



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3348G-001
Sociology of Religion
Winter 2025
In Person

Instructor: Dr. Teresa Abada

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This is a DRAFT only, any change will be updated soon

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 . 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 Brightspace

Students are responsible for checking the course outline 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 26 2025)	25%
Group Presentation To be scheduled	20%
Essay due last day of class April 2 nd 2025	20%
Final Exam TBD	35%

The Essay.

The Final Essay is due on the last day of class April 2 2025 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 be 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 must be at least 2500 words and do not include any tables or the reference section. This must be submitted on OWL BrightSpace on April 2 2024, by 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.

Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade including weekends. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

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 and providing the summary of the article. 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 the course website. Note that the articles presented will be in the midterm and the final exam, so it is important to study from the summary of the articles to be presented.

Exams: The midterm will take place on October 30 2024 in the classroom. It will cover material from the beginning of the class up to and including 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.

This is a closed book exam and no electronic aids are permitted.

:Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the midterm exam has been designated as requiring supporting documentation. Students with an approved accommodation will be required to write a makeup exam scheduled by the Sociology department.

Student Absences:

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

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.”

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation

for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

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.

Artificial Intelligence:

1. All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI).
2. Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology "[Important Academic Policies](#)" document

https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Course Selection
- Absence from Course Commitments
- Missed Tests and Exams
- Religious Accommodations
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence statement

