





Sociology (SOCI) 231

Sociology of Religion (Revision 1)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online  with eText 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites:

None

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

SOCI 231 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

Sociology 231: Sociology of Religion is designed to introduce students to the study of religion from a sociological perspective.

Outline

Sociology 231 consists of the six units listed below:



- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Opportunistic Corruption
- Unit 3: Superstition, Violence, Intolerance and Evil
- Unit 4: Emergent Religions and Unorganized Belief Systems
- Unit 5: Opportunism Revisited
- Unit 6: Conclusion

Objectives

The course author has the following three overarching objectives:

1. to provide instruction in the process of critical sociological thinking.
2. to present a historical and sociological overview of religion in the world.
3. to encourage awareness and questioning of religious belief systems, including those aspects of the scientific world view that broach religious questions and topics.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for *Sociology 231*, you must achieve a minimum grade of **D (50 percent)**  on the final examinations, and an overall grade of D (50 percent) for the entire course. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	10%


Activity	Weight
Assignment 2	10%
Research Essay Outline	5%
Assignment 3	10%
Assignment 4	10%
Assignment 5	10%
Forum Participation	10%
Research Essay	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%


The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).



Materials

Lundskow, G. (2008). *The sociology of religion: A substantive and transdisciplinary approach*. London: Pine Forge Press.  (eText)

Butler, J. (2006). *Born again: The Christian Right globalized*. London: Pluto Press.  (Print)

Carrette, J. & King, R. (2005). *Selling spirituality: The silent takeover of religion*. London: Routledge.  (PDF)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** , please refer to our **eText Initiative site** .

Other Materials

The course materials also include an online study guide and course manual.



Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.


Full information about **challenge for credit**  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.




Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for the SOCI 321 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  on the examination.

 **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

- > [Questions about our Program](#) 
- > [Academic advising](#) 

- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 1, July 10, 2013

Updated June 5, 2024
