

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHERE**

**P. M. B. 0182, GOMBE, GOMBE STATE, NIGERIA**

**SOC 3311: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGIONS COURSE LECTURER: M. O. HARUNA**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week I:** Concept and Meaning of Sociology of Religion

1. Meaning of Sociology
2. Factors that necessitated the emergence of sociology
3. Methodology of sociological study
4. Definition and subject matter of sociology of religion

**Week 2:** Concepts of Religion and Society

1. Concept of Religion
2. The concept of society
3. Types of Society

**Week 3:** The Nature of Religious Beliefs

1. The General Nature of Beliefs
2. The Nature of Religious Beliefs
3. The Elements of Religion: The structural Elements of Religion

**Week 4:** Theories of Religion and Society

1. Structural functionalist theory
2. Marxist Theory of Religion
3. Symbolic Interactionist Theory

**Week 5:** The Relationship between Religion and society

1. Submission of Individual Assignment

**Week 6:** Major Institutions of Society as Agencies of Religion

1. The Family as an Agency of Religion
2. The Educational Institution as Agency of Religion
3. Religion and Culture

**Week 7:** Religion and Social Change

1. The Concept of Social Change
2. Sources of Social change

**Week 8:** Belief Systems in African Religion

1. Ancestor Worship
2. Magic
3. Witchcraft

**Week 9:** The Importance of Religion to Society

**Week 10:** Religion and Conflicts in Nigeria: Causes of Religious Conflicts

**Week 11.** The Role of Religion in Nigerian Politics

**Week12:** Written CA Test/ Group Assignment Presentations

**Wee13:** Group Assignment Presentations/ Revision

**Mode of Assessment and Marking Scheme**

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| **Mode of Assessment** | | **Marking Scheme** |
| 1. Continuous Assessment (40%) | 75% Attendance | 5% |
| Individual Written Assignment | 10% |
| Group Assignment presentations | 10% |
| Written Test | 15% |
| 1. End of Semester Examination | | 60% |
| **Total** | | **100%** |

**Course Materials**

1. Lecture Notes
2. Relevant Textbooks Chapters

**Self-Assessment Exercise**

Discuss the methodology of sociological enquiry.

Define sociology of Religion and explain its subject matter.

Define Religion

Define the concept of society.

List and explain the various types of societies

List and explain the characteristics of post-industrial societies

Explain the characteristics of tribal society

Discuss the general nature of belief

Discuss the nature of religious beliefs.

Discuss ritual as an element of Religion.

Outline and explain the assumptions of functionalist theory of Religion.

Outline and discuss the main contentions of Karl Marx on religion and society.

Discuss the social interactionist theory of religion.

Explain the relationship between religion and society.

How does the family help in teaching religious beliefs to children?

How does the educational institution aid in the spreading or religious beliefs and values among learners?

Discuss the place of the family as an agency of Religion.

List and explain the functions of the family.

Define the concept of culture and explain its various aspects.

Discuss how religion is influenced by culture of a people.

Define social change.

List and explain the major sources of social change

Discuss the protestant ethics and show how it engendered the spirit of capitalism.

Discuss the factors affecting the rate of change in the society.

Discuss ancestor worship as a religious form of belief.

Discuss the place of magic in traditional African religion.

Discuss the phenomena of witchcraft and its effects on the society

How does religion help in providing meaning to life?

Discuss the activities members of your community do to encourage the growth of the local church in your community.

Discuss the importance of society to religion.

Discuss the place of religion in conflicts in Nigeria.

List and explain the causes of religious conflicts in Nigeria.

Discuss the impact of religious Conflict on the Nigerian society.

Discuss the role of missionaries in politics during the built up to the first Republic elections in Nigeria.

**Further Readings (Available in the University Library, Please)**

Akpenpuun, D. (2009). An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion. Ibadan: John Archers Publishers.

Appelbaum, R. (1970). Theories of Social Change Chicago: Markham Publishing Ltd

Bohannan, P. (1963) Social Anthropology. New York: Rinehart and Wilson Ltd

Durkheim, E. (1917) The Elementary Forms of Religious Life. New York: Collier Books Ltd.

Dzurgba, A. (2009) An Introduction to the sociology of Religion. Ibadan: John Archers Publishers.

Eddiefloyd, M. (2003) Basic Sociology. Enugu: CIDJAP Press Ltd.

Haralambos, M. and Heald, M. D. (2008) Sociology: Themes and Perspectives. Slough: University Press.

Igbana, W. (2009) Sociology: A Comprehensive Introduction. Makurdi: Selfers Academic Press Ltd.

Karl, M. (1930) Communist Manifesto. Hardondsworth: Penguin Books

Mbiti, J. S. (1975) An Introduction to African Religion. London: Heinemann.

Mead, G. (1934) Mind, Self and society. Chicago: Chicago Press.

OKpe, O. and Ada, O (2007) The middle Belt in the shadow of Nigeria. Makurdi: Oracle Business Ltd.

Otite, O. and Isaac, O. (1999) Community Conflicts in Nigeria. Ibadan: Spectrum Books

Weber, M. (1958) The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. New York Charles Scribner Ltd.

**Please Note:** Your success in the course depends largely on your class attendance, reading and understanding of Lecture notes and other materials given by the Course Lecturer as well as further readings based on the course outline. You must participate in the mode of assessment. Wishing you all the very best.