

## The Social Scientific Study of Religion

### Objective:

- 1) Outline what the social scientific study of religion is, and what it is not
- 2) Introduce various methodologies in the sociological study of religion
- 3) Familiarize students with the various online research tools on The ARDA

### Activity:

In [Teaching Tools](#) on The ARDA, complete some or all of the [Site Tutorials](#) as a class. The tutorials that will best prepare students for the activities and assessments contained in other lesson plans are Finding Info on Beliefs and Behaviors, Finding Info on a Denomination, Finding Info on Local Religion, and Finding International Data.

### Assessment:

Provide students with descriptions of how religion is studied in a variety of fields (psychology, sociology, theology, political science, philosophy) and have them match the perspective with the correct field.

Direct students to complete whichever [Site Tutorials](#) were not covered in class.

Direct students to complete the [Learning about Surveys](#) learning project in the Junior/Senior High Modules section of the Teaching Tools on The ARDA. This project contains 12 lessons and can be completed over the course of a semester or longer.

### Suggested readings:

Wuthnow, Robert. 2003. "Is There a Place for 'Scientific' Studies of Religion?" *Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 24, 2003.

<http://www.psywww.com/psyrelig/wuthnow.html>.

