

Rutgers- The State University of New Jersey
Department of Religion
840-101 Introduction to Religion -Social Patterns
Fall 2011

Instructor: Amir N. Zamani, Ph.D.

Office: 132 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 **10/13** and **11/22** (30% each)

Final examination: (30%)

Reading List:

Sessions

Topics and Reading Assignments

9/1,8

*Introduction, Anthropological approach to the study
of Religion*

Read: dwm, Chapter 1

9/12,15

Pre-historic Religion
Read: dwm, Chapter 5

9/15,19,22,26,29
Religious Studies

Early Theories and the Development of the New Discipline of
Read: dwm, Chapters 2 & 3

R: Kroeber and Kroeber , Frazer,

Durkheim

10/3,6,10

Modern Theories of Religion

Read: dwm, Chapter 4

First Hourly Test 10/13

10/17,20,24

Religious Beliefs and Communication

Read: dwm, Chapters 6 & 8

R: Hallpike, Douglas

Handout I

10/27&31

Myth and Ritual

11/3,7,10

Read: dwm, Chapter 7

R: Lowie, Leach, Turner (“Between...”)

11/14,17

Religious Specialists

Read: dwm Chapter 9

R: Rasmussen, Turner ("Divination...")

Second Hourly Test: 11/22 (Tuesday)

11/28; 12/1,5,8,12

Dynamics of Religion

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

Final Examination