

## RELIGIOUS ETHICS 5

### RELIGION, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE

This examination requires students to demonstrate knowledge in classical and contemporary theories of society and culture as they help to frame understandings of religion and religious practices. Focal topics include theories of the sacred, definitions of religion, explanation and interpretation, the social and cultural sources of morality, ethnocentrism, and the like.

#### **Part I:**

Students must have a command of the following texts or excerpts therefrom:

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

“Science as a Vocation,”

“Politics as a Vocation”

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Sigmund Freud, *Totem and Taboo*

W. E. B. Du Bois *The Souls of Black Folk*

Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*

*Moral Education*

Peter Berger, *The Sacred Canopy*

Peter Winch, *The Idea of a Social Science*

Paul Tillich *Theology of Culture*

P. Rabinow and W. Sullivan, *Interpretive Social Science: A Reader*

Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*

Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*

Charles Taylor,

*Philosophical Papers I,*

Introduction, “What is Human Agency?”, “Self Interpreting Animals,” “Concept of a Person,” “Language and Human Nature,” and “Theories of Meaning”;

*Philosophical Papers II*

Introduction and Chapters 1-5

Mary Midgley, *Beast and Man*

Paul Ricoeur, *Hermeneutics and the Human Sciences*

Alan Wolfe, *Whose Keeper? Morality and the Social Sciences*

Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization*

Cornel West, *Race Matters*

Alasdair MacIntyre, *Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry*

Larry May, *Sharing Responsibility*

Tracy Lynn Isaacs, *Moral Responsibility in Collective Contexts*

Wei-Ming Tu, *Way, Learning, and Politics: Essays on the Confucian Intellectual*

Sandra Lee Bartky, *Femininity and Domination*

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

Martha Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice*

Hans Joas, *The Sacredness of the Person: A New Genealogy of Human Rights*

Leora Batnitzky, *How Judaism Became a Religion*

José Miquez Bonino, *Towards a Christian Political Ethics*

A. Appadurai, *Modernity At Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*

Saba Mahmood, *The Politics of Piety*

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Julia Watts Belser, *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of  
Knowing Ourselves Whole*

Molly Farneth, *The Politics of Ritual*

**Part II:**

In consultation with the examiners for this exam, students should choose texts by three additional thinkers whose work relates to religion, culture, and society.