



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3348G-001**  
**Sociology of Religion**  
**Winter 2024**

**Instructor:** Dr. Teresa Abada

**Department of Sociology**  
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**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.

### **Correspondence: How to Contact me: Message me on OWL**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. Replies to students' emails are made within 48 hours Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

You must provide your full name and the purpose of your email. If these are not included, I will not respond. Your messages to your professor is a formal correspondence and not to be written as a text/facebook/twitter message.

Please note: I do not respond to emails such as “*what did I miss in yesterday’s lecture?*”; If you missed any classes it is your responsibility to come and speak to me during my office hours and obtain the lecture notes from your classmates.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

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

Midterm (February 27 2024)	25%
Group Presentation To be scheduled	20%
Essay due last day of class April 8 2024 11:50 PM	20%
Final Exam TBD	35%

### **The Essay.**

**The Final Essay** is due on the last day of class April 8 2024 at 11:50 PM It can 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 2500 words double spaced using Times New Roman, plus a **minimum** of 7 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. 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 2500 words and do not include any tables or the reference section. This must be submitted on OWL in the Dropbox section April 8 2024 11:50 PM

The papers can also be critical 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.

**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 end of the first 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. Also, please provide me a de-anonymized version so it can be posted on OWL.

**Exams:** The midterm will take place on February 27 2024 in the classroom. It will cover material from the beginning of the class up to and including February 13 lectures and presentations. It will be multiple choice, short answer and one long answer question. The final exam will be the same format as the midterm but longer. It will be cumulative but with emphasis on the material covered since the midterm.

### **Student Absences:**

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

#### ***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:***

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.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

**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

### **Course Schedule and Readings: TBA**

### **Academic Policies:**

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)” document [https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic\\_Policies.pdf](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf) for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health