Beau Weston Crounse 447 (x8789)

Centre College **Sociology of American Religion** Hours: MWF 10:30- 12:30

Spring 2017 (SOC 344/ REL 352) Email for easy appointment

Religious institutions have been vital in shaping American society – and vice-versa. We will examine the ecology of American religious institutions, and the changing function of religion in America.

**Texts**

Finke and Stark, *The Churching of America, 1776 – 2005* (2005)

Robert Putnam and David Campbell, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* (2012)

Robert Jones, *The End of White Christian America* (2016)

Eboo Patel, *Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America* (2012)

**Work (and grading)**

This course is linked with POL 339 “Race, Religion, and Politics.” Some assignments are specific to this class, and some are shared.

PARTICULAR TO THIS COURSE:

• Finke and Stark test (10% of final grade)

- An in-class test

• Data journalism writing assignments (4) (20%)

- For each book, write a short paper explaining the main point to an educated lay audience (each about 1200 words)

• Class participation (10%)

SHARED BETWEEN BOTH CLASSES

*Graded by Prof. Weston*

• Reflection paper (each about 1200 words) on community book discussions (2) (10%)

• Field trip reflections (each about 1200 words) (2) (10%)

* In each paper, connect your reflections on the field trip with the class readings that we did in preparation

*Graded by Prof. Knoll*

• Practice interview assignment (5%)

• Practice coding assignment (5%)

• Interviews and transcriptions (3) (10%)

• Oral presentation (5%)

*Graded by both*

•Final project paper (15%)

## Schedule

2/2 Our own religious story [we will write for 10 minutes, then share]

2/7 Finke and Stark, chs. 1 – 3 (110pp)

2/9 Finke and Stark, ch. 4 (40)

2/14 Finke and Stark, chs. 5 & 6 (80)

2/16 Finke and Stark, ch. 7 (50)

*6:30pm Town Conversation on Hochschild, starting with dinner*

*2/18 Reflection paper on first Hochschild community discussion due 2 PM*

2/21 Finke and Stark test

2/23 Putnam and Campbell, *American Grace*, ch. 1 (35)

*6:30pm Town Conversation on Hochschild, starting with dinner*

*2/25 Reflection paper on second Hochschild community discussion due 2 PM*

*2/26 Data journalism paper on Finke and Stark due 2 PM*

2/28 Putnam and Campbell, *American Grace*, chs. 4, 5, & 8 (95)

3/2 Putnam and Campbell, *American Grace*, ch. 9 (60)

3/7 Putnam and Campbell, *American Grace*, chs. 11 & 13 (100)

3/9 Putnam and Campbell, *American Grace*, ch. 15 (35)

*3/12 Data journalism paper on Putnam and Campbell due 2 PM*

3/14 Pew Study: American Muslims 2011 (75)

Pew Study: Public’s Views on Human Evolution (5)

Weston, “Creation vs. Evolution” (5)

*3/15 4 PM leave for Cincinnati.*

*7 PM meet with members of the Islamic Center of Cincinnati.*

3/16 9 AM Tour of the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

1:30 PM lecture by Dr. Menton, Creation Museum

Afterwards, tour museum until closing.

Dinner in Northern Kentucky. Back to campus about 10 PM.

*3/18 Reflection paper on first field trip due 2 PM*

SPRING BREAK

3/28 Pew Study: A Portrait of Jewish Americans (15)

Pew Study: A Portrait of American Orthodox Jews (20)

Hartford Institute: Mega church 2015 study (20)

3/30 Field Trip: Southeast Christian Church and Temple Shalom

*Leave at 8:30 AM. Return for dinner.*

*4/1     Reflection paper on second field trip due 2 PM*

4/4 Jones, *The End of White Christian America*, “An Obituary …” & chs. 1 & 2 (80)

4/6 Jones, *The End of White Christian America*, ch. 3 (30)

*4/10 Mormon expert – non-convo 7:30pm. I will send the class some Pew articles*

4/11 Jones, *The End of White Christian America*, chs. 4 & 5 (80)

4/13 Jones, *The End of White Christian America*, ch. 6 (40)

NOTE: Truncated due to RICE

*4/16 Data journalism paper on Jones due 2 PM*

4/18 Pew study: A closer look at Catholic America (5)

Pew Study: U.S. Catholics Open to Non-Traditional Families (15)

Pew Study: The Shifting Religious Identity of Latinos in the United States (20)

4/20 Pew Study: One-in-Five Adults Raised in an Interfaith Home (15)

Pew Study: The Growth of the Nonreligious (5)

4/25 Patel, *Sacred Ground,* Introduction and Part One (100)

4/27 Patel, *Sacred Ground,* Part Two (40)

5/2 Patel, *Sacred Ground,* Part Three and Conclusion (65)

5/4 Pew Study: How Religion Affects Everyday Life (10)

Pew Study: The Religious Affiliation of U.S. Immigrants (20)

Pew Study: Sharing Faith Online (5)

Pew Study: Abortion (2)

Pew Study: Religious Liberty/Non-Discrimination (10)

NOTE: *Subject to change, based on new studies and student interests*

*5/7 Data journalism paper on Patel due 2 PM*

5/9 Oral of big project, part 1 (part 2 in afternoon class)

5/12 Noon Final paper due (through Moodle). Then we take you out to lunch!