

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: RELIGION AND CULTURE
Status: Definitive
Code: **4514MEDCUL** (114919)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 12.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 40.00
Total Learning Hours: 120 **Private Study:** 80

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	18.000
Tutorial	3.000
Workshop	18.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	One essay of 1500 words (by week 12)	50.0	
Exam	AS2	Examination (week 15)	50.0	1.00

Aims

To introduce students to a range of sociological perspectives on the nature of religion and its role in society;
To address the issue of whether religion is a conservative force, a contributor to societal change, or both;
To discuss arguments for and against the view that secularisation has been a feature of modernity;

To introduce students to a range of issues related to religion, cultural identity and post-modernity.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Explain a variety of sociological accounts of the role of religion in society
- 2 Discuss arguments for and against the view that religion is a conservative force
- 3 Outline arguments and evidence for and against the secularisation thesis
- 4 Demonstrate an understanding of arguments related to religion, cultural identity and post-modernity

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1500 Word Essay	1	2
EXAM	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Students will be introduced to a variety of sociological perspectives and issues related to religion, society and culture. Functionalist accounts (including those of Durkheim and Malinowski) and Marxist views will be examined with reference to the argument that religion is a conservative force in society. Weber's Protestant Ethic thesis will be discussed and assessed with reference to the argument that religion can contribute to societal change. The neo-Marxist account of Maduro will be scrutinised with specific reference to liberation theology. Arguments and evidence concerning the secularisation thesis will be examined (e.g. has science and rationality led to demystification, disenchantment and a decline in religiosity?). The 'spiritual revolution' thesis will be considered with reference to new religious movements. A variety of issues will be addressed including: religion as a source of cultural identity; religion and post-modernity.

Learning Activities

Lectures, group discussion, small group work, video presentation. Tutorial activity will focus on coursework/examination guidance.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bruce, S.

Publishing Year	2002
Title	God is Dead
Subtitle	Secularization in the West
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Davie, G.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	The Sociology of Religion
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Durkheim, E.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Giddens, A.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Sociology
Subtitle	
Edition	5th Ed.
Publisher	Polity
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hamilton, M.B.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	The Sociology of Religion
Subtitle	
Edition	2nd ed.
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Heelas, P. & Woodhead, L.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	The Spiritual Revolution

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hunt, S.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Religion and Everyday Life
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Weber, M.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Notes

Students will be introduced to a variety of sociological perspectives and issues relating to religion, society and culture. Functionalist, Marxist and neo-Marxist perspectives will be explained and analysed. A variety of issues will be addressed and scrutinised including: religion, rationality and science; religion and the rise of capitalism; secularisation and modernity; the 'spiritual revolution' and new religious movements; religion, cultural identity and post-modernity.