Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective

Sociology/PS 476, Spring 2016
Dr. Darren E. Sherkat
SHERKAT@siu.edu
11:00am-12:15pm Tu Th, Faner 2525
Office Hours: Faner Hall 3396 MW 9am-11am, or by appointment.

Goals

This course will provide students with a theoretical understanding of the social processes connecting religious and political movements---and which foster the continuity and success of these movements and conflicts between them. First, we will review general theories in the sociology of religion, social movements, and political sociology. After reviewing sociological theories we will examine at four sets of comparative social movements: (1) the African American Civil Rights Movement (2) White Christian Opposition to Civil Rights for African Americans; (3) a comparative study of social welfare movements in Egypt, Italy, Israel, and the US, and (4) a comparative set of studies on religion and violent political movements.

Course

Requirements

There will be one examination following the theory section. Students will also be required to write short papers (5-7 typed, double-spaced pages) on two of the four substantive topics of the course. A directed question will be provided for each section and students must complete the paper by the due date for the assignment. Late papers on the first two topics will not be accepted. If you miss a deadline, you must pick a different substantive area. After the completion of the first two substantive areas, late papers will be docked 1 letter grade per day for students who have not handed in a previous paper. In addition, students must write a final paper (12-17 pages, typed, double spaced) discussing sociological aspects of a topic in religion and politics of your choice. Topics should be cleared with me no later than March 9. The examination and the two short papers are given equal weight, and will comprise 2/3rds of the grade for the course. The final paper counts for the remaining 1/3rd of the grade. Late final papers will not be accepted. There are no incompletes in this course.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: Collaboration on the examination or on any of the papers will be considered cheating. All borrowed ideas should be cited appropriately, and direct quotations should be clearly demarcated with quotation marks. Failure to cite and use quotation marks is plagiarism, and will result in failure of the assignment with a grade of 0—which most likely means failure in the course. I prefer the following style of citation at the end of a sentence containing borrowed ideas: (Finke and Stark, 1989:29-30). This reference should then be indicated in a bibliography, for example:

The following materials will be required and will be covered in order:

**Religion, Politics, and Social Movements—Theoretical approaches.**


**Exam: February 16**


**Final Paper Due**

Final Exam date for this course.