Sociology 675: Topics in Family
Religion and Its Connections to Family & Gender

Spring 2007
Wednesday 5:30-8:30 p.m.
113 East Hall

Instructor  
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MW 1:10-2 p.m.
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Summary
This course covers selected topics related to religion and its connections to family and/or gender. Students will read and discuss sociological journal articles on these topics, read and give a précis of a book related to one of these topics, write a paper related to the course material, and give a presentation of this paper to the class.

Objectives for students include (1) increasing their knowledge about the substantive topics of the course and about the sociology of religion in general; (2) improving their skills of reading, analyzing and evaluating sociological research; and (3) stimulating their thinking about their own research.

Grading
The course grade will be derived from five components.

1. Class participation (25%)
   Students are expected to read the assigned readings each week and contribute to class discussion.

2. Leading discussion (25%)
   Discussion of each reading assignment (journal article or book chapter) will be led by a student. This student is responsible for developing a list of discussion questions, which will be submitted to the instructor.

3. Book précis (10%)
   Each student will prepare one précis of a book connected to a week’s topic. The written précis will consist of a one-page summary of the book. The student will also give a oral synopsis of the book and answer questions about it.

4. Paper (30%)
   Each student will write a paper related to the course. The paper need not be publishable, but should show potential for revision into a journal article, conference paper, dissertation chapter or some other scholarly product. Students should consult with the instructor about their paper.

5. Paper presentation (10%)
   Students will give a conference-style presentation of their paper to the class.
Academic Integrity

Speaking and acting truthfully are skills acquired through practice. These skills are indispensable for successfully living and working with other people. If you practice dishonesty, you will endanger all of your relationships. You will be a bad spouse, a bad parent, a bad employee and a bad citizen.

Participating in academic life is an important opportunity to practice truthfulness since dishonesty is incompatible with and abhorrent to the purposes of the university. Therefore, students in this course are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty.

Sociology Code of Ethics for Human Relations

The Department of Sociology is committed to providing a professional and educational environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. The department’s Code of Ethics for Human Relations and the Procedures for Filing Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment are posted on the bulletin boards on all five floors of East Hall.

Schedule of Readings

(1) Wednesday, Jan. 10: Course Overview

(2) Wednesday, Jan. 17: Setting the Stage


(3) Wednesday, Jan. 24: Secularization and Its Discontents

(4) Wednesday, Jan. 31: Religious Transmission and the Family

(5) Wednesday, Feb. 7: Religion and Child Rearing
(6) Wednesday, Feb. 14: Religion and Marriage, part 1

(7) Wednesday, Feb. 21: Religion and Marriage, part 2

(8) Wednesday, Feb. 28: Religion and Men: Masculinity and Patriarchy
(9) Wednesday, March 7: Religion and Women: Feminism and Femininity


(10) Wednesday, March 21: Women Clergy


(11) Wednesday, March 28: Gender and congregational life


Wednesday, April 6: No class (MSS)
(12) Wednesday, April 11: Gendered God(ess)


(13) Wednesday, April 18: Student Presentations

(14) Wednesday, April 25: Student Presentations