

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## SOC 330: Sociology of Religion

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Emphasizes a sociological understanding of religion, magic, myth, patterns of religious organizations, secularization, new religion movements, and other related topics.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 06/01/1995 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Major theoretical approaches to the study of religion (e.g., Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Freud, etc.).
2. The uses and "functions" of magic, science, myth, and ritual.
3. Religion and the individual (e.g., theodicy, therapy, salvation, messianism, etc.).
4. Patterns of religious organization and their secular effects (e.g., church, sect, cult, mysticism).  
Social determinants of belief (e.g., class, status, power, etc.).
5. Religion and social change: the Protestant Ethic thesis and beyond.
6. Religion in secular society: patterns and directions of secularization, and the resistances to secularization.
7. Contemporary directions and dimensions of religious expression.
8. Religious responses to modernity: the rise of fundamentalism, invisible religion, idiosyncratic religiosity, religious seeking, etc.
9. The rationalization of religious presentation and expression.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will become familiar with some of the major sociological approaches to the understanding of religious phenomena.
2. Students will become acquainted with several influential theoretical understandings of the nature and operations of religion.
3. Students will become acquainted with the development of religious ideas and institutions within a broad historical context, at both theoretical and empirical levels.
4. Students will acquire an understanding of the complexity of the relationship between religion and the secular world.
5. Students will become acquainted with some contemporary forms and expressions of religion.

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted