



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
SOC-230	Sociology of Religion	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Social Sciences	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	Social Science	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr Marios Sarris	2 nd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Co-requisites
Face-to-Face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Further students' understanding of the impact of religion upon society, to discuss its importance and role in human history, and to understand its multiple forms and the social factors that shape and determine it.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Compare alternative sociological approaches to the truth claims of religion.
2. Critically evaluate conflicting definitions of religion.
3. Assess existing theories on the relationship between religion and reason.
4. Evaluate the role that magic plays in both pre-modern and modern societies and examine its relationship to religion.
5. Assess existing theories on the relationship between religion and emotion.
6. Demonstrate general knowledge of at least one major case of a world religion and a relevant knowledge of at least four minor cases of tribal religion.

7. Assess existing theories on the relationship between religion and ideology.
8. Analyse millennial movements.
9. Discuss the relationship between religion and solidarity.
10. Discuss the relationship between religion and rationality.

Course Content:

1. Positivists, phenomenologists, and methodological agnostics.
2. Substantive, functional and polythetic definitions of religion.
3. The intellectualist approach to religion.
4. Magic.
5. The emotionalist approach to religion.
6. Case study of a major world religion.
7. Religion and ideology: Karl Marx.
8. Millennial movements.
9. Religion and solidarity: Emile Durkheim.
10. Religion and rationality: Max Weber.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures.

Assessment Methods:

Mid-term exam, final exam, assessment of attendance and participation.

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The Sociology of Religion.	Hamilton, Malcolm	Routledge	2001	

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The Elementary Forms of Religious Life.	Durkheim, Emile	Oxford University Press	2008	
The Sociology of Religion.	Weber, Max	Beacon	1993	