Course Syllabus

Course Information

SOC 3347 Religion in International Development, Section 001

Fall 2013

Professor Contact Information

Bobby C. Alexander, Ph.D.

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PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.

Office: GR 2.532
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:45-4:30 p.m., and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

This course explores the role religion plays in the social, economic, and political development of nation states in the international context. The religions treated change from semester to semester. The focus of the course also changes. This semester we will examine how Protestantism, Catholicism, and Islam encourage development of nation states in Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia. Specifically, we will study how these religions – their core beliefs, reinterpretations of scripture, and changing institutions – contribute to the social, economic, and legal (political) advancement of women. Alongside religion, the course examines economic and political institutions and their public policies that also contribute to the enhancement of women’s status and opportunities for women and their children. The course begins with a general introduction to the topic of religion in international development.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objective is to gain a sociological understanding of how religion – particularly a religion’s core beliefs, reinterpretation of scripture, and changes in institutional life – encourages social, economic, and political development alongside development public policies in economic and political institutions.
Required Textbooks and Other Readings

One text is required: *Globalization, Gender, and Religion: The Politics of Women's Rights in Catholic and Muslim Contexts*, Jane H. Bayes and Nayereh Tohidi, editors. Palgrave. The book is available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Other readings will be available through McDermott Library’s Electronic Course Reserve. Students will do further reading in scholarly sources for the literature review assignment.

Assignments and Academic Calendar

- Exams
  Students will write two take-home exams. Both will be in essay format. Exam questions will be handed out in class one week before the exams are due.

- Literature Reviews
  Students will write three two-to-three-page literature reviews of scholarly sources on a single topic related to religion in international development they will choose. Scholarly sources include peer-reviewed, academic journal articles, books published by university presses, and research published by government and research-based centers.

Students will submit the exams and literature reviews to the Turnitin link on the eLearning site for our course.

- Class Presentations
  Students will be divided into teams to make informal class presentations based on their interests and their literature review topics.

The instructor will go over the instructions for all of the course assignments, which will be available on eLearning.

August 26\textsuperscript{th}

Orientation to the Course

August 28\textsuperscript{th}

Religion and International Development

Read (on Electronic Reserve):
Berger, “Faith and Development.”

No Class September 2\textsuperscript{nd}: Labor Day Holiday

September 4\textsuperscript{th}

Library Demonstration of Electronic Database Searches

Meet in Room 2.524 (Instruction Room) in the McDermott Library. To reach the room, walk past the Reference Desk and head to the right rear corner of the Reading Room.
September 9th and 11th

Religion and International Development Continued

Read:


Jones and Peterson, “Instrumental, Narrow, Normative? Reviewing Recent Work on Religion and Development,” and

(on Electronic Reserve) Wheelan, excerpt from “Introduction to Public Policy.”

Topic for literature review due September 9th

September 16th and 18th

Religion and International Development Continued

Read (on Electronic Reserve):


Religion and Development Relief

Read:


This reading cannot be placed on Electronic Reserve. The link to the reading follows. You may want to copy and paste the link from the electronic course syllabus on eLearning, or go through the McDermott Library electronic database search to find the article.

http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&sid=74cd4ab-f191-48f1-b820-444f308ead98%40sessionmgr198&hid=126

September 23rd and 25th

Religion and Development Relief Continued

Read (on Electronic Reserve):

DeCordier, “The ‘Humanitarian Frontline: Development and Relief, and Religion: What Context, Which Threats and Which Opportunities?”, and


September 30th and October 2nd

Religion in Economic Development

Read (on Electronic Reserve):

Barker, “Charismatic Economies: Pentecostalism, Economic Restructuring, and Social Reproduction,” and

Jawad and Yakut-Cakar, “Religion and Social Policy in the Middle East: The (Re)Constitution of an Old-New Partnership.”
First Literature Review due October 2nd

Mid-Term Exam questions handed out October 2nd

October 7th and 9th
Women and Religion in Economic Development

Read (on Electronic Reserve):

Mid-Term Exam due October 9th

October 14th and 16th
Women and Religion in Economic Development Continued

Read (on Electronic Reserve):

Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights

Read:

October 21st and 23rd
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read:

October 28th and 30th
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read:
Ch. 6, “The Politics of Implementing Women’s Rights in Catholic Countries of Latin America,” in Globalization, Gender, and Religion, and (on Electronic Reserve) Hallum, “Taking Stock and Building Bridges: Feminism, Women’s Movements, and Pentecostalism in Latin America.”

Second Literature Review due October 30th

November 4th and 6th
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read (on Electronic Reserve):
Drogus, “Religious Change and Women’s Status in Latin America: A
Comparison of Catholic Base Communities and Pentecostal Churches.

Class Presentations

November 11th and 13th
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read:

Class Presentations

November 18th and 20th
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Ch. 8, “Women’s Strategies in Iran from the 1979 Revolution to 1999,” Globalization, Gender, and Religion.

Class Presentations

November 25th and 27th No Class: Fall Break

December 2nd and 4th
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Ch. 9, “The Politics of Implementing Women’s Rights in Bangladesh,” Globalization, Gender, and Religion.

Class Presentations

Third Literature Review due December 4th

December 9th and 11th
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued


Class Presentations

Final Exam questions handed out December 11th

December 13th

Final Exam due

Note: Students will turn in their exams in the instructor’s office (GR 2.532) during the regularly scheduled class time (2:30 p.m.).
Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

50%: the two exams combined
30%: the three literature reviews combined
10%: class presentation
10%: attendance

Note: Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss more than two classes will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide proper documentation.

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100
A   = 94-96
A-  = 90-93
B+  = 87-89
B   = 84-86
B-  = 80-83
C+  = 77-79
C   = 74-76
C-  = 70-73
D+  = 67-69
D   = 64-66
D-  = 60-63
F   = 59 and below

Course and Instructor Policies

Students must submit all written assignments on the eLearning site for our course through the Turnitin link by the due date. Students also must submit in class hard copies of all assignments on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor; exceptions to this policy include illness; students must provide proper documentation when submitting late work. This policy is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness to students who submit their work on time.

Class attendance is required. The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion, and course readings.

University Policies

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.
http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies