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SOVI A230 Sociology of Religion
Loyola University New Orleans

BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT AND PRESENTATION

This book review assignment is made up of two components—an oral presentation of roughly 15-20 minutes on the date you sign up for and a written report submitted at any point up until 5pm on the last day of classes. The written report should be about 6-8 pages and include both a brief summary and a more extensive critical reflection on the material.

The report and the presentation should follow the basic format—a brief introduction and summary, a critical evaluation of the book and a conclusion. However, I also request that as part of your presentation you develop at least one big question for us to discuss as a class. You may use PowerPoint or any videos or materials you think would be illustrative as part of your presentation but depending on the number of other students presenting on your day you may not have much time so use audiovisuals wisely.

You should try to address the following specific points in your review. The ordering of them can depend on the specifics of the book and your personal style.

- What is the topic of the book? How well does it cover this topic? Why is this topic important?
- What are the book's objectives? Does it convincingly meet its objectives?
- What types of evidence are given to support the author's thesis? Is the evidence convincing or not?
- Are topics missing that should be covered? Explain why you think so. Give examples.
- Please comment on the book's style, organization, clarity and use of figures, diagrams, data, tables, or artwork.
- How does the text relate to other things we have covered in the class?
- Did the book shape your thinking on the subject?

The assignment is worth 40 points, 10 points are awarded on the basis of the quality of the written summary, 10 points are awarded on the basis of the quality of the critical reflection, and 20 points are awarded for an effective presentation and for producing an interesting class discussion.

SOVI A320 Book Options

Ammerman, Nancy Tatom (1987) *Bible Believers: Fundamentalists in the Modern World* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Ammerman, Nancy Tatom (1990) *Baptist Battles: Social Change and Religious Conflict in the Southern Baptist Convention* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Bales, Susan Ridgely (2005) *When I Was A Child: Children's Interpretations of First Communion* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Becker, Penny Edgell (1999) *Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life* New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bender, Courtney (2003) *Heaven's Kitchen: Living Religion at God's Love We Deliver* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bender, Courtney (2010) *The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.



- Brasher, Brenda E. (1998) *Godly Women: Fundamentalism and Female Power* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Bruce, Tricia (2011) *Faithful Revolution: How Voice of the Faithful is Changing the Church* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Cadge, Wendy (2005) *Heartwood: The First Generation of Theravada Buddhism in America* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Chaves, Mark (1999) *Ordaining Women: Culture and Conflict in Religious Organizations* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Covington, Dennis (1995) *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia* New York: Penguin Books
- Davidman, Lynn (1991) *Tradition in a Rootless World: Women Turn to Orthodox Judaism* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Demerath, N.J. and Rhys H. Williams (1992) *A Bridging of Faiths: Religion and Politics in a New England City* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Dillon, Michele (1999) *Catholic Identity: Balancing Reason, Faith and Power* New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Djupe, Paul A. and Christopher P. Gilbert (2009) *The Political Influence of Churches* New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Edgell, Penny (2006) *Religion and Family in A Changing Society* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Emerson, Michael O. and Christian Smith (2000) *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Froese, Paul and Christopher Bader (2010) *America's Four Gods: What We Say About God-- & What That Says About Us* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gallagher, Sally K. (2002) *Evangelical Identity & Gendered Family Life* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Greeley, Andrew (2000) *The Catholic Imagination* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Greeley, Andrew and Michael Hout (2006) *The Truth About Conservative Christians: What They Think And What They Believe* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Jurgensmeyer, Mark (2000) *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Krause, Neal M. (2008) *Aging in the Church: How Social Relationships Affect Health* West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania: Templeton Foundation Press.
- Lindsay, D. Michael (2007) *Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Marti, Gerardo (2005) *A Mosaic of Believers: Diversity and Innovation in a Multiethnic Church* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

- Marti, Gerardo (2008) *Hollywood Faith: Holiness, Prosperity, and Ambition in a Los Angeles Church* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Mooney, Margarita A. (2009) *Faith Makes Us Live: Surviving and Thriving in the Haitian Diaspora* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Moon, Dawne (2004) *God, Sex, and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Norris, Pippa and Ronald Inglehart (2004) *Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide* New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Orsi, Robert (1985) *The Madonna of 115th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1880-1950* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Orsi, Robert (1996) *Thank You, St. Jude: Women's Devotion to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Regnerus, Mark D. (2007) *Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Roose, Kevin (2009) *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University* New York: Grand Central Publishing.
- Sager, Rebecca (2010) *Faith, Politics and Power: The Politics of Faith-Based Initiatives* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Scheitle, Christopher (2010) *Beyond the Congregation: The World of Christian Nonprofits* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Smith, Christian (1996) *Disruptive Religion: The Force of Faith in Social Movement Activism* New York: Routledge.
- Smith, Christian and Melissa Lundquist Denton (2005) *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Sullivan, Susan Crawford (2012) *Living Faith: Everyday Religion and Mothers in Poverty* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Wilcox, W. Bradford (2004) *Soft Patriarchs, New Men: How Christianity Shapes Fathers and Husbands* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Wilde, Melissa J. (2007) *Vatican II: A Sociological Analysis of Religious Change* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Wood, Richard (2002) *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Wuthnow, Robert (2003) *All in Sync: How Music and Art are Revitalizing American Religion* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Wuthnow, Robert (2005) *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Wuthow, Robert (2007) *After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty and Thirty-Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Wuthnow, Robert (2009) *Boundless Faith: The Global Outreach of American Churches* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Zuckerman, Phil (2008) *Society Without God: What the Least Religious Nations Can Tell Us About Contentment* New York: New York University Press.