



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3348F-001
Sociology of Religion
Fall 2025
In Person

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This is a DRAFT only, any change will be updated soon

Course Description

In the last two decades, the dramatic resurgence of religions around the world has negated the assumption that secularization has led to the dissipation of religion in public and private life. Instead, religion has become a pervasive public force and vital influence in our personal lives. This course is a critical and sociological exploration in the sociology of religion. Students will have the opportunity to analyze the interrelationships of culture, society and religion, paying attention to the changing role of religion in society. It will examine the role of religion in various aspects of social life including the gender and family, immigration, the political sphere, the environment. It will also examine the increasing role that religion plays in violent conflicts today.

Prerequisite(s):0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level and registration in third or fourth year of any program.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisite(s): None.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes

- Synthesize and critically evaluate theoretical arguments and published research from a sociological perspective
- Critically assess social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience from a sociological perspective as they pertain to Sociology of Religion*
- Demonstrate an ability to present and discuss ideas clearly and articulately through effective oral and written communication
- Demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly discussion and debate in formal and informal learning environments

Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the complexity of knowledge, the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines]

Course Material:

Required Readings: All readings can be downloaded from www.lib.uwo.ca . The links to course readings will also be provided on Brightspace. Note that I will also bring additional news articles that will be of relevance to the weekly topics

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course.

Replies to students' emails are made within 48 hours Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM. You must provide your full name and the purpose of your email. If these are not included, I will not respond. Your messages to your professor is a formal correspondence and not to be written as a text/facebook/twitter message. Please note: I do not respond to emails such as "*what did I miss in yesterday's lecture?*"; If you missed any classes it is your responsibility to come and speak to me during my office hours and obtain the lecture notes from your classmates.

Course Schedule and Readings:

The reading list and weekly schedule is available on the course Brightspace

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Midterm (October 29 2025)	20%
Group Presentation To be scheduled	20%
Class Participation	7%
Essay due last day of class December 3rd 2025	20%
Final Exam TBA.	
Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the final exam period	33%

The Final Essay is due on the last day of class December 3rd 2025. It can address the secularization topic and provide evidence using the Census of any country, (e.g USA, Australia, Canada, UK or any country of your choice.). This should be double spaced using Times New Roman, plus a **minimum** of 7 references (Journal articles, book chapters, Reports on the Census). In discussing the results of the Census, you must provide some sociological explanations as to why these trends are observed and discuss what may be the social and policy implications. It can be on any topic of your choice as long as it relates to the themes covered weekly. Note that some of the topics may overlap in any of the weeks and that is OK too. You are welcomed to discuss your essay topic with me beforehand to ensure you are on the right track. The final must be at least 2500 words and do not include any tables or the reference section. This must be submitted on OWL BrightSpace on December 3rd, by 11:50 PM

The papers can also be critical reviews that bring together the literature and information on a specific question. The paper needs to relate to this course, so you should be able to put the topic somewhere in the course outline. Another way of saying this is that the paper needs to relate to the Sociology of Religion and include discussion (in terms of theoretical perspectives and the substantive issues that are relevant to this course).

The term paper should be seen as an investigation (through library research), where you put together the evidence, think through the implications. It is important that a term paper be unified around a central topic ("purpose" or "thesis"), and that the reader be able to follow the plan of the paper.

In reading the paper, one needs to have a good sense of what has been investigated/researched, and what was the conclusion of the investigation. Introductions and conclusions of papers are particularly important. The parts of the paper should be readily identifiable, normally through headings and transitions that make the reader aware of the logic of the plan of the paper. The paper should be well organized and checked for errors (including typos and spelling). Scholarly standards of referencing are expected. Referencing in the text should be used, rather than through footnotes. The referencing style of the American Psychological Association (APA) is to be used. If tables or figures are used in the paper, they should be properly labelled so that the reader knows when to look at given tables.

Please note that because the submission deadline for this final essay already includes flexibility in the form of 72-hour submission window, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond the additional 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade including weekends. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

Presentation: You are required to get into groups of three for the presentation. If you do not form a group of your own by the end of the first class, I will assign you randomly. You will pull a number out of a hat and you get to choose which week and the article to be presented. The group responsible for a given presentation will be required to provide me a detailed summary of the article, which can be on point form. This will be a 1 to 1.5 pages You are required to have 3 to 4 questions that will be used as a focus for the discussions. Thus, the presentation mark will be based on distributing a set of discussion questions, and leading the discussion for part of the presentation and providing the summary of the article. The presentation includes raising questions, sponsoring discussion, possibly bringing in additional material, synthesizing, and discussing the policy implications..

Midterm Exam: The midterm will take place on October 29 2025 in the classroom. It will cover material from the beginning of the class up to and including lectures and readings brought into the class. It will be multiple choice, short answer and one long answer question.

This is a closed book exam and no electronic aids are permitted.

Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the midterm exam has been designated as requiring supporting documentation. Students with an approved accommodation will be required to write a makeup exam scheduled by the Sociology department.

Final Exam: The final exam will be the same format as the midterm but longer. It will be cumulative but with emphasis on the material covered since the midterm. It will be in person and will be three hours. If you miss the final exam, you will require supporting documentation for a makeup exam.

To pass the course, you must submit the requirements for the course including your presentation, essay, final exam. You should also take part in the discussions as part of your presentation grade.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI).

Electronic Devices:

Laptops are permitted during classroom to take lecture notes. Cellphones must be turned off during class times. Recording of the lectures are not permitted. The use of laptops or any kind of electronic devices is not allowed during exams.

Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Copyright: Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html . Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf> or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Once the request and supporting documentation have been received and reviewed, appropriate academic consideration, if granted, shall be determined by the instructor in consultation with the academic advisor, in a manner consistent with the course outline. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam, unless otherwise specified in the course outline. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup text/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty Academic Counselling Office.

Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Religious Accommodation: Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence or University approved emergency during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Code of Student Conduct: It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize him or herself with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University.

Student Responsibility: Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and

that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) they may have taken. Students must familiarize themselves with the Student Responsibility for Course Selection policy https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf and the Registration and Progression policy https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf. Students are responsible for the successful completion of the Graduation Requirements for their degree program https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf.

Support Services:

Office of the Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

[Faculty Academic Advising](#) - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html.

[USC services](#) offers information about student the health/dental plan, Bus Pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

[Mental health](#) – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

[Health & Wellness Services](#) – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>. Additional on-campus services are also available <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/services/index.html>.

[Accessible Education](#) provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.

[Gender-Based and Sexual Violence](#) – Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: http://uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

[Western Libraries](#) – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.

[Writing support](#) – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>

Bookstore: Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>