

## **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.**