Religion and Ethnicity  
(Christiano et al., chapter 6)

Sociologists agree that race is a social construct (but there are disagreements over its relation to ethnicity)

Four connections between race/ethnicity and religion:

Ethnic fusion: ethnicity is the major foundation of religion (e.g., Amish)

Ethnic religion: close link between ethnicity and religion (e.g., Dutch Reformed, Greek Orthodox)

Religious ethnicity: ethnicity and religion are linked but more than one ethnicity may share religion (e.g., Lutheranism with Scandinavians & Germans; multiple ethnicities with Catholicism). Most common pattern in U.S.

Ethnic autonomy: religion plays minor role in defining ethnicity

Herberg’s Thesis and the Triple Melting Pot: As importance of ethnicity declines, religion (Protestant, Catholic, Jew) becomes more important boundary for marital choice.

Much of the chapter is a historical overview of different ethnic groups and their religious beliefs.