



COURSE SYLLABUS

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course dates, times and location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL Program office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in the courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student's preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount your time outside the course to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend nine-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:

1. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
3. Login and participate in your course a minimum of three times per week.
4. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
5. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
6. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at ubonline@bridgeport.edu.

If you cannot perform these six expectations, it is recommended that you drop the course. We look forward to your academic success in each course and the ultimate completion of your degree.

Course No. & Title: WREL 348 DL1, Religion and Society

Semester and Term: Summer 2014

Day and Dates: 5/12/2014 – 7/4/2014

Time: online

Campus Location: Online Learning

Course Description: A sociological and anthropological analysis of religion as a universal social institution, with emphasis upon theories of the origins of religion, relationships of religion to other social institutions, study of selected Western and non-Western religions in their socio-cultural contexts, religion as a source of social equilibrium and conflict, and types of religious movements. (Cross-listed with SOC 348)

Prerequisite Courses : ENGL 101

Course Code : HS-PE,LA,SS,SsC,HSMS

Instructor & contact information: Claude Perrottet, PhD

Email: claudpe@bridgeport.edu or cperrottet@hotmail.com

Required Textbook:

Gods in the Global Village: The World's Religions in Sociological Perspective.

Author: Lester R. Kurtz

ISBN-13: 978- 978-1412991254

Third Edition, 2011.

Publisher: Sage Publications, Sociology for a New Century Series.

To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at <http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com>
Select IDEAL Campus and login to the bookstore. Select the course and follow instructions.

Note:

You may want to acquire the following *optional* textbook:

The Sociology of Religion

Author: **Thomas F. O'Dea and Janet Aviad**

Format: Paperback or Hardcover

ISBN: 0138210586 (paperback); 0138210667 (hardcover)

Edition: 2nd (1983)

Publisher: Prentice Hall

This 2nd textbook is a very short volume. It offers a systematic explanation of some core notions. Unlike the first textbook, this one is relatively old (because the author is deceased and there are no new editions). However, it ideally completes the 1st textbook, which is written from a world religions perspective. The 2nd book in particular is available

for as little as 2 or 3 dollars if you go to discount websites (but be careful where you click: I have also seen it advertized for \$ 999.99 + shipping!).

This is purely optional.

Note: Other documents will be available online.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Become acquainted with the multiple ways in which the religious phenomenon manifests itself in various regions and cultures.
2. Gained basic insights into the meaning and usefulness of the sociology of religion, and be able to evaluate its limitations and alternatives.
3. Acquired a basic knowledge and understanding of some of the main theories prevalent in that discipline, and become able to perceive and evaluate the advantages, presuppositions and biases of these views.
4. Reached some tentative conclusions based on personal discovery, in particular on the issue of religion as the source of harmony / conflict in the contemporary world and the difficulties involved in creating a generally acceptable ethical worldview (global ethos).

* It is not expected that you will have become a scholarly expert in this field.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Requirements (course work):

General requirements for this course consist of attendance, preparedness, and initiative. Students are required to complete all readings, activities, and assignments each week throughout the course. This includes online discussion forums and website discussions. Completing the readings and assignments on time is crucial to your involvement in discussions. Each week you will need to go through every part of the weekly schedule, which will require that you do some of the following each week: read articles, chapters or lecture notes, participate in discussions, and write reflective essays. You are responsible for getting assignments in on time and catching up if you are offline for a few days.

Grading:

- Overall participation, including discussion on suggested themes and answering questions (25%).
- Two brief essays on topics to be announced (25%).
- Online exam (covering basic notions and issues introduced during the course (25%).
- Final research paper (case study) on religious conflict or the global ethos or another topic discussed during the course (after consultation with the instructor), using additional, relevant material (25%).

Letter Grading Scale:

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade	% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
100-94	A	76-74	C
93-90	A-	73-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-84	B	66-64	D
83-80	B-	63-60	D-
79-77	C+	Below 60	F

Schedule

Week 1 (May 12 – 18)

- Historical approaches to the theme of religion and society
- The sociology of religion as a sub-type of sociology – its historical role
- The functional theory and other approaches (Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber; recent approaches)

Reading: Kurtz, pp. 1-23; O'Dea, pp. 1-20 (optional – if available).

Week 2 (May 19 – 25)

- Overview of religious traditions – types, structures and attitudes to society
- Anatomy of a belief system

Reading: Kurtz, pp. 23-43

➤ **Reflection paper 1**

Week 3 (May 26 – June 1)

- Religious institutions and rituals

Reading: Kurtz, Chapters 2, 3 (and 4 – optional)

Week 4 (June 2 – 8)

- The religious ethos – taboo lines, politics, identity construction, and stratification
- Ethos and the global village – perspectives for a world ethos

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 5.

- **Reflection paper 2**

Week 5 (June 9 - 15)

- The challenges of modernism, secularism
- Multiculturalism

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 6; O'Dea, pp. 96-109 (optional)

Week 6 (June 16 – 22)

- Religious contribution to non-violence
- Religion's contribution to violence
- Historical and contemporary social conflicts of a religious nature

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 8.

- **Online exam**

Week 7 (June 23 - 29)

- State and Religion
- Religious institutions and the status quo
- Contemporary issues: gender roles, NRM (New Religious Movements), environmental issues

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 7; O'Dea, pp. 56-64 (optional)

Week 8 (June 30 – July 4)

- The double-pronged challenge: overcoming socio-religious conflict and setting up a global ethos.

➤ *Final paper due*

Cheating and Plagiarism:

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with and adhere to the standards set forth in the policies on cheating and plagiarism as defined in Chapters 2 and 5 of the Key to UB <http://www.bridgeport.edu/life/servicesforstudents/key.aspx> or the appropriate graduate program handbook.

TurnitIn will be used to make sure that nothing improper happens.

Note:

Precise weekly instructions will be available online at the beginning of the course.

See the Weekly Agenda under **Modules** for specific details about procedures for each week. It is recommended that you print a copy of each week's agenda to use as a reference.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed and to make final decisions by using his own judgment.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Course attendance via online participation is an integral part of the online academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments.

IMPORTANT:

- An absence (lack of participation) in any week of the course, will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if a student earns a grade of “B” in the course, the final grade would be a “C”).
- An absence of two or more weeks will be cause for a failing grade.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/>.

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the drop fees and tuition refunds at the Academic Calendar; accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage (same link above).

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off (or placed on “vibrate”) while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty

The IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory psychology course. He has co-workers who have taken the same course. As the end of the course approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the research paper finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a research paper that he submitted in a similar course. The student makes minor modifications to the paper, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a humanities course is unsure about how to structure an essay. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across an essay written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the essay into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.

Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn’t have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own courses; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site:
http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality

An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2209.asp> The Center is located on the 5th Floor of the Wahlstrom Library. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. **Online Tutoring** is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNet Account

Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access MyUB; the portal for grades, library services, Canvas online learning system. Also, the account allows you access to computers in the Library and computer labs, and provides an email

account in which the University sends out information. Go to: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet> - Click on "New UBN account" and follow the instructions.

The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other private email account you use. Following the activation of your UBN account (takes 24 hours), login at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/email> and click on "forwards" at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Learning Management System (LMS) - Canvas

For all courses that use Canvas, you can access Canvas through the portal by using the myUB link. Faculty post class documents on Canvas e.g. syllabus, power points, discussion questions, case studies, current event articles, papers, reports etc. (save some trees). All students have access, and can download and copy the documents.

Canvas Tutorial For Students: <https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/985903>

For assistance contact the UB Help Desk at 203-576-4606 or email helpdesk@bridgeport.edu
<https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/829447/>

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online

The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. To access WebAdvisor, login in to MyUB and follow the WebAdvisor menu on the right. If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

Access to the Digital Library is through MyUB. On the MyUB home, in the central column, click on "myEureka Digital Library." Research tools available:

- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

Using Computers

Open access computer labs are available at three locations:

- Bridgeport – 1st floor of the Wahlstrom library. Check library hours of operation at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/library>.
- Stamford – Room D; Check open hours at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford>
- Waterbury – Computer Lab; Check open hours at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury>

Course Cancellations

Any emergency necessitating the canceling of courses will be announced by the University through the Emergency Notification Telephone Line, (203) 576-4159. Please call this number for information on course cancellations. Also, information will be posted under "Latest News" on the UB home page, (www.bridgeport.edu). Canceled classes will be made up either the week following the end of the course or in consultation between the instructor and the students as to day and time availability. Course cancellations are also announced on television and radio stations.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security	(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu
Bursar	(203) 576-4692	sfs@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	(203) 576-4682	sfs@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid	(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.edu
Registrar	(203) 576-4635	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone	(203) 576-4159	
IDEAL Office	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus	Address	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
Stamford	5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750	(203) 358-0700	ubstamford@bridgeport.edu
Waterbury	84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705	(203) 573-8501	ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu

Directions to IDEAL Campus locations	http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp
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To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov. The school code for the University of Bridgeport is **001416**.
Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243