paper and your source is properly indicated at the bottom of the table.

**Class participation:** This mark will be based on evidence of having read the readings, and participation through questions and discussion. For each seminar, all students are expected to have read the required readings listed on the course outline as well as the readings for the group presentation. Participation includes asking questions, answering questions, discussing links to other things, thinking about implications. It is important to come to class with some notes and reflections on the material. Our objectives should be to summarize, raise important points, synthesize, appreciate critically, and discuss the relevance of given readings.

**Presentation:** You are required to get into groups of three for the presentation. If you do not form a group of your own by the second class, I will assign you randomly. You will pull a number out of a hat and you get to choose which week and the article to be presented. The group responsible for a given presentation will be required to provide me a detailed summary of the article, which can be on point form. This will be a 1 to 1.5 pages You are required to have 3 to 4 questions that will be used as a focus for the discussions. Thus the presentation mark will be based on distributing a set of discussion questions, and leading the discussion for part of the presentation The presentation includes raising questions, sponsoring discussion, possibly bringing in additional material, synthesizing, and discussing the policy implications.

Class participation and your presentations will be evaluated not just on the mere summaries of your presentation. One must generate quality discussions and contributions from the assigned readings, not just the general findings, etc. It's important to synthesize the literature and move beyond it to show its

relevance to the broader sociology of religious literature. The use of examples is also important when making your arguments.

**Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**Winter 2023**

Monday January 9, 2023: Winter Term classes begin.

January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course.

February 18-26, 2023: Spring Reading Week. Family Day April 20.

March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty.

Friday April 7, 2023: Good Friday. No classes.

Monday April 10, 2023: Winter Term classes end.

April 13-30, 2023: Final examination period.

**Student Absences:**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

You are required to attend classes so you can participate in the class discussion. If you miss 30 percent of the class for medical reasons then you can make up for the missed class by writing a 5 page essay on a topic that is not related to any of topics you are required to write about.

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## **Important Policies**

***Academic Consideration for Missed Work:*** Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). The student medical certificate is available at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

***Religious Accommodation:*** When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

***Accessibility Options:*** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

***Scholastic Offences:*** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

***A Note on Plagiarism:*** Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

***Plagiarism Checking:*** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of

detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

***Mental Health:*** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western ([www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

2022-2023