COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2027	**COURSE NO:** SOC 310	
INSTRUCTOR:	**COURSE TITLE:** Religion, Power, and Society	
OFFICE: **LOCAL:** **E-MAIL:** @capilanou.ca	**SECTION NO(S):**	**CREDITS:** 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

COURSE FORMAT
Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through online or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes a 2-week final exam period.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
This course examines religion as sociological phenomena, exploring how power, history, and social location shape belief, practice, and community. Drawing on the sociological imagination, students will engage with cases ranging from settler colonialism and Indigenous spiritualities to mystical traditions, alternative spiritualities, and contemporary debates over secularism and laïcité. The course offers a critically grounded understanding of religion as a living social force in local and global contexts.

COURSE NOTE
SOC 310 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES*

Dawson, L. L., & Thiessen, J. (2014). *The sociology of religion: A Canadian perspective.* Oxford University Press.

Beaman, L. G. (Ed.). (2012). *Religion and Canadian society: Contexts, identities, and strategies* (2nd ed.). Canadian Scholars' Press.

*Sample texts

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Analyze how class, race, gender, and migration status shape religious belief, practice, and community.
- Critically assess the sociological dimensions of religion using foundational frameworks including those of Durkheim, Weber, and Marx.
- Identify how structures of power and inequality, particularly settler colonialism, patriarchy, and capitalism, have shaped religious and spiritual life.
- Explain how diverse historical and contemporary contexts, including Indigenous spiritualities, mystical traditions, and alternative religiosities, challenge dominant understandings of religion.
- Apply the sociological imagination to interpret religious phenomena in local and global contexts.

Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Analyze the impact of colonialism and racism on Indigenous peoples.
- Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.

COURSE CONTENT

Week/Date	Topic and *Assignments*
Week 1	Introduction: What Is Religion? What Is Sociology? (Durkheim, sacred/profane, social construction)
Week 2	Religion, Community, and Authority: Abrahamic Traditions (Weber, institutions, legitimacy, orthodoxy)
Week 3	Religion, Social Order, and Everyday Life: Dharmic Traditions (stratification, colonialism, diaspora)
Week 4	Alternative Spiritualities, Paganisms, and Re-Enchantment (subculture, deviance, secularization critique)
Week 5	Mysticism, Lived Religion, and Interpretation (Sufism, Kabbalah, heterodoxy, symbolic interactionism)
Week 6	Religion, Colonialism, and Political Power (Marx, ideology, nationalism, residential schools)
Week 7	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8	Religion and Gender (feminist sociology, intersectionality, queer and Two-Spirit perspectives)
Week 9	Religion, Mental Health, and Community (ritual, belonging, healing, medicalization)
Week 10	Religion and Class (Marx, Weber, liberation theology, capitalism, inequality)

Week 11	Religion, Race, Ethnicity, and Globalization (diaspora, racialization, globalization)
Week 12	Laïcité, Multiculturalism, and Canadian Secularism (Bill 21, accommodation, public religion, liberal neutrality)
Week 13	Review Week
Weeks 14-15	Final Exam Period: Final Exam

EVALUATION PROFILE

Assessments	**Percent**
Quiz	0–20%
Discussions/posts	0–20%
Midterm Exam	15–25%
Final Exam	25–35%
Reflections	0–20%
Total	**100%**

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.
*** Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any errors. English is the only language that should be used in the assignments, including in-class group discussion activities.

Electronic Devices
Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking and course-related research only.

Online Communication
Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Tools for Success
Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: https://www.capilanou.ca/student-services/

Capilano University Security: download the CapU Safe Alert App

Policy Statement (S2009-06)
Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)
Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information:
https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

> Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence Procedure (found on Policy page https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.