

Religion and Society

DSE-01

Objective-

The course acquaints students with sociological understanding of religion. It examines some forms of religion in India and its role in modern society.

1. Understanding Religion

1.1 Sociology of Religion: meaning and scope

1.2 Sacred and Profane

1.3 Religion and Rationalization

1.4 Rites of Passage

2. Religion in India

2.1 Hinduism

2.2 Islam

2.3 Christianity

2.4 Sikhism

2.5 Buddhism

2.6 Jainism

3. Secularism & Communalism

3.1 Meaning of Secularism

3.2. Social Functions of Secularism

3.3 Elements of Communalism

Core Course 06
Sociology of Religion

(6 credits)

Total Credit=6

Total Marks 80+20=100

Total Classes: 38

Total Tutorials: 7

Class duration: 1 class=1 hour

1 tutorial = 1 hour

6 classes per week

Course Objective

The course lays primacy to the understanding of religious over individual religions. Drawing heavily from classical writings on the subject it reinforces importance of the positions developed in these texts. Implicitly numerous interconnections can be attempted between various themes, manifestly the overarching concern of the paper is to follow up the linkage between social and religious through different registers mentioned in the outline.

	Classes	Tutorials	Marks
1. Social and Religious	19	4	40
1.1. Formulating Religious			
1.1.1 Social definitions of religion			
1.1.2 Social functions of religion			
1.2 Asceticism and Accumulation			
1.2.1 Relationship between religion and socio economic action			
1.2.2 Contradiction between asceticism and accumulation			
1.3 Theodicy and Eschatology			
1.3.1 Social implications of the Idea of divine Justice			
1.3.2 Social implications of the idea of death and salvation			
1.4. State, Religion and Emancipation			
1.4.1 Religion and state			
1.4.2 Religion and community			
1.5. Religious and Solitude			
1.5.1 The isolation of the sacred			
1.5.2 The sacred community and exclusion			
2. Elements of Religious	8	1	20
2.1. Sacred, Myth, Ritual (meaning and significance)(Mythology from North East India can be used as reference for seminars and presentations as directed by the course teacher)			

2.2. Time-Space				
2.2.1	Transcendence and time			
2.2.2	Sacred marking of space			
2.3. Rationality				
2.3.1	Concept of rationality (Max Weber)			
2.3.2	Rationality in religion			
3. Techniques of Religious		11	2	20
3.1. Prayer				
3.1.1	Techniques of Prayer			
3.1.2	Prayer as a ritual			
3.2 Craft				
3.2.1	Types of crafts			
3.2.2	Functions of crafts			
3.3 Body				
3.3.1	Gestures			
3.3.2	Performance			

Course Contents and Itinerary

1. Social and Religious (Weeks 1-5)

1.1 Formulating Religious

1.1.1 Emile Durkheim. 1995. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press. Book one and Conclusion, pp. 21-39, 418-440.

1.2 Asceticism and Accumulation

1.2.1. Max Weber. 2001. *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Translated by Stephen Kalberg. England: Roxbury Publishing Press, pp. 103-126.

1.3 Theodicy and Eschatology

1.3.1 Max Weber. 1978. *Economy and society*. Edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. California: University of California Press. Volume Two, pp.518-521.

1.4 State, Religion and Emancipation

1.4.1 Marx, Karl. 2008/9 [1843] . “On the Jewish Question” in *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*. Proofed and Corrected: by Andy Blunden, Matthew Grant and Matthew Carmody. www.marxists.org

1.5 Religious and Solitude

1.5.1 Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1948. *Magic, science and religion and other essays*. Selected, and with an introduction by Robert Redfield. Boston: The Free Press, pp. 37-50.

2. Elements of religious (Weeks 6-11)

2.1 Sacred, Myth, Ritual

2.1.1 Emile Durkheim. 1995. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press, Book one, pp. 27-33.

2.1.2 Srinivas, M. N. 1952. *Religion and society among the Coorgs of south India*. Clarendon : Oxford, pp100-122.

2.1.3 Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1948. *Magic, science and religion and other essays*. Selected, and with an introduction by Robert Redfield. Boston: The Free Press, pp. 119-124.

2.1.4 Emile Durkheim. 1995. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press. Book three, pp. 303-412.

2.2 Time-Space

2.2.1. E. E. Evans-Pritchard. 1963 (1940). "Time and Space." In *The Nuer*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 94-98, 100-108.

2.3 Rationality

2.3.1 Tambiah, Stanley Jeyaraja. 1990. *Magic, science, religion and the scope of rationality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-41.

3. Techniques of religious (Weeks 12-14)

3.1 Prayer

3.1.1. Mauss, Marcel. 2008 (2003). *On prayer*. USA: Berghahn Books, pp. 19-58.

3.2 Craft

3.2.1. Ginzburg, Carlo. 1991. *Ecstasies*. Translated by Raymond Rosenthal. New York: Pantheon Press, pp. 1-32.

3.3 Body

3.3.1 Robert, Hertz. 1973 (1909). "The Pre-eminence of the Right Hand." In *Right and Left: Essays on Dual Symbolic Classification*, edited by R. Needham. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-10, 13-14, 16-17, 19-21.

Suggested Readings:

1. Weber, Max. 1993. *Sociology of Religion*. Boston. The Beacon Press.
2. Sen, Soumen. 1993. *Religion in North–East India*. New Delhi. Uppal Publishing House