**Sociology of Religion**

**Reading List:**

*Week 1.*

Introduction: What is Sociology?

No Reading.

*Week 2.*

Sociology of Religion.

Zuckerman 2003. Chapter 1, pp. 17-34.

*Week 3.*

Founding Fathers of Sociology

Ritzer 2011. Chapter I, pp. 1-42.

*Week 4.*

Secularization in Public Life

Stark 1999. Secularization RIP.

*Week 5.*

Secularism and State Policies

Kuru 2009. Chapter 7 and Conclusion, pp. 216-246.

*Week 6.*

Center and Periphery Cleavage of Turkey

Yılmaz 2014.

*Week 7.*

Popular Religion

Yılmaz 2014.

\*\*\* Mid-term exams.

*Week 8.*

Religion and Democratization

Anderson 2009. pp. 192-210. Routledge Handbook of Religion and Politics.

*Week 9.*

Religion and Politics in Turkey

Yılmaz 2018.

*Week 10.*

Religion and Violence

Juergensmeyer 2009. Oxford Handbook of Sociolgy of Religion

*Week 11.*

Marketing of Religion: Media and Internet

Hoover 2009 and Bunt 2009. Oxford Handbook of Sociology of Religion

*Week 12.*

Sociology of Religion in Muslim World

Ali Shariati. Islamology. <http://www.shariati.com/english/islam/islam1.html>

Alatas 2011. Ibd Khaldun, pp.12-29. Major Social Theorists. Wiley-Blackwell.

*Week 13.*

Religious Minorities

Yılmaz 2016.

*Week 14.*

Review

\*\*\* Final exam.

**Books and Articles:**

Kuru, Ahmet T (2009). Secularism and State Policies Toward Religion: The United States, France and Turkey. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Ritzer, George (2011). Sociological Theory (8th ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Stark, Rodney (1999). Secularization RIP. *Sociology of Religion*. 60:3, pp. 249-273.

Yılmaz, Selman (2014). Cultural Muslims: Background Forces and Factors Influencing Everyday Religiosity of Muslim People. *Tarih Kültür Sanat Araştırmaları Dergisi, 3(3),* 1-19.

Yılmaz, Selman (2014). Social Mobility and Its Discontents: The Center-Periphery Cleavage of Turkey. *Tarih Kültür Sanat Araştırmaları Dergisi, 3(2),* 28-44.

Yılmaz, Selman (2016). Divinity Faculty Students’ Look at the Faith Groups in Turkey. *Ankara Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi Dergisi, 57(1),* 103-144.

Zuckerman, Phil (2003). Invitation to the Sociology of Religion. New York: Routledge.

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the field of sociology of religion, which is the scientific study of human social life, groups, and societies as well as their social interaction related to religion.

During the course load, we will cover major concepts and principles of sociology of religion including introduction to sociology of religion, opinions of founding fathers of sociology, secularization in public life, secularism and state policies, center and periphery cleavage of Turkey, popular religion, religion and democratization, religion and politics in Turkey, religion and violence, marketing of religion, sociology of religion in Muslim world.

We will not follow a specific textbook but instead read original chapters from some sociology books.

**Course Goals**

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the major elements of sociology of religion and recognize the many sociological concepts.

- Understand the current social problems and realize their relationship with the discipline of sociology of religion. Improve an ability to find possible solutions for them.