CC 112: Core Social Sciences I

Religion, Community, and the Birth of the Social Sciences

COURSE WEBSITE   http://www.bu.edu/core/cc112

SPRING 2018 LECTURES Thursdays 12:30-1:45 pm in CAS 326

COORDINATOR   Diana Wylie, dwylie@bu.edu, History, 232 Bay State Road Rm. 517

FACULTY
Clifford Backman cbackman@bu.edu History, 226 BSR Rm. 203
Christopher Brown cbbrown@bu.edu Theology, 745 Comm Rm. 339
Vladimir Petrović petrov@bu.edu Pardee, 685 Comm Rm. 129
David Roochnik roochnik@bu.edu Philosophy, 745 Comm Rm. 511

SEMINARS
B1 Wylie TR11-12:15  CAS 114A
B2 Petrović TR 2-3:15  CAS 114A
C1 Backman MWF 10:10-11 CAS 114A
C2 Brown MWF 11:15-12:05 CAS 114A
C3 Roochnik MWF 1:25-2:15  STH 508p

COURSE DESCRIPTION. What is religion? Does it enhance a society? Might it even be necessary for society to cohere and function? Or can human beings flourish in a community without religion? Should religion play a role in political life, or is it entirely a private matter? Is religion an obstacle to an appreciation of cultural differences, or can it facilitate that appreciation? Does religion conflict with science?

These are some of the questions that social scientists – sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, psychologists, and economists – have asked about religion. We shall do the same in this course by reading several of the seminal texts in the history of modern social science.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To identify and apply major social scientific concepts that explain individual and collective human behavior, including how social groups, institutions, and networks work, and the role of the individual within them; and to understand the origins of these concepts and how their meanings have changed over time.
2. To compare how different cultures have understood and treated religious difference at particular moments in time.
3. To analyze how important writers on religion have reasoned – did they use deductive or inductive reasoning; what were their biases; how did they frame their arguments; what proofs did they offer; how did they treat emotions? – and to apply those analytical questions to our own thought so we can evaluate the validity of our own arguments.
4. To be able to identify, grapple with, and make a judgment about the ethical questions at stake in at least one major contemporary public debate, and engage in a civil discussion about it with those who hold views different from their own.
5. To demonstrate the skills and vocabulary needed to reflect on the ethical responsibilities that face individuals (or organizations, or societies or governments) as they grapple with issues affecting both the communities to which they belong and those identified as “other.”
6. To craft responsible, considered, and well-written arguments, using media and modes of expression appropriate to the situation.

TEXTS. Required texts are available at the BU Bookstore:

2. William James, The Varieties of Religious Experience (Oxford UP, 9780199691647)
3. Émile Durkheim, The Elementary Forms of Religious Life (Oxford UP, 9780199540129)
5. Aristotle, *Politics* (Chicago UP, 9780226921846)
7. Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian, 1520* (Fortress, 9781506413518)

Additional readings can be found in the course pack distributed in hard-copy at the first lecture and available at the Core Office. The readings from the course pack can also be accessed via www.bu.edu/core/cc112.

**COURSEWARE.** On the Core website—www.bu.edu/core—students will find faculty profiles and office locations, reading lists, supplemental course material, departmental activities and academic calendar, syllabi, Writing Fellow contact information and writing FAQs, and other resources.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA.** Your seminar instructor determines your final grade, based on the following components: class attendance and participation, 20%; seminar papers, 50%; midterm, 10%; final exam, 20%. Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is an important part of the course. Absences from lecture and seminar will be weighed seriously by your seminar leader, and will bring down your final grade.

**RESOURCES AND SUPPORT**
The Core Writing Fellows are available for help throughout the semester. Fellows are graduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. The WF assigned to CC 112 is Martha Lagace, mlagace@bu.edu. Her Spring 2018 office hours are Wed. 1-4 pm (in CAS 328) and Thursday 9-12 (in CAS 119). To make an appointment with Martha, consult the online reservation instructions at www.bu.edu/core/writing.

An online writing handbook is available at www.bu.edu/core/handbook. Many faculty members and departments also have published their own writing guides—ask your seminar instructor.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR WRITING AND LEARNING SUPPORT:**
- **The ERC** (100 Bay State Road, 5th floor) offers tutorial assistance to all undergraduate students in a range of subjects, including writing.
- **CAS Center for Writing.** Phone: 617-358-1500. Web: http://bu.edu/writingprogram/the-writing-center. At the CAS Center for Writing (100 Bay State Road, 3rd floor; a satellite office at Mugar Library), students enrolled can receive one-on-one consultations about their writing. Tutors will work with you at any stage of your writing process, but they will not edit or correct your paper for you. Instead, they will help you do your own best work. The CAS Center for Writing is open Monday through Friday, and tutors are available for walk-in appointments.
- **Boston University Libraries.** Phone: 617-353-2700. Web: http://www.bu.edu/library. Librarians at Mugar Memorial Library (771 Commonwealth Avenue) will help you gain access to the resources offered in any field of research, and they welcome walk-in consultations.
- **Office of Disability Services.** Phone: 617-353-3658. Web: http://www.bu.edu/disability. The staff at ODS (19 Deerfield Street, 2nd floor) are responsible for assisting students with disabilities. If you have a disability, you are strongly encouraged to register with this office.

**LEARNING AND TESTING ACCOMMODATION.** Boston University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, you should contact your seminar leader and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services. Letters of accommodations should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course.

**COMMUNITY OF LEARNING: CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**
All students share the responsibility for ensuring a positive learning environment in this course.
**Attendance and Absences:** Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is an important part of the course. Absences from lecture and seminar will be weighed seriously by your seminar leader, and will bring down your final grade.

**Assignment Completion and Late Work:** Papers should be submitted in class in hardcopy, though allowance may be made for email submissions. Graded assignments will be penalized by a half letter grade for each day they are late. It is possible for you to take a make-up exam if you miss an exam for a legitimate reason, such as illness.

**Expectations for Academic Conduct:** All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. Seminar leaders take the issue of plagiarism seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. If you have questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people’s work, speak with your instructor or consult the Academic Conduct Code at [http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct](http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct).

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### CC 112 SPRING 2018 LECTURE SCHEDULE

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<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>1/18 Lecture: Diana Wylie and David Roochnik: Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>1/25 Lecture: David Roochnik (Philosophy): Aristotle: Do we need religion?</td>
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<td>Reading: Aristotle, <em>Politics</em>, Book 1</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>2/1 Lecture: Deanna Klepper (Religion and History): Augustine: City of God and City of Man 1</td>
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<td>Reading: Augustine (354-430 CE), <em>City of God</em>, Preface, Book 1 (1-10) <em>(in course packet)</em></td>
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<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>2/8 Lecture: Jenny Knust (Religion): Augustine: City of God and City of Man 2</td>
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<td>Reading: Augustine, Book XIX (1, 4, 12-14) <em>(in course packet)</em></td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>2/15 Lecture: Phillip Haberkern (History): Martin Luther: The Solitary Individual</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>2/22 Lecture: Eugenio Menegon (History): The One True Religion and China</td>
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<td>Reading: Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), <em>The True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven</em>, Intro; chapters 1; 2; 7 <em>(in course packet)</em></td>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>3/1 Lecture: David Carballo (Archaeology): The One True Religion and Latin America</td>
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<td>Reading: Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda (1490-1573), <em>Apology for the book on the just causes of war</em>, ms pp. 1-27 <em>(in course packet)</em>; Bartolomé de las Casas (1484-1566), <em>In Defense of the Indians</em>, Preliminaries, chapters 1-6; 24; 33-38; 52; 56-63</td>
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March 3-11: SPRING BREAK

| WEEK 8 | 3/15 Lecture: Aaron Garrett (Philosophy): Locke and Toleration |
|        | Reading: John Locke (1632-1704), *A Letter Concerning Toleration* |
WEEK 9
3/22 Lecture: David Swartz (Sociology) on Karl Marx and Religion as Obstruction
Reading: Karl Marx (1818-1883), selections from The Marx-Engels Reader edited by Tucker:
• (excerpt), pp. 53-54. Starting on 53 with “For Germany, the criticism of religion...” and ending on 54 with “…into the criticism of politics.”
• (excerpt), pp. 71-72. Starting on 71 with “The worker becomes all the poorer...” and ending on 72 with “…confronts him as something hostile and alien.”
• (excerpt), pp. 149-150. Starting with “The first premise of all human history....” and ending on 150 with “… conditions determining their production.”
• (excerpt), pp. 154-59. Starting on 154 with “The production of ideas...” and ending on 159 with “… (as we see it now in Germany).”

WEEK 10
3/29 Lecture: David Roochnik (Philosophy) on William James: Religion and the Psyche (pt. 1)

WEEK 11
4/5 Lecture: Brian Jorgenson (Core Emeritus) on William James: Religion and the Psyche (pt. 2)
Reading: Lectures XVI & XVII, Mysticism
p. 290 (Start of chapter) – p. 292 (“the mystical group”)
p. 300 (“With this” (ignore the run-on footnote below)) – p. 307 (“other than the Christian”)
p. 309 (“This incommunicableness”) - p. 311 (“by their means”)
p. 315 (“To the medical mind . . . which they indulged”)p. 320 (“This overcoming”) - p. 327 (End of chapter)

Topic: On Evil
p. 107 (“If we admit”) - p. 116 (“seem almost crude in their simplicity”)
p. 130 (“The normal process”) - p. 131 (end of the chapter)
p. 273 (“Perfect conduct”) - p. 275 (“spiritual stagnancy”)
p. 325 (“So much for”) - p. 326 (“final fullness of truth”)

Topic: On the Subconscious
p. 63 (“nevertheless if we look” - “than that Being”)p. 180 (“What, now, must we ourselves think”) - p. 186 (“may come”)pp. 210-211, Footnote 1, (“If we should conceive” - “new nature”)p. 362 (“The last aspect”) - p. 367 (“shaping religious history”)

Lecture XX, Conclusions, pp. 368-393; Postscript, pp. 394-399

WEEK 12
4/12 Lecture: Stephen Kalberg (Sociology) on Durkheim and the Group Worshipping Itself
Reading: Émile Durkheim (1857-1917), Elementary Forms of Religious Life, Intro; Book 1, chapters 1 & 4 (pp. 3-21, 25-46, 76-83); Book 2, chapter 7 (pp. 153-182); Book 3, chapter 2 (pp. 243-260); Conclusion (pp. 310-343)

WEEK 13
4/19 Lecture: Parker Shipton (Anthropology): Evans-Pritchard and the Anthropology of Religion
Reading: E. E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973), Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande, chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-64); chapters 7 & 8 (pp. 111-119 & 120-145); chapters 12 & 13 (pp. 205-220 & 221-225)

WEEK 14
4/26 Lecture: Final summation and review (CC 112 faculty)
Final Exam: date and location TBA.