

Course Title	Religion and Contemporary Society	Instructor	Dr Cherry Amor YAP
		E-mail	
Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	To be determined Or by appointment (please send an email to request an appointment)
Track		Mode of Instruction	Solo
Credits	2	Allocated Year	Fall 3rd - 4th Year
Active Learning	Category 1: 3, 5, 6 Category 2: 3, 6 Category 3: 1, 2, 3, 5 Category 4: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 Category 5: 1, 2	Compulsory or Elective	
Course Overview	This course is designed to introduce students to the study of religion in current times and its dynamic intersections with contemporary society in a globalizing world. The course instructor presents theoretical and empirical works, reviews major methodological approaches in the sociology of religion, and draws on engaging case studies from diverse global contexts including Japan, East Asia, Europe, the Philippines, Latin America, and Africa. The course is organized into three modules: foundational theories of religion (Module 1); religion's influence on public life including politics, conflict, gender, migration, and the family (Module 2); and contemporary trends including the rise of the religiously unaffiliated, new religious movements, and digital religion (Module 3).		
Course Objectives	<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce the major theories, issues, and debates in the current sociology of religion, including secularization, postsecularity, and new religious movements; ● Understand the role played by churches, faith-based organizations, and religious movements in shaping contemporary societies across diverse global contexts; ● Grasp the internal pluralism and dynamics of religious organizations, including their engagement with politics, gender, migration, and digital culture; ● Apply sociological theories of religion to interpret and evaluate social reality through critical analysis of empirical cases; ● Improve the ability to think critically about the place of religion in contemporary societies and to engage constructively with diverse perspectives. 		
Prerequisite	The course is open to any student who wishes to understand the role played by religions in contemporary societies. Those students who do not have the required background knowledge of sociology and are interested in attending the classes are invited to get in touch with the course instructor.		
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Syllabus Overview and Introductions This introductory meeting explains the course structure, the work expected from each student, and the grading system. The class concludes with a preliminary session on "what is sociology of religion?"	Readings for the next class.
	2	The Contemporary Religious Landscape	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
	3	Theories of Secularization and Postsecularity	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
	4	The Growth of New Age Spiritualities	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
	5	Religion and Social Solidarity	Complete the assigned

		readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
6	Review	Studying for the Midterm Exam.
7	MIDTERM EXAM – Module 1	
8	Religion and Politics	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
9	Religion, Conflict, and Peacemaking	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
10	Religion and Migrations	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
11	Religion and Gender	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
12	Religion and the Family	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
13	The 'Nones' and New Religious Vitality	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
14	Religion and Digital Culture	Complete the assigned readings and identify one question or idea you want to explore further in class.
15	Conclusion – Wrap Up	Studying for the Final Exam.
	FINAL EXAM – Modules 2 and 3	
Grading	<p>Class Participation 30% Assessed on the quality of intellectual contribution to discussions, group tasks, and in-class writing. Students are evaluated on engagement with ideas and use of course concepts — not on the fluency of English expression. Students who prefer not to speak publicly may arrange an alternative format with the instructor.</p> <p>Weekly Activities (In Class/Homework) 20% Short tasks either done in class or as additional assignments.</p> <p>Midterm Exam 25% Covers Module 1 where the first part is designed as multiple choice and true/false questions. The second part is a short essay writing for analytical and critical reasoning assessment.</p> <p>Final Exam 25% Covers Modules 2 and 3 where the first part is designed as multiple choice and true/false questions. The second part includes longer and multiple essay writing exercises for analytical and critical reasoning assessment.</p>	
Textbooks	Information on primary textbooks will be provided by the instructor on Moodle.	
References	<p>A detailed list of references will be provided on Moodle.</p> <p>Online References Alison OpenLearn Pew Research Center — Religion: Global data and reports. WIZAPE: Religion & Society Modules</p>	

NOTES	<p>The use of AI tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Claude is not entirely prohibited. Students, however, must remember that these are primarily “tools”, as with any kind of tools, they are to be used carefully and in a relevant manner. For instance, it can help you understand new terminologies or concepts, sort out your notes, or check if you interpreted an idea correctly. But, AI can also give out the wrong information. Reading and studying verified references can help solve this. If you must use AI, please discuss it with the course instructor.</p> <p>Students with special needs (including stress and anxiety problems) should talk with the course instructor to discuss arrangements to let them attend the course properly. Confidentiality will be granted to all students.</p>
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