

SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION



- What are some of the social appeals of religious beliefs?
- How does religion shape public life?
- How do shared religious and moral worldviews differ from other types of group identities?

Religion occupied a central role in classical sociology. It continues to be a fascinating area for sociological theory and research and, as the famous sociologist and theologian Peter L. Berger has observed, our time is still “an age of exuberant religiosity, much of it in the form of passionate movements with global outreach.”

In this course, students will read both classical and contemporary sociological theories of religion that will provide a general framework for understanding not only today’s religious landscape but also general features of religious behavior and organizations, past, present, and future.

More broadly, the course explores the human side of religion and the factors that lead to belief, conversion, commitment, conflict, and change in the religious sphere.

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