

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Course Number: SOCI 477

or Degree Plan(s):

The Department of Communication and Sociology would like to reopen a course, SOCI 477 (Sociology of Religion). This course was mistakenly closed when the department closed a large number of courses last year. As a Christian university, it is important that we add this course back to our sociology offerings..

	Campus-Level Academic Review ¹	Chair	Assoc. Chair	Asst. Dir.	Dir.	Provost
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹					
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan					
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ^{2 3}	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Department/School(s)



3-16-2026

Chair Signature

Date

Chair/Program Director Signature

Date

College Academic Council(s)

Dana Kennamer

Dana Kennamer (Mar 24, 2026 16:42:26 CDT)

03/24/2026

Chair Signature

Date

Chair Signature

Date

Dean(s)

Dana Kennamer

Dana Kennamer (Mar 24, 2026 16:42:26 CDT)

03/24/2026

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature

Date

**Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate**

Signature

Date

Provost

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

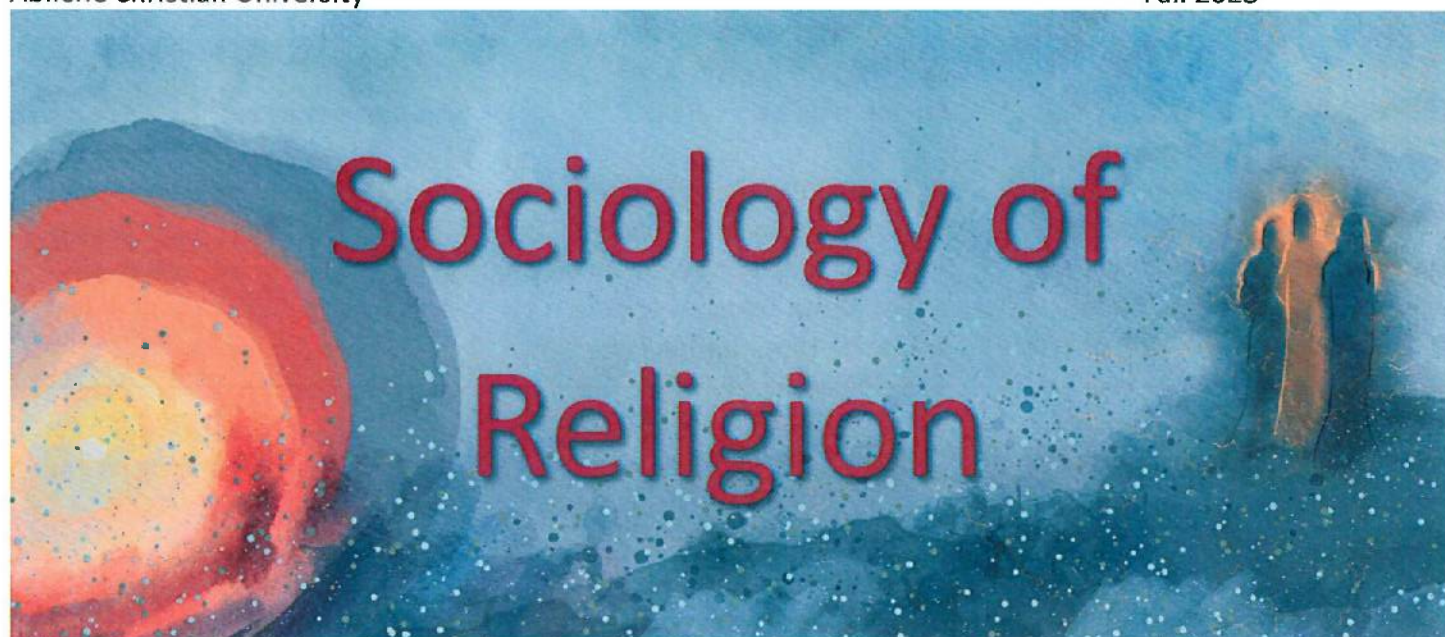
Signature

Date

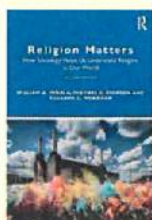
President

Signature

Date

**Sociology 477.01****TIME & LOCATION**

TR 1:30 to 2:50 PM
SHB 216

REQUIRED BOOK**Religion Matters**

By William A. Mirola;
Michael O. Emerson;
Susanne C Monahan
ISBN:
9781032021454

PROFESSOR INFO

Suzie Macaluso, PhD
Office: Sherrod 129
Email: Suzie.Macaluso@acu.edu
Phone: 325-674-2799

Student Hours:

Wednesday 9-11 am, 1-3 pm
Thursday 9:30 - 11:00 am
or by appointment

Mission of ACU

The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

Mission of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences provides transformative education across the liberal arts and social sciences, all through the lens of a distinctly Christian worldview.

Catalog Description

Explores social scientific efforts to study and analyze religion, social origins and influence of religion, religion's influence on society, and contemporary social forces impacting on religion's trends and the future of religion. Emphasis is placed on U.S. religions

Course Prerequisites

None

Class Format

This course will be conducted on a lecture/discussion format.

Course Goals

1. Understand the historical development of the sociology of religion and its modern developments

2. Understand the main theoretical perspectives in sociology as applied to the sociology of religion

3. Develop the ability to think about and understand religion in social context by using the sociological imagination

4. Evaluate how the sociological perspective can be used to explain current levels of religiosity and expressions of religion in the U.S.

Course Requirements

This course consists of daily readings, lecture attendance and participation, written assignments and response projects.

I. Daily Reading

The course schedule on Canvas will provides an overview of the required reading for this course. It is very important that you read the chapters prior to class. By reading the book and participating in class discussion you will get a much richer course experience.

II. Lecture**Attendance/Participation**

Class participation is comprised of two components: attendance and discussion. It is imperative that you arrive to class on time each day prepared to work and discuss. Read the course material prior to coming to class so that you can participate fully in discussions. PowerPoint slides will be posted on Canvas prior to the start of each class. While having the slides is not a substitute for taking notes or attending class they will help you focus on what I say in class rather than worrying about copying down the notes on the screen.

*Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor, are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person.

III. Participant Observation**(Required for all grade bundles)**

You will need to attend religious services at a local church, synagogue, mosque, or temple. You **may not** choose to observe a religious tradition that you were raised in or that you are very familiar with. You will write a three-page paper describing the experience and your observations.

You will find specific instructions for the paper on Canvas.

IV. Sociological Imagination Paper
(Required for all grade bundles)

You will write a paper in which you analyze your religious beliefs, whatever that may be, using your sociological imagination. Full instructions can be found on Canvas.

V. Annotated Bibliography
(Required for all grade bundles)

You will choose a topic in the sociology of religion and you will search for academic, peer-reviewed articles on that topic, provide the proper citations for the articles, and a 4-5 sentence summary of each article that highlights the findings. This assignment will be due in three phases. In phase 1 you will submit your citations for approval. In phase 2 you will submit a complete rough draft. Phase 3 will be a final draft of your annotated bibliography. Your annotated bibliography should include 20 sources for an A, 18 sources for a B, 16 sources for a C, 14 sources for a D.

VI. Reading Response Projects
(4 for an A, 3 for a B, 2 for a C, 1 for a D)

There are 5 different response projects that you can choose from. Complete details on each of these projects are posted on Canvas.

1. Get to know a religion project
2. Interview project
3. ARDA project
4. Religion in the news
5. Research Presentation

GRADING

Adult-learning theory will be used to evaluate your performance in this class. Adult-learning theory tells us that adults learn better in a safe, flexible, and challenging environment. In order to provide an optimal environment for learning you will have a choice about which grade you will pursue in this course depending on your personal learning objectives.

Each grade is associated with a set of required assignments that you must complete in order to earn that grade. All assignments except tests will be graded as complete or incomplete. Assignment specifications are posted on Canvas. Only assignments completed by the deadline will count toward your final grade.

Research has shown that this kind of grading system provides a safe, flexible, and more rigorous learning environment than traditional points-based systems.

Each student will be given 3 tokens at the start of the semester. Each token may be used to reattempt one assignment that did not receive a satisfactory grade. A token may also be used to excuse one absence.

Grade Bundles

	A complete mastery of the four learning objectives	B above average mastery of the four learning objectives	C average mastery of the four learning objectives	D below average mastery of the four learning objectives
Engagement & Attendance	Maximum of 3 unexcused absences	Maximum of 4 unexcused absences	Maximum of 5 unexcused absences	Maximum of 6 unexcused absences
Participant Observation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sociological Imagination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annotated Bibliography	20 Sources	18 Sources	16 Sources	14 Sources
Reading Response Projects	4	3	2	1

Q&A Course Policies

What's the best way to contact the professor?

The best way to get in touch with Dr. Mac is either by sending an email (Suzie.Macaluso@acu.edu) or by stopping by her office in Sherrod 129. Please keep in mind that Dr. Mac will check email during the business day and may take 24-48 hours to get back to you. If you have an urgent matter please call the main number for the Pruett Gerontology Center, 325-674-2350, and the office manager will make sure that Dr. Mac gets the message.

I missed class. What should I do?

If you are sick or will miss class for another reason, please notify the instructor to make arrangements for missed work.

If you are a student athlete or have an official, University related, absence you must notify the instructor prior to missing class with written documentation signed by your coach/instructor/advisor. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for making up missed assignments.

You should try your best to NEVER miss class on a test day but if you are absent on a test day you will need to contact Dr. Mac before test time and schedule a time for an alternate exam.

Can I use my phone or laptop in class?

You may use a notetaking device in class, a computer, tablet, or potentially a phone. However, if I find that devices are being used for things other than taking notes or looking things up that pertain to class then the right to use devices may be forfeited.

What if I need an accommodation because of a disability?

Abilene Christian University and the Department of Communication and Sociology comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with a disability. If you have an established disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and would like to request accommodation, please see me as soon as possible. You may also contact ACU's Alpha Academic Services concerning disability accommodations at: (325) 674-2667.

Can I turn the paper in late or take a make-up test?

Work will be considered late if it is not submitted to Canvas or in class by the due date and time. All assignments that are submitted late will be worth half credit up until a week after the due date. If an assignment is turned in past a week late it will not be counted towards the final grade.

Make-up tests are only allowed in extraordinary cases. You should make every effort to attend class on test days but if you are not able to attend you will need to communicate that with the instructor.

What is the course policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty?

Academic integrity is defined as academic work completed as assigned for each class by the individual or group responsible for the work. Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating involve the intention to deceive, mislead, or misrepresent and therefore, are a form of lying. Such actions are contrary to behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) Failing to give credit to sources used in a work in an attempt to present the work as one's own, 2) Submitting papers or projects obtained from another source (e.g., research service or club paper file) as one's own, 3) Falsifying information orally or in writing, and 4) Receiving, giving, or using unauthorized aid on an examination or quiz. Academic misconduct may result in, but is not limited to, a zero on the assignment and/or an F in the course. Additionally, the department chair, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean of Student Life will be notified. See the full university policy, including how to appeal a decision, by following this link: <http://www.acu.edu/academics/provost/policies/index.html>.

Students who use AI-generated writing for any portion of their written assignments will be deemed in violation of the academic integrity expectations for this course. Violations can include a failing grade for the course and restrictions from further class attendance. All suspected incidents of academic dishonesty will also be referred to the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, Social Science, and Education for further review of the student's status with the University, which may include being separated from the University.

What do I do if I think my grade is incorrect?

There are two types of grade challenges, "administrative" and "substantive." Administrative grade challenges occur when there is a discrepancy between the grade written on the assignment and the grade posted on Canvas. Administrative grade challenges will be handled by the instructor immediately. It is important for the student to bring grade discrepancies to the instructor's attention as soon as possible.

Substantive grade challenges are those in which the student does not agree with the grade received on an assignment. If you are unhappy with a grade that you received and you feel that it is unfair then you may submit a grade challenge to the instructor. All grade challenges must be submitted by the

class session after receiving the graded assignment. Grade challenges must be typed and must state specifically how the student believes the submitted work meets the requirements of the assignment. The student must specify where in the work the requirement was met. The original work must be turned in with the grade challenge. No other form of grade challenge will be accepted.

How will the professor communicate with me?

I will communicate any changes to the syllabus through e-mail. I will also post all changes to this courses Canvas website. Please be sure to check your e-mail and mark it as unread if you are unable to address it immediately.

Where do I go to find my grade for the course?

I will post grades on Canvas in a timely manner and will pass back all written work in class.

Class Climate and Conduct

One of the hallmarks of good sociology is the ability to embrace and even welcome different points of view. Rather than immediately voicing objections, ridiculing, or making jokes with your neighbor about viewpoints that differ from yours, respect that all of your classmates bring their particular social histories to class. Carefully listening to and seeking out multiple perspectives on an issue allows us to engage in critical thinking. Many of the issues we talk about in class are controversial and may spark intense emotional reactions from some people. As such, we need to create and maintain a safe, open, and respectful environment for the sharing of divergent viewpoints.

By enrolling and staying in this class, you are acknowledging the importance of and agreeing to work within this respectful class climate and class conduct rule.

Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the topics that will be covered this session. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated orally in class and in writing on Canvas.

Dates:	Day	Topic	Reading	What's Due
Aug 29	T	Introductions	Ch 1	-
31	R	Why Sociology of Religion	Ch 1	-
Sep 5	T	Beliefs & Practices	Ch 2	-
7	R		Ch 2	Soc Image
12	T	Varieties of Religious Worship	Ch 3	-
14	R		Ch 3	Bib 1
19	T	Cohesion & Conflict in Religion	Ch 4	-
21	R		Ch 4	-
26	T	Secularization or Vitality	Ch 5	-
28	R		Ch 5	-
Oct 3	T	Religious Polarization	Ch 6	Proj 1
5	R		Ch 6	-
10	T	Religion & Social Change	Ch 7	-
12	R		Ch 7	Proj 2
17	T	Religion & Gender	Ch 8	-
19	R		Ch 8	-

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24	T	Religion & Sexuality	Ch 9	Proj 3
26	R		Ch 9	-
31	T	Religion & Social Class	Ch 10	-
2	R		Ch 10	Proj 4
7	T	Religion & Race Independent Work Day – No Class	Ch 11	-
9	R		-	-
14	T	Religion & Immigration	Ch 12	-
16	R		Ch 12	Bib 2
21	T	Independent Work Day – No Class Thanksgiving Break – No Class		-
23	R			-
28	T	Religion & Climate Change	Ch 13	Part Obs.
30	R		Ch 13	-
5	T	Religion & Doing Good	Ch 14	-
7	R		Ch 14	Bib Final
11	M	Dead Day		Proj 5
13	W	Final Exam Period		All Tokens Used

