

**B.A. (H) Sociology  
Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 09  
Sociology of Religion**

**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -09 : SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION**

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE**

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
<b>DSC 09 Sociology of Religion</b>	4	3	1	0	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Class Pass</b>	Nil

**Course Learning Objectives:**

1. Introduce students to sociology of religion as distinct field from religious studies through classic and contemporary readings.
2. Examine the dialectics between religion and society through the study of religious practices, customs, beliefs, and rituals.
3. Outline the role of religious faith and beliefs in the modern world.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. *Identify and distinguish* the sociological approach to religion.
2. *Apply knowledge* of religious practices, customs, beliefs, and rituals to analyse relation between religion and society..
3. *Analyse* the significance of religious faith and beliefs in the modern world.

**SYLLABUS OF DSC-09**

**Unit I Thinking through Sociology of Religion (15 Hours)**

*This unit introduces students to certain key concepts in Sociology of religion in terms of their definitions, interrelations and trajectories of usage..*

- a. Religion in Sociology
- b. Magic, Science and Religion
- c. Atheism

**Unit II Religion and Ritual (9 Hours)**

*This unit provides a sociological understanding of the relationship between religion and rituals and the contexts of ritual practice.*

**a. Rites of Passage**

**b. Ritual**

**Unit III. Sociological Engagements with Religion (15 Hours)**

*This unit illustrates how religious ideas, beliefs and values shape people's understanding of their world.*

**a. Hinduism**

**b. Islam**

**c. Christianity**

**d. Buddhism**

**Unit IV Religion, State and Society (6 Hours)**

*This section traces the dynamic relationship between religion, state and society in the modern world in context of historical continuities and changes .*

**Practical component (if any) - NIL**

**Essential/Recommended Readings**

**Unit I. Thinking through Sociology of Religion (15 Hours)**

**a. Religion in Sociology**

Davie, G. (2003). The Evolution of the Sociology of Religion: Theme and Variations. In *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, ed. Michele Dillon, Cambridge University Press. Pp. 61-75.

Durkheim, E. (2001). *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. A new Translation by Carol Cosman, OUP: Oxford. Pp. 25-46.

**b. Magic, Science and Religion**

Malinowski, B. (1948). *Magic, Science & Religion and Other Essays*. The Free Press: U.S.A. Pp. 35-70.

**c. Atheism**

Schaffner, C and R. T. Cragun. (2020). Non-Religion and Atheism, Chapter 20. In *Handbook of Leaving Religion* (Ed.), Daniel Enstedt, Göran Larsson, Teemu T. Mantsinen, Brill, pp. 242-252.

**Unit II. Religion and Ritual (9 Hours)**

**a. Rites of Passage**

Van Gennep, A. (1960). *The Rites of Passage*. Routledge & Kegan Paul: London, Introduction and pp1-14, 116-145.

## **b. Ritual**

Parry, J. (1985). Death and Digestion: The Symbolism of Food and Eating in North Indian Mortuary Rites, *Man*, New Series, Vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 612-630 Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

## **Unit III. Sociological Engagements with World Religions (15 Hours)**

### **a. Hinduism**

Shah A.M. and M.N. Srinivas. (1968), Hinduism. In International. Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, Vol.6, pp358-66.

### **3.2. Islam**

Gilsenan, M. (1982). *Recognising Islam: An Anthropologist's Introduction*. Croom Helm: London. Pp 9-37.

### **3.3. Christianity**

Parsons, T. (1968). Christianity. In *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* Vol. 2, pp 425-447.

### **3.4. Buddhism**

Gethin, R. (1998). The Buddha: The Story of the Awakened One. In *The Foundations of Buddhism*, OUP:Oxford, Chapter 1, pp. 7-34.

## **Unit IV. Religion, State and Society (6 Hours)**

Smith. D. E. (1963). *India as a Secular State*, Princeton University Press. Ch. 1, 2 pp. 3-54.

### **Suggested Readings:**

Berger, P.L. (1990). *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*, 2nd Edition, New York: Anchor.

Béteille, A. (2002). Religion as a Subject for Sociology. In *Sociology Essays on Approach and Method*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp 184-2.

Beyer, P. (2003). Social Forms of Religion and Religions in Contemporary Global Society,

Cannell, F. (2005). The Christianity of Anthropology, *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol. 11(2), 335-356.

Durkheim, E. (1995). The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press. Book One and Conclusion. Pp. 303-412, 418- 448.

Geertz, Clifford. (1973). Religion as a Cultural System. In *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. Basic Books: NY. Pp.87-125.

in *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, (Ed.), Michele Dillon, Cambridge University Press. pp. 45-60.

Marx, K. 2008/9 [1843]. On the Jewish Question. In *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*. Proofed and Corrected: by Andy Blunden, Matthew Grant and Matthew Carmody. www.marxists.org.

Southwold, M. (1978). Buddhism and the Definition of Religion, *Man, New Series*, Vol 13(3), pp. 362-379.

Southwold, M. (1978). Buddhism and the definition of religion, *Man, New Series*, Vol 13(3), pp. 362-379.

Srinivas, M. N. (1952). *Religion and Society among the Coorgs of South India*. Clarendon: Oxford. Pp100-122.

Tambiah, S. J. (1990). *Magic, Science, Religion and the Scope of Rationality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-41.

Weber, M. (2001). *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Translated by Stephen Kalberg. England: Roxbury Publishing Press. Pp. 103-126.

**Note:** Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.