

Professor Bryan S. Turner
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Soc. 83000
Comparative Sociology of Religion
Tuesdays, 11:45 – 1:45pm, 3 credits, Room TBA

Weekly Reading

I shall set a weekly reading(s) and where possible circulate papers and articles for the majority of seminars to overcome the shortage of works in libraries.

Assessment

Students complete two book reviews of 1,000 words each in week 4 and week 8. There is a long assessment paper of 8,000 words at the end of the semester. Students select the books for review and determine the topic of their long essay in consultation with Professor Turner

General Guide to Comparative Religion

B. S. Turner (ed) (2010) *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*, Oxford : Wiley-Blackwell.

B.S. Turner and O. Salemink (eds) (2014) *Routledge Handbook to Religions in Asia* . London: Routledge.

S.Sharot (ed) (20012) *A Comparative Sociology of World Religions*, New York: NYU Press.

Seminars and Readings

1 The origins and issues in the sociology of religion

Reading: B.S.Turner (2014) ‘Religion and contemporary sociological theories’ *Current Sociology* 62(1): 1-18.

2. Weber and the axial age religions

Reading: M. Weber (1963) *The Sociology of Religion*. London: Methuen

3. The Reformation, the church-sect typology and denominationalism
E. Troeltsch and B. Wilson.

Reading: B. Wilson (1959) 'An analysis of sect development' *American Sociological Review* 24:3-15.

4. A. de Tocqueville, American religion and the Moral Majority

Reading: M. Chaves (2011) *American Religion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

5. Civil religions and nationalism: R. Bellah

Reading: Bellah, R. N. (1967) 'Civil Religion in America' *Daedalus* 96 (Winter): 1-27.

6. Secularization and spirituality: P. L. Berger

Reading: Berger, P. L. (ed) (1999) *The Desecularization of the World. Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans.

7. Post-secularism: J. Habermas

Reading: J. Habermas (2006) 'Religion in the Public Sphere' *European Journal of Philosophy* 14:1-25

8. The Iranian Revolution and the Shia-Sunni conflict

Reading: V. Nasr (2006) *The Shia Revival*. New York: W.W. Norton

9. Globalization and radical religion(s)

Reading: O.Roy (1994) *The Failure of Political Islam* Cambridge:Harvard University Press, and O.Roy (2010) *Holy Ignorance*. New York: Columbia University Press.

10. Engaged Buddhism: the protestantization of religion

Reading: B. Turner (2015) 'Religion, religions and modernization' in Turner and Salemk (op.cit) and B. Turner (2013) *The Religious and the Political*. Cambridge: CUP, ch.8

11. Pentecostalism and Latin America

Reading: Martin, David (2002) *Pentecostalism: the world their parish*, Oxford: Blackwell.

12. Modernity and the religious crisis

Reading: D. Martin (2011) *The Future of Christianity*. Farnham: Ashgate.

13. Religion Today

Reading: C.Taylor (2002) *Varieties of Religion Today*,Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp61-116. And H. Joas (2014) *Faith as an Option*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. pp.116ff.