



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social & Management Sciences
Department of Sociology

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: SOC 315
Course Title: Sociology of Religion
Number of Units: 3units
Status: Compulsory

LECTURER DETAILS

Name: Dr. Adepeju Olaide, Oti
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to study the elements (beliefs & practices), nature and forms of religion using the tools and methods of the discipline of Sociology. The course will introduce students to the significance of religion and how it permeates every aspect of social life. The concept of religion will be examined from the sociological and psychological perspective. The nature of religion, its characteristics and impacts on other facet of life will be examined. The course will also examine issues of religion and violence, as well as the role of religion in politics and social change

COURSE OBJECTIVE(S):

the course is aimed at introducing students to:

- ❖ The study of religion as a complex phenomenon that impacts other aspect of the social life and the society
- ❖ The basic issues and concept in Sociology of Religion
- ❖ The theoretical perspectives on religion
- ❖ The role of religion in violence, politics, social change and development.

ASSESSMENT : 100%

- Class attendant: 5marks
- Test and assignments 25marks
- Final Examination 70 marks

Recommended Textbooks:

1. Berger, Peter (1967) "The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion" Anchor Books 1990 Paper back ISBN 0-385-07305-4
2. Clark, Peter B (2009).*The Oxford Handbook of Sociology of Religion*. Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-927979-0

3. Hamilton, Malcolm (2nd ed. 2001). *The sociology of religion: theoretical and comparative perspective*. London and New York: Routledge
4. Kevin J. Christiaono et al (2nd ed. 2008) “Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments” Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers ISBN 978-0-7425-6111-3.

LECTURE PLAN

Week	Topic
1	Defining religion, universality of Religion, and its relationship with other aspects of the society & social life
2	Elements of religion; The Holy/Taboo, Response, Beliefs, Rituals, Liturgy Ethical codes
3	Sociological Perspectives on Religion /classical sociologist view on religion Functionalist view: Emile Durkheim on social order (The sacred and the Profane) Religion as Adaptative mechanism
4	Edward Tylor’s Inclusive theory of Religion: Concept of Animism
5	The conflict perspective on Religion: Karl Marx
6	The feminist perspective on Religion
7	Max Weber: The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism
8	Religion and social change, religion & violence
9	Psychoanalytical theories of Religion: Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung
10	The electric perspective; Combination of Psychological & Sociological perspective: David Aberle & Wallace, Activities affecting the supernatural: Wallace’s List
11	Overview of African Religion, Types of Supernatural forces and beings
12	Revision

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. a) Discuss what you understand by sociology of religions?
b) Discuss what you understand by the Universality of Religion.
2. Discuss any two Sociological perspectives on Religion
3. Discuss Edward Tylor’s “Inclusive Theory of Religion?”
4. According to Karl Marx, “Religion is the opium of the people” Explain the connotation of this expression in relation to contemporary Nigerian society
5. Discuss the feminist perspective on religion

6. a) Who is Emile Durkheim? b) Discuss Emile Durkheim's anthropological study of religious societies
7. a) Who is Max Weber? b) Discuss Max Weber's Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
8. a) What are the functions of Religion according to the functionalist perspective?
b) Discuss the role of Religion in maintaining social order?
9. a) Briefly discuss group dynamics in religion
b) According to the conflict perspective "*religion reinforce and promote social inequality and social conflict*" Discuss.
10. a) Discuss the role of intermediaries in African religions
b) Discuss five activities affecting the supernatural from Wallace's perspective
c) Explain Marvin Harris's perception of India's sacred cow as a form of adaptation?
11. Discuss the Psychological Theory of Religion, by Sigmund Freud's
12. As a sociologist, how would you analyse the roots of religious crisis and killings specifically in Nigeria? Examine at least 3 major religious crisis in Northern Nigeria, and proffer possible solutions.
13. Define the various concepts with illustration: a) Atheism b) Ritual c) Totemism
d) Sacred e) Theism f) Profane g) Animism h) Revitalization Movement

