**Religion in the Americas: Secularization, Pluralism, and Migration**

This examination explores major themes in the social scientific study of religion in the United States and other parts of the Americas. That development is characterized by three movements. First, the thriving religious presence in the United States has challenged traditional secularization master-narratives and given way to alternative theoretical accounts regarding the nature of religious production. Second, religion has come to be understood as an axis of identity formation operating in conjunction with race, class, gender, political, occupational and other identities in pluralistic and stratified contexts. Finally, research increasingly considers how the geographic mobility of human populations to and throughout the Americas both impacts and is impacted by religious institutional and cultural forms. The exam is designed to present a theoretically and methodologically diverse set of approaches to these themes, such that the student will discover substantive threads to pursue at greater depth and focus.

**SECULARIZATION**

Bellah, Robert, Richard Madsen, William M. Sullivan, Ann Swidler, and Steven M. Tipton Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life. University of California Press, 1985.

Berger, Peter. *Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. Anchor Books, 1967.

Blau, Judith R., Kenneth C. Land, and Kent Redding (1992)*. The Expansion of Religious Affiliation: An Explanation of the Growth of Church Participation in the United States, 1850-1930.* Social Science Research 21:4: 329-352.

Casanova, Jose. *Public religion in the modern world.* University of Chicago Press, 1994.

Demerath, N. J., and Rhys H. Williams. *A Bridging of Faiths: Religion and Politics in a New England City.* Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1992.

Dobbelaere, Karel. *Secularization: An Analysis at Three Levels.* New York: P.I.E.-Peter Lang, 2002.

Iannaccone, Lawrence (1998). “Introduction to the Economics of Religion.” *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 36, pp. 1465-96.

Iannaccone, Lawrence (1994). “Why strict churches are strong.”  *American Journal of Sociology*. Volume 99, Number 5: 1180-1211.

Luckmann, Thomas. *The Invisible Religion. The Problem of Religion in Modern Society*. New York: Macmillan, 1967.

Martin, David. *A General Theory of Secularization*. Blackwell, 1978.

Parsons, Talcott. (1963) “Christianity and Modern Industrial Society,” in: E.A. Tiryakian ed., *Sociological Theory, Values and Sociocultural Change.* New York: Free Press, 33-70.

*Smith, Christian* (2003) “Rethinking the Secularization of American Public Life.” In Christian Smith (ed.) *The Secular Revolution. Power, Interests, and Confict in the Secularization of American Public Life.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

Stark, Roger and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy.* Rutgers University Press, 1992.

Stark, Rodney. (1999) "Secularization RIP". *Sociology of Religion* 60:3, pp 249-273.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Warner, R. Stephen, "Work in Progress toward a New Paradigm for the Study of Religion in the United States." American Journal of Sociology, 98(5):1044-1093.

**PLURALISM**

Alba, Richard. (2006) "On the Sociological Significance of the American Jewish Experience: Boundary Blurring, Assimilation, and Pluralism. *Sociology of Religion,* 67:4.

Blau, Judith R., Kent Redding, and Kenneth C. Land (1993).”Ethnocultural Cleavages and the Growth of Church Membership in the United States.” *Sociological Forum* 8:4: 609-637.

Braude, Anne. 1997. "Women’s History Is American Religious History." In Retelling U.S. Religious History, edited by Thomas A. Tweed. University of California Press, 1997.

Breault, Kevin D. (1989). “New Evidence on Religious Pluralism, Urbanism, and Religious Participation.” *American Sociological Review* 54:6: 1048-1053. Comment by Roger Finke & Rodney Stark 1054-1056. Reply by Breault 1056-1059.

Davidson, James D. (2008) “Religious stratification: its origins, persistence, and consequences.”*Sociology of Religion*- Vol. 69 Nbr. 4.

Davidman, Lynn. Tradition in a Rootless World: Women Turn to Orthodox Judaism. University of California Press, 1991.

Emerson, Michael and Christian Smith. *Divided by Faith: Evangelicalism and the Problem of Race in America*. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Herberg, Will. *Protestant, Catholic, Jew: An Essay in American Religious Sociology.* Garden City, NY: [Doubleday](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubleday_%28publisher%29), 1955.

Karim, Jamillah.  *American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender within the Ummah.* New York University Press, 2008.

Kosmin, Barry A. and Seymour P. Lachman. One Nation Under God: Religion in Contemporary American Society. Broadway Books, 1994.

Lincoln, C. Eric and Lawrence H. Mamiya. The Black Church in the African American Experience. Duke University Press, 1990.

Monsma, Stephen and Christopher Soper. The Challenge of Pluralism, Rowman & Littlefield, 1997.

Prothero, Stephen, (ed**.**)*A Nation of Religions: Pluralism in the American Public Square*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

Smith, Christian (1978). “Religion and Ethnicity in America,” *The American Historical Review,* Vol. 83, No. 5.

Weber, Max. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. New York: Scribner, 1958.

Williams, Rhys H. (2007) “The Languages of the Public Sphere: Religious Pluralism, Institutional Logics, and Civil Society**.”**  *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 612: 42-61.

Wuthnow, Robert.[*America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity.*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0691134111/theassoofreli-20) Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2005. 

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**MIGRATION**

##### Alba, Richard, Albert Raboteau and Josh Dewind, Eds*.* [*Immigration and Religion in America: Comparative and Historical Perspectives*](http://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/immigration-and-religion-in-america-comparative-and-historical-perspectives)*.* New York University Press, 2008.

Bloemraad, Irene, *Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada*, Berkeley: UC Press, 2006.

Cadge, Wendy and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Immigration and Religion.” *Annual Review of Sociology*, Volume 33, pages 359-379, 2007.

Chen, Carolyn. *Getting Saved in America: Taiwanese Immigration and Religious Experience*.

Princeton University Press, 2008.

Massey, Douglas (1999). “International Migration at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century: the Role of the State,” *Population and Development Review*, 25(2): 303-322.

Gamm, Gerald. *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Levitt, Peggy. *God needs no passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape.* New York: New Press, 2009.

**McGreevy, John T.** Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Twentieth-Century Urban North.Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Myers, Scott (2000.) “The Impact of Religious Involvement on Migration”. *Social Forces*. Vol. 79, No. 2, pp. 755-783.

##### Portes, Alejandro and Rubén. G. Rumbaut. *Immigrant America: A Portrait, University of California Press*, 2006.

Portes, Alejandro , Patricia Fernández-Kelly and William Haller. 2009. “The Adaptation of the Immigrant Second Generation in America: A Theoretical Overview and Recent Evidence.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 35(7): 1077-1104.

Sernett, Milton C. *Bound for the Promised Land: African American Religion and the Great Migration.* Durham, N.C. Duke University Press, 1997.

Vásquez, Manuel and Marie F. Marquardt, Globalizing the Sacred: Religion across the Americas. Rutgers, 2003.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Warner, R. Stephen. “Religion and Migration in the United States.” (1998) *Social Compass* 45:1: 123-134.