

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

*SOCIOLOGY*

				Semester: ...	Paper No:	
Paper Title:	SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION					

*COURSE SUMMARY*

**Objectives:** The course introduces students to key concepts and concerns in the sociology of religion. It explores religious practices and processes in a range of religious and social settings.

- Outline:**
- 1. Thinking through Religion**
    - 1.1. Sacred and Profane
    - 1.2. Magic, Science and Religion
  
  - 2. Representations of World Religions**
    - 2.1. Hinduism
    - 2.2. Islam
    - 2.3. Christianity
  
  - 3. Religious Practices**
    - 3.1. Rites & Rituals
    - 3.2. Practices of Inversion

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## COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY

### 1. Thinking through Religion

[Weeks 1-6]

- 1.1 Durkheim, E. 2001. *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. A new Translation by Carol Cosman, OUP: Oxford. (pp25-46; 87-100; 153-182)
- 1.2 Malinowski, B. 1948. *Magic, Science & Religion & Other Essays*. The Free Press: U.S.A. (pp. 17-36, 55-59, 66-90).

### 2. Representations of World Religions

[Weeks7-12]

- 2.1. Srinivas, M. N. 1952. *Religion and Society among the Coorgs of South India*. Clarendon :Oxford. (pp 100-122)
- 2.2. Shah A.M. and. Srinivas, M.N. 1968, Vol 6. "Hinduism" in International. *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. (pp358-66)
- 2.3. Gilseman, M.1982. *Recognising Islam: An Anthropologist's Introduction*, Croom Helm: London. (pp9-54)
- 2.4. T. Parsons, 1968, Vol 2 "Christianity," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* (pp 425-447)

### 3. Religious Practices

[Weeks 13-14]

- 3.1. Van Gennep, A. 1960. *The Rites of Passage*. Routledge & Kegan Paul: London, Introduction and pp 1-14, 65-70, 74-77, 85-90, 101-107, 116-128, 130-135 & 141-165 ).
- 3.2. Turner, V. 1969. Liminality and Communitas, in *Ritual Process: Structure and Anti- Structure*, Aldine publishing: Chicago, (pp94-130)
- 3.3. Da Matta, R., 1984. "Carnival in multiple planes", in J.J. MacAloon (ed.) *Rite, Drama, Festival, Spectacle: Rehearsals Towards a Theory of Cultural Performances*. ISHI: Philadelphia (pp. 208-240).

Students would be required to make regular presentations/projects on relevant topics, drawing on the suggested readings and other textual and visual materials.

## SUGGESTED READINGS

Berger P. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy*, Doubleday: Garden City, New York, (pp175-186).

Weber Max. 1905. *Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism*, (pp 39 – 50).

Fuller C. John.2004, *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism And Society In India*, Princeton University Press: New Jersey.

Marranci G. 'Sociology and Anthropology of Islam: A Critical Debate' in Turner B. 2010. *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*, Blackwell: Sussex UK.

Asad. T. 1993. *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*, John Hopkins Press: Baltimore, Chap 8.

Madan T.N.2011. *The Sociological Tradition: Methods and Perspectives in the Sociology of India*, Sage : New Delhi .

Keane, W. 2007.*Christian Moderns: Freedom and Fetish in the Mission Encounter*, University of California Press: U.S.A.