

840: 341 **RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

Dr. James W. Jones

Fall, 2011

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00 & by appointment, Loree 118

The following books are required

J. Fowler, Stages of Faith

S. Freud, The Future of An Illusion

K. Jung, Psychology and Religion

J. Jones, Contemporary Psychoanalysis And Religion

All other readings are on electronic reserve through the Douglass Library.

Requirements: There will be 3 multiple choice exams as marked on the syllabus. They will be given during the first hour of the class meeting time and the last one during the regularly scheduled final exam time. No make up exams will be given unless either: (1) You can document that YOU (not a friend or relative) were confined to the hospital when the exam was given. Making an appointment at the health service will NOT suffice. Or (2) a close relative has died and the exam is being given the day of the funeral: a copy of the death notice or obituary is required for documentation. All make up exams must be taken within one week of the date of the exam.

Note: All cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off in class. Anyone whose device goes off during class will be asked to leave for the remainder of that period. During an exam, they will receive an "F" on that exam.

INTRODUCTION

This is a difficult course. Students should know that up-front. Even though it is graded by multiple-choice exams, it will require you to think about very difficult topics. But these are topics that every conscious human being should think about because our capacity to think about such things defines us as *Homo sapiens* (which means "thinking hominoids"). Simply taking notes and memorizing terms and concepts will not be sufficient to benefit from this course (nor, probably, to get a good grade). This course is taught by an instructor who has been thinking and writing about these things for a very long time. But who is also a practicing clinical psychologist who has worked with convicts, veterans, police officers, and patients from most every social and economic group and, more recently, been involved in studying terrorism and counter-terrorism. So the connection of psychology to religious beliefs and practices is of vital concern to the instructor. In addition this is a difficult course because, as a result of recent budgetary and other constraints at Rutgers, this course is taught in large lecture format. But there will be opportunities to ask questions, debate with the instructor, and have small group discussion. How much you take advantage of those opportunities is entirely your responsibility.

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the role religion plays in the lives of individuals and to the field of religion and psychology. The first half of the course will focus on models of moral and religious development. The second half will introduce students to psychoanalytic theories of religion and personality. This course will also provide some of the intellectual tools necessary to think critically and constructively about these issues.

Note: There will be no class on Oct. 25th—Instructor will be away.

Course Outline

Introduction

Part One: The Place of Religion in Human Development

Moral Development and its Critics

Lawrence Kohlberg, "The six stages of moral judgment" from The Philosophy of Moral Development [E-Reserve]

"Lawrence Kohlberg Biography." [E-Reserve]

Carol Gilligan, In A Different Voice, Chapt. 2 "Images of Relationship" [E-Reserve]

James Fowler, Stages of Faith, part II

Religious Development

James Fowler, Stages of Faith, parts IV-V

first exam

Religion in the Life Cycle

Erik Erikson, "The human life cycle" from A Way of Looking at Things [E-Reserve]

"Erik Erikson Biography" [E-reserve]

Part Two: Religion and Dynamics of Personality

Freud and Religion

S. Freud, The Future of An Illusion

Forsyth, Psychological Theories of Religion, Chapter 1 [E-Reserve]

Freud and Beyond, "Chapter One: Freud and Classical Psychoanalytic Tradition" [E-Reserve]

Jungian Psychology of Religion

C. Jung, Psychology and Religion

Forsyth, Psychological Theories of Religion, Chapter 2 [E-Reserve]

Psychology Of Religion, "Chapter 9: C. G. Jung" [E-Reserve]

second exam

Current Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Religion

J. Jones, Contemporary Psychoanalysis and Religion

Third Exam: Friday, 12/23/11 –1 hour, starting 12:00 Noon. **Third exam must be taken at this time.**