

Rel 111: Religion in Modern America
Reading Schedule (Section 1)

Week 1

Wed Sept 6	<u>Introductions!</u>
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Week 2

Mon Sept 11	<u>Defining Religion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> RICA, chap 1, “Defining and measuring religion”
Wed Sept 13	<u>Blogging Religion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Meeting today in the CCC, Third Floor, Room 307<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Write blog post #1:</u> By the end of class today, you will have created your first blog post, which will indicate that you have mastered some basic blogging skills.<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Title:</u> Blogging Practice <u>Minimum length:</u> none. <u>Due date:</u> Sept 13

Week 3

Mon Sept 18	<u>Explaining Religion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> RICA, chap 2, “Contemporary views and theories of religion”<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Complete:</u> D2L quiz, Defining and Explaining Religion
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Wed Sept 20	<p><u>Religious Freedom and the Supreme Court</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: Employment Division v. Smith [Coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> Read: Burwell v. Hobby Lobby [Coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> Write blog post #2: <u>Prior to class today</u>, visit one of the websites introduced recently in class: ARDA, Adherents.com, or the Pew study. (Links to all three can be found on our D2L page.) Peruse the site until you find some statistic about religion in contemporary America that you find interesting, surprising, confusing, curious, enlightening. Then, write a two-hundred word blog post reflecting one or more aspects of these religion statistics. Why did you find it interesting (surprising, confusing, etc.)? What questions did these statistics raise? What questions does this data raise in your mind? Your blog will be assessed based on the rubric posted on D2L. <p>Title: Data about Religion in Modern America Minimum length: 200 words. Due date: Sept 20</p>
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Week 4

Mon Sept 25	<p><u>Transmitting Religion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 8, “Transmitting Religion”
Wed Sept 27	<p><u>Protestantism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 4 (Mainline Protestantism: the Erosion of Cultural Dominance)

Week 5

Mon Oct 2	<p><u>Evangelicalism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 5 (The Evangelical Surge) <input type="checkbox"/> Write blog post #3: Find a news event in the last year that is an example of the Culture Wars thesis, described in our textbook on pages 120-124. Use the news sources provided on D2L. What is the fight over? Describe, in a non-biased way, the argument from both sides. Then, reflect on this story. Does this story represent a recent trend, or something that Orthodox and Progressives have been arguing about for decades? Do you think this issue will be resolved at some point? If so, how? What is your opinion about this issue? Your blog will be assessed based on the rubric posted on D2L. <p>Title: Religion and the Culture Wars Minimum length: 200 words. Due date: Oct 4</p>
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Wed	<u>Catholicism</u>
Oct 4	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> RICA, chap 6 (American Catholicism: A “Ghetto” Church No More)

Week 6

Mon	<u>Catholics in America</u>
Oct 9	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> Mariah Monk Shocks Protestant Readers with Allegations of Sex and Violence in a Nunnery, 1836 [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> C. Stanley Lowell Explains His Fear of Catholics in 1960 [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> Cesar A. Chavez, “The Mexican-American and the Church” (1968) [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Complete:</u> D2L quiz, “Catholicism in America”
Wed	<u>Introduction to Judaism</u>
Oct 11	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> RICA, chap 7 (Contemporary Judaism) <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> Meszler, “Beliefs in a Progressive Judaism” [coursepack]

Week 7

Mon	<u>Judaism in America: Primary Documents</u>
Oct 16	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> Benjamin Roth Warns his Emigrant Son about the Dangers in America, 1854 [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> “Abraham Cahan Shows How American Life Shattered a Jewish Immigrant’s Traditional Faith” (1916) [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> Excerpt, Henry Ford, “Candid Address to Jews on the Jewish Problem” [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> Excerpt, Henry Ford, “How Jews in the US Conceal Their Strength” [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Complete:</u> Quiz, Jews in America
Wed	<u>Religion and Politics</u>
Oct 18	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Read:</u> RICA, chap 9 (Religion, Politics, and Government)

Week 8

Mon Oct 23	<p><u>Religion, Law, and Culture Wars</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Read: Patheos: Everything You Need to Know about Town of Greece vs. Galloway [coursepack]<input type="checkbox"/> Read: Redstate: Town of Greece v. Galloway: A Primer [coursepack]<input type="checkbox"/> Write blog post #4: Using any of the news sources listed in our D2L page, find a current event that relates to any issue discussed in chapter 9. Write a blog post in which you summarize the article and explain how the story relates to our reading. Address one or more of these questions: Why did you choose this story? Does this story teach us anything about how religion has changed in contemporary America? Current challenges in religion in America? Which culture war do you think will get resolved in the future? What does this event teach you about religion in America and politics? What questions are you still pondering? <p>Your blog will be assessed based on the rubric posted on D2L.</p> <p>Title: Religion and Politics Minimum length: 200 words. Due date: Oct 25</p> <p>To access the “religion in the news” websites, go the “content” heading in D2L and open the “religion in the news” folder. You should stick to one of these sources, unless you have approved a different source. Even when using these links, be sure you are reading a news item and not an editorial or commentary.</p>
Wed Oct 25	<p style="text-align: center;">Midterm</p>

Week 9

Mon Oct 30	<u>Gender and Sexuality</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 10 (Gender, Sexuality, and Religion)
Wed Nov 1	<u>African American Religion</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 11 (African American Religion) <input type="checkbox"/> Read: excerpt, Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>Nonviolence and Racial Justice</i> (1957)" [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> Read: "Martin Luther King, Jr. Preaches on the Power of Love, 1963" [coursepack]

Week 10

Mon Nov 6	<u>African American Religion</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: excerpt, Malcolm X, <i>God's Judgment of White America</i> (1963) [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> Read: excerpt, Malcolm X, <i>Letters from Abroad</i> [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> Read: "Christianity Today Criticizes Black Americans' Intimidation of White Churches, 1969" [coursepack]
Wed Nov 8	<u>Religion, Race and Poverty</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 12 (Religion, race, and poverty) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete: Quiz, Religion and Race in America

Week 11

Mon Nov 13	<u>The New Age</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 13 (Faiths on the Margins)
Wed Nov 15	<u>Mormonism</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 14 (The Mormon Perspective)

Week 12

Mon Nov 20	<p><u>Mormonism</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Write Blog post #5: Visit the website “The Prophetic Years,” (http://www.thepropheticyears.com/wordpress/) written by a fundamentalist Christian blogger who regularly condemns religions such as Islam and Mormonism. For now, we will take a look at his anti-Mormon sentiment. Locate the search bar right side of page and search the word “Mormon” in his blog. Then read through several of his anti-Mormon blogposts. After examining this site, write a blog post in which you compare anti-Mormon hostility to hostility of other religions we have studied this semester. How do these assertions compare to anti-Semitic or anti-Catholic sentiment, for example? Your blog will be assessed based on the rubric posted on D2L.</p> <p>Title: Anti-Mormonism Minimum length: 200 words. Due date: Nov 20</p>
Wed Nov 22	<p><u>Hinduism</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 18 (A New Pluralism Comes to America)</p>

No class Nov 23 through Nov 26

Week 13

Mon Nov 27	<p><u>Hindus in America</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Read: Daggett, “The Heathen Invasion of America” [coursepack]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Read: “Prema Kurien Explains Hindus’ Adjustments to American Life” [coursepack]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete: Quiz, American Hinduism</p>
Wed Nov 29	<p><u>American Buddhism</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Read: Tom Tweed’s “Who is a Buddhist? Nightstand Buddhists and Other Creatures” [coursepack]</p>

Week 14

Mon Dec 4	<p><u>Muslims in America</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Read: Esposito, “Islam in the World and in America” [coursepack]</p>
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Wed Dec 6	<p><u>Islam and American Islamophobia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write Blog post #6: Visit the website “Jihad Watch,” (https://www.jihadwatch.org/) one of the most prominent anti-Muslim websites today. Scroll through the blog and read several articles specifically about Islam in America. Afterward, write a blog post in which you compare anti-Muslim arguments to the arguments we have read about other religions we have studied this semester. How does Islamophobia compare to anti-Mormonism, anti-Semitism, or anti-Catholicism? Your blog will be assessed based on the rubric posted on D2L. <p>Title: Anti-Mormonism Minimum length: 200 words. Due date: Dec 6</p>
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Week 15

Mon Dec 11	<p><u>Muslims in America</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: “Kambiz GhaneaBassiri Explains Muslims Mixed Feelings About American Culture” [coursepack] <input type="checkbox"/> Read: “Richard Wormser Describes Pressures on Muslim Teenagers in American High Schools, 1994” [coursepack]
Wed Dec 13	<p><u>Religious Pluralism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read: RICA, chap 19 (Is America a Christian Nation?) <input type="checkbox"/> Write Blog post #7: After reading chapter 19, explain in your own words why the authors of our textbook chose to end their book with the question, “Is America a Christian Nation?” Then, answer the question. Is America a Christian nation? Why or why not? Your blog will be assessed based on the rubric posted on D2L. <p>Title: Is America a Christian Nation? Minimum length: 200 words. Due date: Dec 14</p>