A. TITLE: Exploring Diversity & Faith

B. COURSE NUMBER: SSCI 250

C. CREDIT HOURS: (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity)

# Credit Hours: 3
# Lecture Hours: 3 per week
# Lab Hours: 0 per week
Other: per week

Course Length: 15 Weeks

D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: Yes ☐ No ❌

E. GER CATEGORY: None: ☐ Yes: GER
If course satisfies more than one: GER

F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Fall & Spring ☑

G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides the opportunity to explore diverse perspectives through the lens of religion and spirituality. Using a sociological theoretical framework to center our exploration, we will consider the ways in which religion shapes social identities, focusing on race and ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. We will examine the role that religious beliefs have in shaping relationships with power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity, both nationally and globally. Students will critically examine how faith traditions of both the ancient and modern world shape our shared reality.

H. PRE-REQUISITES: None ☐ Yes ☑ If yes, list below:

CO-REQUISITES: None ☐ Yes ☑ If yes, list below:

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: (see key below)

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>Program Student Learning Outcome [PSLO]</th>
<th>GER [If Applicable]</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; SUBSETS</th>
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<tr>
<th>ISLO #</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; Subsets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oral [O], Written [W]</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Foundational Skills</td>
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**Key**

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<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>ISLO 1 – 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISLO</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Subsets</td>
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| Describe the roles and essential characteristics of religion in society from a sociological perspective. | ISLO |
| | ISLO |
| | ISLO |

| Assess the ways religion contributes to the development of individual and group identities connected to race and ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. | GER 3:1 |
| | 4-Soc Respons |
| | ISLO |
| | ISLO |

| Demonstrate an awareness of religious conflicts for freedom and autonomy in the modern world. | GER 3:3 |
| | 4-Soc Respons |
| | ISLO |
| | ISLO |

| Examine the role of religion as a social institution both permeated by and preserving of systems of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity. | GER 3:2 |
| | 4-Soc Respons |
| | ISLO |
| | ISLO |

| Analyze religion as a conduit for moral principles and a locus of social change and social justice. | GER 3:3 |
| | 4-Soc Respons |
| | ISLO |
| | ISLO |
Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]

4 Social Responsibility
   Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL],
   Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]

5 Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

*Include program objectives if applicable. Please consult with Program Coordinator

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes ☒ No ☐

If YES, select one or more of the following categories:

☐ Classroom/Lab           ☐ Civic Engagement
☐ Internship             ☐ Creative Works/Senior Project
☐ Clinical Placement     ☐ Research
☐ Practicum              ☐ Entrepreneurship
☐ Service Learning       (program, class, project)
☐ Community Service

K. TEXTS:

OER materials posted throughout the course.

L. REFERENCES:


M. EQUIPMENT: None Needed:

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Quizzes, Discussion Boards, Assignments, Journal Entries, Projects

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Foundations in Sociology of Religion
   A. Core Concepts
   B. Theoretical Perspectives
      1. Role of religion in society
      2. Classification systems
      3. Criticisms
      4. Disciplinary differences
   C. Methodological Approaches
   D. Structures

II. Essentials of World Religions
   A. Major Religions
   B. Minor Religions
   C. Ethnic Religions
   D. New Religions Movements

III. Religion & Social Identity
   A. Religious Identification
   B. Age
   C. Race & Ethnicity
   D. Class Stratification
E. Gender
F. Sexuality

IV. Religious Supremacy
A. Power & Authority
B. Rights, Autonomy, & Religious Freedom

V. Religion & Other Institutions
A. Government/Law
B. Family
C. Marriage
D. Science
E. Medicine/Health
F. Education

VI. Religion & Social Justice
A. Moral Philosophies
   1. Equality
   2. Freedom/Liberation
   3. Criminality
B. Social Movements

Q. Laboratory Outline: None ☒ Yes ☐
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<tr>
<th>GER 3 Learning Objective</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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| Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender; | **Assignment: Fact Sheet w/ Peer Review**  
Create a one-page fact sheet focused on: any ethnic religion  
Factsheets are overviews of a topic that highlight key information using concise, simple language. Your fact sheet should have a minimum of 15 facts or bullet points with content on your topic. Include one photo/image/graphic. A minimum of one outside source should be used for your information; be sure to include the link to the source or the citation. Please submit your factsheet to the assignment dropbox and also post it to the peer review discussion board.  
Points to be included in your fact sheet:  
Location  
Number of followers (estimated)  
Demographics of followers (if available)  
Core beliefs  
Practices, holidays, and/or sacred texts  
Overview of origin/creation story  
Explain how religious identification intersects or overlaps with racial/ethnic identification  
Distinguish between historical and modern components of religious practice  
For free factsheet templates, check out this resource: [https://templatelab.com/fact-sheet-templates/#google_vignette](https://templatelab.com/fact-sheet-templates/#google_vignette) |
| Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender; | **Assignment: Journal Reflection**  
This week, we examined the relationship between religion and social class. I asked an AI system to answer the following questions (responses posted separately). After reading through the questions and AI responses, include your own opinion on these topics. What did you find compelling? What did you disagree with or find troubling?  
1. How do religions vary in their work ethic?  
2. How does the Protestant ethic affect Americans’ view of work?  
3. How does religion influence beliefs regarding wealth and poverty?  
Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. If resources outside of this course are used, cite them appropriately. |
| Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender; | **Assignment: Journal Reflection**  
Examine the gender structure of any religion (major/minor/ethnic).  
1. How are the gods/deities/spirits represented concerning masculine and feminine traits?  
2. Describe any gender/biological sex-specific religious practices, roles, or requirements.  
3. From your perspective, how does the religion/church/institution reinforce or dismantle gender roles?  
Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. Cite at least one (1) source. |
| **Analyze the role that complex networks of social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity; and** |
| **Assignment #9: Freedom Fact Sheet** |
| Create a one-page fact sheet focused on: A Country of Particular Concern identified by the United States Commission on Religious Freedom [https://www.uscirf.gov/countries](https://www.uscirf.gov/countries)  
Factsheets are overviews of a topic that highlight key information using concise, simple language. Your fact sheet should have a minimum of 15 facts or bullet points with content on your topic. Include one photo/image/graphic. A minimum of one outside source should be used for your information; be sure to include the link to the source or the citation. Please submit your factsheet to the assignment dropbox and also post it to the peer review discussion board.  
Summary:  
15 data points  
1 graphic  
1 reference  
Identify the country  
Describe those individuals/groups in power  
Describe how religious freedoms are being threatened or oppressed  
Assess any policy recommendations or actions being taken |
| **Discussion Board #7: Proselytization & Power** |
| **QUESTION**  
After reading Professor Farr's (2010) article, "Proselytizing and Religious Identity Theft," reflect on how power and authority are connected to proselytizing religions. Include at least ONE direct quote from the article in your reflection. Please respond in a minimum of 150 words.  
Submit 2 peer responses (50 words each) by midnight on Friday.  
Link: [https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/posts/proselytism-and-religious-identity-theft](https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/posts/proselytism-and-religious-identity-theft) (Note: If sources outside of this Module are used, please cite them appropriately.)* |
| **DB #8: Social Institutions** |
| Pick a legal case from the options below and describe whose rights are at stake. Is equity achievable in these situations? Was social justice action taken before, during, or after the final legal decision? Please respond in a minimum of 150 words. If additional sources are used, please cite them appropriately. Also, if there is a legal case/topic connected to religion that interests you and is not listed below, you are welcome to assess it. |
Apply the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomous participation to past, current, or future social justice action.

### Family & Marriage
Child Marriage:
https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/religious-challenges-and-child-marriage

LGBTQ Marriage - Miller v. Davis:
https://www.npr.org/2022/03/19/1087723875/kim-davis-court-same-sex-marriage

LGBTQ Adoption - Fulton v. City of Philadelphia:
(Link in Module)

### Science, Medicine & Health
Faith Healing - The Kara Neumann Case:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kara_Neumann_case#

Religious Exemptions for Photo Identification:
https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R40515.html

### Education
Pledging Allegiance - West Virgina v. Barnette:
https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/west-virginia-v-barnette-the-freedom-to-not-pledge-allegiance

Funding Religious Education - Carson v. Makin
(Link in Module)

### Assignment #10: Social Movements Fact Sheet
Create a one-page fact sheet focused on: any religious social movement

Factsheets are overviews of a topic that highlight key information using concise, simple language. Your fact sheet should have a minimum of 15 facts or bullet points with content on your topic. Include one photo/image/graphic. A minimum of one outside source should be used for your information; be sure to include the link to the source or the citation. Please submit your factsheet to the assignment dropbox and also post it to the peer review discussion board.

Summary:
15 data points
1 graphic
1 reference