

Course Syllabus

Course Information

**SOC 6370 Special Topics in Applied Sociology
(Immigrants' Religious Organizations and Assimilation)**

Section 001

Spring 2011

Professor Contact Information

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Office: GR 2.532

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:15 p.m. and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

No pre-requisites or co-requisites.

Course Description

This course examines the religious congregations of immigrants who entered the United States after 1965, especially their congregational structure and community-center model of providing a variety of resources that contribute to these new immigrants' assimilation into U.S. public institutions and society. The course also examines the religious organizations' role in reproducing immigrants' ethnicity in a multicultural society.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objectives are to understand how the social services and resources provided by the religious organizations of the newest immigrants assist assimilating these immigrants, and how reproducing ethnicity through their religious organizations is a form of resistance to assimilation.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Two texts are required: 1) Religion and Immigration: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Experiences in the United States, edited by Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Jane I. Smith, and John L. Esposito, and

2) Religion and the New Immigrants: Continuities and Adaptations in Immigrant Congregations, edited by Helen Rose Ebaugh and Janet Saltzman Chafetz. Both are available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Materials placed on electronic reserve will supplement these texts. Students will be responsible for selecting further readings from scholarly journals and other scholarly sources associated with the literature review assignment. Supplemental reading materials may be placed on electronic reserve in the UTD McDermott Library.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Students will write two ten-to-12-page take-home exams. Both will be in essay format. Exam questions will be handed out in class one week before the exams are due.

Students also will write four three-to-four-page literature reviews of four different scholarly sources, including peer-reviewed, academic journal articles, on a single topic related to the newest immigrants in U.S. society, their religious organizations, and assimilation. Students will choose a topic that interests them and has significance for U.S. society and/or has sociological importance.

Students will present their literature reviews and policy suggestions based on them in class presentations.

Instructions for all course assignments will be made available on the course website on eLearning. Students will download and print the instructions and bring them to class one week before assignments are due.

January 12

Orientation to the Course

January 19

New Immigrants and the Changing U.S. Religious and Demographic Landscape

Read: Religion and Immigration:

Introduction: "Becoming American – Religion, Identity, and Institution Building in the American Mosaic," and

Chapter 12: "Exploring the Religious Preferences of Recent Immigrants to the United States: Evidence from the New Immigrant Survey Pilot," pages 217-228 and 241-242 top half only

January 26

New Immigrants and the Changing U.S. Religious and Demographic Landscape continued

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 3: "Environmental Impacts: Opportunities and Constraints" (on majority and minority faiths and their impact on society)

Electronic Reserve: Excerpt from Ch. 5, "Foundations of the American Ethnic Hierarchy," from Race and Ethnic Relations by Martin Marger.

Topic for literature review due

February 2

**Immigrant Congregations as Social Service Providers and Agents of
Adaptation to U.S. Society**

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 4: "Structural Adaptations to the Immigrant Context"

Chapter 5: "Providing for the Needy: Social Services and Immigrant
Adaptation"

February 9

Immigrant Religion in the Reproduction of Ethnicity

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 6: "Reproducing Ethnicity"

First Literature Review due

February 16

Reproduction of Ethnicity as Resistance to Assimilation

Read: Religion and Immigration:

Chapter 3: "Crossing the Borders: Evangelicalism and Migration"

February 23

Reproduction of Ethnicity as Resistance to Assimilation continued

Read: Religion and Immigration:

Chapter 4: "Colonization versus Immigration in the Integration and
Identification of Hispanics in the United States"

March 2

Immigrant Religion and Transnational Migration

Read: On Electronic Reserve: Chapter 2 in Religion Across Borders: Transnational
Immigrant Networks: "The *Santa Cena* of the *Luz Del Mundo* Church: A Case of
Contemporary Transnationalism"

Second Literature Review due

First Exam questions handed out

March 9

Muslim Immigrants and Muslim Religious Organizations

Read: Religion and Immigration:

Chapter 10: "Constructing the American Muslim Community"

Handout on Middle Eastern Americans

First Exam due

March 16 NO CLASS: Spring Break

March 23

Muslim Immigrants and Muslim Religious Organizations continued

Read: Religion and Immigration:

Chapter 9: “Islam in America: The Mosaic”

March 30

Jewish Immigrants and Responses to U.S. Society

Read: Religion and Immigration:

Chapter 6: “Immigration and Religion in America: the Experience of Judaism”

Chapter 7: “American Jews in the New Millennium”

Third Literature Review due

April 6

Asian Immigrants and Their Religious Organizations

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 10: “Jyothi Hindu Temple: One Religion, Many Practices”

April 13

Asian Immigrant Religion continued

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 11: “Center for Vietnamese Buddhism: Recreating Home”

Chapter 12: “Chinese Gospel Church: The Sinicization of Christianity”

April 20

The Second Generation

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 8: “Passing it On: The Second Generation”

Class Presentations

Fourth Literature Review due

April 27

The Future of Immigrant Religion

Read: Religion and the New Immigrants:

Chapter 9: “Is the Past Prologue to the Future?”

Class Presentations

Second Exam questions handed out

May 5

Second Exam due

Students will turn in the exam to the instructor’s office (GR 2.530) any time during the day up to 4 p.m.

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

65%: the two essay exams combined
25%: the four literature reviews combined
5%: course presentation
5 %: attendance

Note: Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss more than two classes will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide proper documentation.

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100
A = 94-96
A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B = 84-86
B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79
C = 74-76
C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69
D = 64-66
D- = 60-63
F = 59 and below

Course & Instructor Policies

Students must submit hard copies of all assignments in class on the due dates; late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor. No electronic submissions will be accepted, unless the student is absent from class and has a legitimate reason for being absent. This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness, since students work hard to submit work on time.

Class attendance is required. The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.

University Policies

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>
