

Psychology 411
Professor Moore

Spring 2004

Syllabus
Psychology of Religion

This course examines religions and religious phenomena from the point of view of empirical psychology. This is a Level III (Advanced) Psychology course that assumes some sophisticated background in either psychology or religious studies.

Course goals:

1. To learn about some of the ways in which religious beliefs and practices influence psychological functioning, and the ways in which psychological functioning influences religious beliefs and practices.
2. To improve your written communication skills. This is a writing-intensive course. One focus of the writing assignments will be on constructing arguments.
3. To improve your oral communication skills.
4. To improve your library and electronic research skills as a citizen-scholar; to learn to distinguish among and critically evaluate different sources of information.

Required readings will be in a reading packet to be purchased from StudentPrint, Memorial Union. You will also locate some research articles yourself for presentation in class.

Grading

Class attendance and participation is required. Course grades will be based on completing the short written assignments and oral presentations (40%), a midterm paper (20%) and on a term paper (40%) completed by the end of the semester. Late assignments will be penalized. Unexcused late short assignments will be given a maximum of half credit. Late major assignments will be penalized 10%.

The term paper will be on a topic chosen by the student, but must be relevant to the course and must be approved by me. An oral term paper presentation is required. The term paper presentations will allow the whole class to share the new knowledge created through the term paper assignment. The term paper presentations are usually very interesting for the whole class.

Course Procedures

The course will be a seminar type of class in which we discuss the readings and analyze their implications. I will give present brief overviews of each area that we cover to give the class a broader view than is provided by the readings alone, but I will not lecture. Occasionally each of you will be responsible for brief oral summaries of and commentaries on original research articles that are pertinent to the topic we are covering.

Course Content and Calendar

We will develop the course calendar as we proceed. This will allow us to spend more or less time on different topics depending on the interests of the class. We will cover topics 1-5 in the order listed below. After that, the class will help decide the direction and emphasis.

1. What is religion?

Crawford, R. (2002). *What is Religion?* Ch. 1: Can religion be defined? New York: Routledge.

Optional: Ch 2: How is religion studied?

Zinnbauer, B. J., Pargament, K. I. & Scott, A. G. (1999). The emerging meanings of religiousness and spirituality: Problems and prospects. *Journal of Personality*, 67(6), 889-919.

2. How do social scientists measure religiousness – a grab-bag of examples

Gorsuch, R. (1984). Measurement: The boon and bane of investigating religion. *American Psychologist*, 39(3), 228-236.

Feagin, J. R. (1964). Prejudice and religious types: A focused study of Southern fundamentalists. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 4, 3-13.

Watson, P. J. et al. (1986). Religiosity and social desirability. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 25(2), 215-232.

Tarakeshwar, N. et al. (2003). Measures of Hindu pathways: Development and preliminary evidence of reliability and validity. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 9(4), 316-332.

Pena, M. & Frehill, L. M. (1998). Latina religious practice: Analyzing cultural dimensions in measures of religiosity. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37(4), 620-635.

Pargament, K. et al. (1988). Religion and the problem-solving process: Three styles of coping. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 27(1), 90-104.

Vandecreek, L. & Nye, C. (1993). Testing the death transcendence scale. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32(3), 279-283.

Seidlitz, L. et al. (2002). Development of the spiritual transcendence index. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(3), 439-453.

3. Prejudice and discrimination

Batson, C. D., Naifeh, S. J. & Pate, S. (1978). Social desirability, religious orientation, and racial prejudice. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 17, 31-41.

Griffin, Gorsuch, R. W. & Davis. (1987). A cross-cultural investigation of religious orientation, social norms, and prejudice. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 26, 358-365.

Hunsberger, -Bruce; Owusu, -Vida; Duck, -Robert. (1999). Religion and prejudice in Ghana and Canada: Religious fundamentalism, right-wing authoritarianism and attitudes toward homosexuals and women. *International-Journal-for-the-Psychology-of-Religion*, 9(3): 181-194.

Hunsberger, -Bruce. (1995). Religion and prejudice: The role of religious fundamentalism, quest, and right-wing authoritarianism. *Journal-of-Social-Issues*, 51(2): 113-129.

- Laythe, B. et al. (2001). Predicting prejudice from religious fundamentalism and right-wing authoritarianism: A multiple-regression approach. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(1), 1-10.
- Reimer, S. & Park, J.Z. (2001). Tolerant (In)civility? A longitudinal analysis of white conservative protestants' willingness to grant civil liberties. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4), 735-745. (online)
- Laythe, B. et al. (2002). Religious fundamentalism as a predictor of prejudice: A two-component model. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(4), 623-635. (online)
- Karpov, V. (2002). Religiosity and tolerance in the United States and Poland. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 267-288. (online)
- Donahue, M. J. (1985). Intrinsic and extrinsic religiousness: Review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 48, 400-419.

4. Compassion, Helping and Prosocial Behavior.

- Batson, C. D. (1976). Religion as prosocial: Agent or double agent? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 15, 29-45.
- Batson, C. D., Oleson, K. C., Weeks, J. L., et al. (1989). Religious prosocial motivation: Is it altruistic or egoistic? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 57, 873-884.
- Batson, C-Daniel; Floyd, Randy-B; Meyer, Julie-M; Winner, Alana-L. (1999). "And who is my neighbor?" Intrinsic religion as a source of universal compassion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 38(4): 445-457. (not in reading packet – available on line)
- Batson, C. D. et al. (2001). "And who is my neighbor?" II: Quest religion as a source of universal compassion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(1), 39-50.
- Dillon, M. et al. (2003). Is spirituality detrimental to generativity? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(3), 427-442. (online)
- Cohen, A. B. & Rozin, P. (2001). Religion and the morality of mentality. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 81(4), 697-710. (online)

5. Family violence and religiousness

- Cunradi, C. B. et al. (2002). Religious affiliation, denominational homogamy, and intimate partner violence among U.S. Couples. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(1), 139-151.
- Brinkerhoff, Merlin-B; Grandin, Elaine; Lupri, Eugen. (1992). Religious involvement and spousal violence: The Canadian case. *Journal-for-the-Scientific-Study-of-Religion*, 31(1), 15-31. (available online)
- Brutz, Judith-L; Allen, Craig-M. (1986). Religious commitment, peace activism, and marital violence in Quaker families. *Journal-of-Marriage-and-the-Family*, 48(3): 491-502.
- Bottoms et al. (1995). In the name of God: A profile of religion-related child abuse. *Journal of Social Issues*, 51(2), 85-111.

6. Religiously motivated violence and terrorism

- Torok, T. J. et al. (1997). A large community outbreak of salmonellosis caused by intentional contamination of restaurant salad bars. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 278(5), 389-395.
- Juergensmeyer, M. (1998). Christian violence in America. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 558, 88-100.
- Dobratz, B. A. (2001). The role of religion in the collective identity of the white racialist movement. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(2), 287-302.
- (I have a couple of videos for this topic that we might view in class)

7. Sexuality, Sexual Orientation, and Reproduction

- Russo, N.F. & Dabul, A. J. (1997). The relationship of abortion to well-being: Do race and religion make a difference? *Professional psychology: Research and practice*, 28(1), 23-31. (online)
- Pearce, L. D. (2002). The influence of early life course religious exposure on young adults' dispositions toward childbearing. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 325-340. (online)
- Iyer, S. (2002) Religion and the decision to use contraception in India. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(4), 711-722. (available online)
- Yip, A. K. (2002). The persistence of faith among nonheterosexual Christians: Evidence for the neosecularization thesis of religious transformation. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 199-212. (available online)
- Sherkat, D. E. (2002). Sexuality and religious commitment in the United States: An empirical examination. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 313-323. (online)
- Rowatt, W. C. & Schmitt, D. P. (2003). Associations between religious orientation and varieties of sexual experience. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(3), 455-465.
- Al Bustan, M.A. et al. (1995). Maternal sexuality during pregnancy and after childbirth in Kuwaiti women. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 24(2), 207-215. (available online)

8 Health, Well-being, Religious Identity, Religiousness and Religious Practices

- Dull, V. T. & Skokan, L. A. (1995). A cognitive model of religion's influence on health. *Journal of Social Issues*, 51(2), 49-54.
- Pargament, K. I, Koenig, H. G., Tarakeshwar, N. & Hahn, J. (2001). Religious struggle as a predictor of mortality among medically ill elderly patients: A two-year longitudinal study. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 161(15):1881-1885. (not in reading packet – access on line)
- Alexander, C. N. et al. (1989). Transcendental medication, mindfulness, and longevity: An experimental study with the elderly. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 57(6), 950-964.
- Timio, M. et al. (1988). Age and blood pressure changes: A 20-year follow-up study of nuns in a secluded order. *Hypertension*, 12(4), 457-461.
- Fazel, M. K. & Young, D. M. (1988). Life quality of Tibetans and Hindus: A function of religion.

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 27(2), 229-242. (online)

9. Conversion

- Kose, A. & Loewenthal, K. M. (2002). Conversion motifs among British converts to Islam. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 10(2), 101-110.
- Paloutzian, -Raymond-F; Richardson, -James-T; Rambo, -Lewis-R. (1999). Religious conversion and personality change. *Journal-of-Personality*, 67(6): 1047-1079.

10. "New" Religious Groups, "Cults", and marginalized religious groups

- Richardson, J. T. (1995). Clinical and personality assessment of participants in new religions. *International-Journal-for-the-Psychology-of-Religion*, 5(3): 145-170.
- Hutch, R. A. (1995). "Before I'd be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave, and go home to my lord and be free". *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 5(3), 171-176.
- Latkin, C. A. (1995). New directions in applying psychological theory to the study of new religions. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 5(3), 177-180.
- Richardson, J. T. (1995). Two steps forward, one back: Psychiatry, psychology, and the new religions. *International-Journal-for-the-Psychology-of-Religion*, 5(3): 181-185.
- Bartkowski, J. P. (1998). Claims-making and typifications of voodoo as a deviant religion: Hex, lies and videotape. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37(4), 559-579. (online)
- Palmer, S. J. (1993). Women's "cocoon work" in new religious movements: Sexual experimentation and feminine rites of passage. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 32(4), 343-355. (online)

11. Religiousness, Mental Health and Coping

a) Viewpoints and some findings

- Richardson, J. T. (1993). Religiosity as deviance: Negative religious bias in and misuse of the DSM-III. *Deviant-Behavior*, 14(1): 1-21.
- Bergin, A. E. (1991). Values and religious issues in psychotherapy and mental health. *American Psychologist*, 46(4), 394-403.
- Levin, J. S. & Taylor, R. J. (1998). Panel analyses of religious involvement and well-being in African Americans: contemporaneous vs. longitudinal effects. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37(4), 695-709.
- Ghorbani, N. (2002). Muslim-Christian religious orientation scales: Distinctions, correlations, and cross-cultural analysis in Iran and the U.S. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 12(2), 69-91. (online)

b) Religious Coping

- Pargament, K. I., Ishler, E., Dubow, P. et al. (1994). Methods of religious coping with the Gulf War. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 33(4), 347-361.
- Ferraro, K. F. & Kelley-Moore, J. A. (2001). Religious consolations among men and women: Do

health problems spur seeking? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, , 220-234. (Not in the reading packet – available on line)

Smith, T. B. (2003). Religiousness and depression: Evidence for and main effect and the moderating influence of stressful life events. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(4), 614-636. (available online)

10. Psychotherapy & Religiousness

Bergin,-Allen-E. (1980). Psychotherapy and religious values. *Journal-of-Consulting-and-Clinical-Psychology*. 48(1): 95-105.

Ellis, A. (1980) Psychotherapy and atheistic values: A response to A. E. Bergin's "Psychotherapy and religious values". *Journal-of-Consulting-and-Clinical-Psychology*, 48(5), 635-639.

Bergin,-Allen-E. (1980). Religious and humanistic values: A reply to Ellis and Walls. *Journal-of-Consulting-and-Clinical-Psychology*, 48(5): 642-645.

Bergin, A. E. (1991). Values and religious issues in psychotherapy and mental health. *American Psychologist*, 46(4), 394-403. (online)

Kilbourne,-Brock-K; Richardson,-James-T. (1984). Psychotherapy and new religions in a pluralistic society. *American-Psychologist*, 39(3): 237-251. (online)

11. Religion and Moral Thinking

Stark R. (2001). Gods, Rituals, and the Moral Order. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4), 619-636. (not in packet – available on line).

Richards, P. S. & Davison, M.L. (1992). Religious bias in moral development research: A psychometric investigation. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 31(4), 467-485. (online)

Nucci, L. & Turiel, E. (1993). God's word, religious rules, and their relation to Christian and Jewish children's concepts of morality. *Child Development*, 64, 1475-1491. (online in Academic Search Elite)

Ernsberger, D. J. & Manaster, G. J. (1981). Moral development, intrinsic/extrinsic religious orientation and denominational teachings. *Genetic Psychology Monographs*, 104, 23-41.

12. Mystical, Religious and Paranormal Experience or beliefs

Hood Jr. R.W.; Ghorbani N.; Watson P.J.; Ghramaleki A.F.; Bing M.N.; Davison H.K.; Morris R.J.; Williamson W.P. (2001). Dimensions of the Mysticism Scale: Confirming the Three-Factor Structure in the United States and Iran. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4), 691-705. (not in the reading packet – access on line)

Orenstein, A. (2002) Religion and paranormal belief. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 41(2), 301-311. (online)

McKinnon, A. M. (2003). The religious, the paranormal, and church attendance: A response to Orenstein. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(2), 299-303. (online)

Hood, R. W. et al. (2000). Changing views of serpent handling: A quasi-experimental study. *Journal*

for the Scientific Study of Religion, 39(3), 287-296. (online)

Williamson, W. P. et al. (2000). A phenomenological analysis of anointing among religious serpent handlers. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 10(4), 221-240.

13. Forgiveness

McCullough, M. E. & Worthington, E. L. (1999). Religion and the forgiving personality. *Journal of Personality*, 67(6), 1141-1164.

Coyle, C. T. & Enright, R. D. (1997). Forgiveness intervention with postabortion men. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 65(6), 1042-1046. (on line)

Krause, N. & Ellison, C. G. (2003). Forgiveness by God, forgiveness of others, and psychological well-being in late life. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 42(1), 77-93. (online)

Assignments

1. Writing assignment #1 (in class). Write a definition of religion that would be useful in the psychological study of religion.
2. Oral presentation assignment #1. Select a psychological measure of religiousness. Prepare a 10 minute class presentation that includes a handout of the verbatim questionnaire items with the scoring key and the journal reference. In your presentation briefly address some of the following issues: a) summarize the purpose and uses of the questionnaire (why was this questionnaire developed, with what religious groups can it be used, etc.), b) what assumptions about religion or religiousness seem to be behind the measure, c) does the questionnaire measure functional or substantive aspects of religion, or both, d) what is the face validity of the questionnaire (do the items seem to measure what they are intended to measure). Also, comment on something about the research paper describing the measure of the religiousness that you did not understand completely. This assignment will be done with a partner.
3. Writing assignment #2: Measurement of religiousness. **Write a 50 word assignment** that includes a statement of the purpose of the measure of religiousness, and a summary of its strengths and weaknesses. In choosing strengths and weaknesses to include think about issues such as reliability, face validity, predictive validity, construct validity, and the assumptions about religiousness that are implicit in the measure.
4. Oral presentation assignment #2: Choose or find an original research article on prejudice and religion, compassion/helping and religion, or family violence, substance use, crime and religion. Working with a partner you will give a presentation of the article in class. The presentation should give us a good summary of the article, and a commentary on it. Make sure you relate the issues raised in the article to the key issues about prejudice, compassion/helping, or family violence/substance use/crime and religiousness that we identified in class. (We will have 3 presentations on each of the topics.). Your team's presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes.
5. (Graded Midterm) Writing assignment #3. Choose one of the following options and write a 3 page essay that analyzes the issue. A) Batson argues that religious people help others not really for the sake of doing the right thing, but for other reasons such as priding oneself in being good, following religious rules of conduct, etc. An alternative point of view is that because one function of religions is to promote prosocial actions, then the motivation of the actor doesn't matter, but the action does.

Evaluate these viewpoints and how they help us to understand religiousness. B) When, how and why can being religious lead to racial, ethnic, or outgroup prejudice? What are the key points of scientific dispute, and how could they be resolved with research? C) When, how and why is being religious related to aspects of personal conduct such as family violence, substance abuse, or crime? What are the key points of scientific dispute and how might they be resolved with research? D) Propose your own essay topic for the midterm (in order to carry out this option, you must discuss your essay topic with me and receive my approval at least one week before the due date of the assignment).

6. Oral presentation assignment #3: We will discuss the options below as potential topics for in-depth class discussion, as well as options generated by the class, and decide which to carry out. Some of the options may require readings that are not in the reading packet. A) Hold a structured debate on a whether or not psychology is as a field is biased against religions. B) Is there such a thing as “good” and “bad” religion? Can psychological research help us decide what religions or religious practices are good for people, and what religions and religious practices might be bad for people? C) Do so-called ‘cults’ use untoward or coercive practices in recruiting members? To what extent can members of any religious group be considered to have lost their ability to make rational decisions because of either the social influence of the religious group or the nature of religious belief? D) When does the right for freedom of religion conflict with public safety and well-being?

7. Writing assignment #4. (followup to oral presentation #3): A 50 word assignment that you did not present in class (but that other students did present).

8. Oral presentation assignment #4. (Will depend on topics selected by the class.)

9. Writing assignment #5. (followup to oral presentation #4). A 50 word assignment on a topic that you did not present in class.

Term Paper Assignments

Because the term paper is a major part of your grade, I have designed a series of assignments to help you develop and refine your term paper progressively.

Term Paper Assignment #1. Submit your topic. Write at least a sentence or two about a topic on which you would like to write your paper. Some students have several ideas and are undecided about which one to pursue. It is fine to give a few different ideas. I will give you feedback that might help you find some direction.

Term Paper Assignment #2. Submit a paragraph on your term paper topic, and a bibliography of at least a few references. The paragraph should include a thesis statement describing the main theme of your paper. Of course, as you develop the paper it is possible that the thesis will evolve. Also, write a reflective paragraph that explains to me what barriers you have encountered in working on your topic, and how you feel about your progress. Where are you stuck or confused?

Term Paper Assignment #3. Submit a 2-3 page section of your term paper and a bibliography with more than you had for Assignment #2. The section can be: a) the introduction, describing the thesis and laying out the background for the rest of your paper, b) a summary and critique of an

empirical research paper that will be incorporated in your term paper, c) a one page abstract or summary of your entire paper, plus an outline of the paper and an annotated bibliography (a bibliography with a bout two sentences summarizing each item in the list). As #2, write a reflective paragraph that tells me where you are encountering problems. At this point, I hope you are dealing with different problems such as how to discuss conflicting research findings, or how to best organize your paper to establish a logical progression of the ideas.

Term Paper Assignment #4. Draft and peer feedback. You will turn in a draft of your entire paper.

Each student will provide feedback to another student on the term paper draft. I will give you further information on the peer feedback exercise later. My classes in the past have found it very helpful.

Final Paper Due: The final term paper is due on the scheduled date of the final exam in the Timetable. Term paper presentations will occur during the last 2 1/2 weeks of classes.