

IDEAL PROGRAM COURSE SYLLABUS ONLINE

Dear Student,

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course expectations and activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in our courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student's preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount of time outside the classroom to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend a minimum of ten-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:

1. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
3. **If you do not participate during the first week of the course, you will be dropped one letter grade. If a student doesn't participate for two or more weeks a grade of "F" will be entered for a final grade.**
4. Login to your course a minimum of three times per week.
5. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
6. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
7. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at ubonline@bridgeport.edu.

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with and adhere to the standards set forth in the policies on cheating and plagiarism as defined in Chapters 2 and 5 of the Key to UB <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2623.asp> or the appropriate graduate program handbook.

E-mail correspondence

It is imperative that you check your UB e-mail on a regular basis. All written correspondence, to include IDEAL and the University will be sent to you through his e-mail. **The University can no longer correspond to your personal e-mail account(s).**

Have questions about taking an online course? Go to:

"Instructions for Taking a UB Online Course"

[<http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/online/yourfirstcourse.aspx>]

The IDEAL Program

Religion & Society (WREL / SOC 348)

IDEAL Program

Summer 2013

May 6 – June 29, 2013

Location: Online course

Instructor: Claude Perrottet, Ph.D.

Email: claudio@bridgeport.edu or cperrottet@hotmail.com

Phone : 203-576 4853

Course description:

A sociological and anthropological analysis of religion as a universal social institution, with emphasis upon theories of the origins of religion, relationships of religion to other social institutions, study of selected Western and non-Western religions in their socio-cultural contexts, religion as a source of social equilibrium and conflict, and types of religious movements.

Expected Outcome:

Upon completion of this course, it is hoped and expected that you will have:

1. Become acquainted with the multiple ways in which the religious phenomenon manifests itself in various regions and cultures.
2. Gained basic insights into the meaning and usefulness of the sociology of religion, as well as its limitations and alternatives.
3. Acquired a basic knowledge and understanding of some of the main theories prevalent in that discipline, and learned to perceive and evaluate the advantages, presuppositions and biases of these views.
4. Reached some tentative conclusions based on personal discovery, in particular on the issue of religion as the source of harmony / conflict in the contemporary world and the difficulties involved in creating a generally acceptable ethical worldview (global ethos).
 - ❖ It is *not* expected that you will have become a scholarly expert in this field.

Required textbook:

Gods in the Global Village: The World's Religions in Sociological Perspective

Author: **Lester R. Kurtz**

ISBN-13: 978- 978-1412991254

Third Edition, 2011.

Publisher: Sage Publications, Sociology for a New Century Series.

Optional textbook:

The Sociology of Religion

Author: **Thomas F. O’Dea and Janet Aviad**

Format: Paperback or Hardcover

ISBN: 0138210586 (paperback); 0138210667 (hardcover)

Edition: 2nd (1983)

Publisher: Prentice Hall

This 2nd textbook is a very short volume. It offers a systematic explanation of some core notions. Unlike the first textbook, this one is relatively old (because the author is deceased and there are no new editions). However, it ideally completes the 1st textbook, which is written from a world religions perspective. The 2nd book in particular is available for as little as 2 or 3 dollars if you go to discount websites (but be careful where you click: I have also seen it advertized for \$ 999.99 + shipping!).

If you do not acquire this second textbook, it is really not a tragedy. You will get by with my lecture notes. But it will be to your advantage if you get it.

Note: Other documents will be available online.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Requirements (course work):

General requirements for this course consist of attendance, preparedness, and initiative. Students are required to complete all readings, activities, and assignments each week throughout the course. This includes online discussion forums and website discussions. Completing the readings and assignments on time is crucial to your involvement in discussions. Each week you will need to go through every part of the weekly schedule, which will require that you do some of the following each week: read articles, chapters or lecture notes, participate in discussions, and write reflective essays. You are responsible for getting assignments in on time and catching up if you are offline for a few days.

Grading:

- Overall participation, including discussion on suggested themes and answering questions (25%).
- Two brief essays on topics to be announced (25%).
- Online exam (covering basic notions and issues introduced during the course (25%).
- Final research paper (case study) on religious conflict or the global ethos or another topic discussed during the course (after consultation with the instructor), using additional, relevant material (25%).

Schedule

Week 1 (May 6 – 12)

- Historical approaches to the theme of religion and society
- The sociology of religion as a sub-type of sociology – its historical role
- The functional theory and other approaches (Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber; recent approaches)

Reading: Kurtz, pp. 1-23; O’Dea, pp. 1-20 (optional – if available).

Week 2 (May 13 – 19)

- Overview of religious traditions – types, structures and attitudes to society
- Anatomy of a belief system

Reading: Kurtz, pp. 23-43
➤ *Reflection paper 1*

Week 3 (May 20 – 26)

- Religious institutions and rituals

Reading: Kurtz, Chapters 2, 3 (and 4 – optional)

Week 4 (May 27 – June 2)

- The religious ethos – taboo lines, politics, identity construction, and stratification
- Ethos and the global village – perspectives for a world ethos

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 5.
➤ *Reflection paper 2*

Week 5 (June 3 - 9)

- The challenges of modernism, secularism
- Multiculturalism

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 6; O’Dea, pp. 96-109 (optional)

Week 6 (June 10 – 16)

- Religious contribution to non-violence
- Religion's contribution to violence
- Historical and contemporary social conflicts of a religious nature

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 8.

➤ *Online exam*

Week 7 (June 17 - 23)

- State and Religion
- Religious institutions and the status quo
- Contemporary issues: gender roles, NRM (New Religious Movements), environmental issues

Reading: Kurtz, Chapter 7; O'Dea, pp. 56-64 (optional)

Week 8 (June 24 – 28)

- The double-pronged challenge: overcoming socio-religious conflict and setting up a global ethos.

➤ *Final paper due*

Cheating and Plagiarism:

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with and adhere to the standards set forth in the policies on cheating and plagiarism as defined in Chapters 2 and 5 of the Key to UB <http://www.bridgeport.edu/life/servicesforstudents/key.aspx> or the appropriate graduate program handbook.

[Turnitin](#) will be used to make sure that nothing improper happens.

Note:

Precise instructions and an evaluation rubric will be available online at the beginning of the course.

See the Weekly Agenda under **Modules** for specific details about procedures for each week. It is recommended that you print a copy of each week's agenda to use as a reference.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed and to make final decisions by using his own judgment.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality

An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

Attendance Policy

Course attendance, especially in an online course, is an integral part of the academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If you do not participate during the first week of the course, you will be dropped from the course. If you cannot participate in all the course activities you should consider dropping the course.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the following web page:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp>

Starting Fall 2012

- Drop a course after the start date.....\$30.00 per transaction
- Drop prior to the start date.....100% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the second week of the course.....75% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the third week of the course.....50% Tuition Refund
- Drop during/after the third week of the course.....0% Tuition Refund

****Please note students will not be automatically dropped for not participating during the first week. Lack of participation for one week will reduce the final grade by one letter grade. If you have to miss the first week of the online course, *you must contact your instructor* in writing before the first week. However, a grade reduction will apply.**

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the Academic Calendar to see the fees for a drop and the impact on tuition. The Academic Calendar can be found at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp>

Academic Dishonesty

We are committed to intellectual integrity in our academic pursuits; therefore, the IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory computer-programming course. He has co-workers who program in the same language as his final project. As the end of the term approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the project finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a disk with a complete program similar to the kind required for the course project. The student makes minor modifications to the program, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a religious studies course has never taken a humanities or history course, and is unsure about how to structure a research paper. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across a paper written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the document into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.

Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet as well as in the library. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn’t have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own classes; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site:

http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: <http://myub.bridgeport.edu/academics/academicrescenter/Pages/default.aspx> The Center is located in the Wahlstrom Library, Room 506. Hours of operation are Mondays –Thursday 9am – 6pm and Fridays 9am – 1pm. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. **Online Tutoring** is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNNet Account

Every registered student should obtain a UBNNet Account. The account allows you to access your grades, access library services, access online tutoring, access the computers in computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet> - Click on “New UBNNet Account” and follow the instructions.

The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your Bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other email account you use.

Following the activation of your UBNNet account (takes 24 hours), login at:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/email> and click on “forwards” at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online

The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. Information on WebAdvisor is password protected and requires you to use your UBNNet username and password. To access WebAdvisor, go to: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/webadvisor>

1. Login in with your UBNNet username and password.
2. Click on “Student Menu.”
3. Click on “My Grades.”

If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

You can access the library through the library’s website: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/library>.

Research tools available:

- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

To access the online journals for research purposes, you will need a UBNNet account (see above).

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Contact	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security		(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu
Bursar	Robinson Hernandez	(203) 576-4692	bursar@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	Lana Mistry	(203) 576-4682	cashier@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid		(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.eud
Registrar		(203) 576-4642	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone		(203) 576-4159	
Distance Education Office		(203) 576-4853	ubonline@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus	Address	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
Stamford	5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750	(203) 358-0700	ubstamford@bridgeport.edu
Waterbury	84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705	(203) 573-8501	ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu
Woodbridge	6 Lunar Drive Woodbridge, CT 06525	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

Directions to IDEAL Campus locations	http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp
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**To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov. The school code for the University of Bridgeport is 001416.
Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243.**