



University of Nicosia, Cyprus

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

Objectives of the Course:

The aim of this course is 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. Comprehend 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 explore its relationship to religion.
5. Assess existing theories on the relationship between religion and emotion.
6. Critically evaluate 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. Critically evaluate millennial movements.
9. Evaluate the relationship between religion and solidarity.
10. Evaluate 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, ethnographic film.

Assessment Methods:

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

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
Hamilton, Malcolm	<i>The Sociology of Religion.</i>	Routledge	2001

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
Durkheim, Emile	<i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life.</i>	Free Press	1995
Weber, Max	<i>The Sociology of Religion.</i>	Beacon	1993