

#Rutgers- The State University of New Jersey
Department of Religion
840-101-01 Introduction to Religion -Social Patterns
Fall 2010

Instructor: Amir N. Zamani, Ph.D.

Office: 116 Loree Hall, DC

Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00 (and Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00 -by appointment only)

Tel: 732-932-9641

e-mail: zamanian@rci.rutgers.edu

Required Textbooks:

- I de Waal Malefijt, A. *Religion and Culture: An Introduction to Anthropology of Religion*. Waveland Press 1989. Hereafter: dwm
- II Weber, Max *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Dover publications
- III {Articles on Reserve at Alexander Library}

Course Design and Procedures:

Students are urged to attend the classes regularly and to participate in class discussions on the assigned readings. Examinations are not cumulative and will be based on the material covered in lectures, textbooks, handouts, and reserve materials. [Reserve materials are identified by "R"]

The final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Class attendance and participation: 10 %

Two Hourly Examinations on **10/11** and **11/29** (30% each)

Final examination: (30%)

Reading List:

Sessions

Topics and Reading Assignments

9/2

Introduction, Anthropological approach to the study of Religion

Read: dwm, Chapter 1

9/8,9/9

Pre-historic Religion

Read: dwm, Chapter 5

9/12,16,20,23,27

Early Theories and the Development of the New Discipline of Religious Studies

Read: dwm, Chapters 2 & 3

R: Kroeber and Kroeber , Frazer,

Durkheim

9/30 & 10/4
10/7

Modern Theories of Religion
Read: dwm, Chapter 4

First Hourly Test 10/11

10/14,18,21

Religious Beliefs and Communication
Read: dwm, Chapters 6 & 8
R: Hallpike, Douglas
Handout I

10/25&28
11/1,4,8

Myth and Ritual
Read: dwm, Chapter 7
R: Lowie, Leach, Turner (“Between...”)

11/11,15,18

Religious Specialists
Read: dwm Chapter 9
R: Rasmussen, Turner ("Divination...")

Second Hourly Test: 11/29

12/2,6,9,13

Dynamics of Religion
Read: Weber, Chapters 1,2,3,4 {Part A (Calvinism) only}
and 5

Final Examination