

RSOC 179:

Research Methods

Fall, 2009
TR 7:00- 8:45 Kenna 107
Sect. 52156
Office Hours: MW 2-4; TTh 10-12

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This course is a research seminar for religious studies majors and minors, to be taken in their junior or senior years. This course will be team taught by members of the religious studies faculty, and will be designed to introduce students to the research methodologies employed by the faculty. Students will be expected to reflect upon these methods, and design, by the end of the quarter, a research project that they will undertake the following quarter.

Required Reading:

- 1) Booth, Colomb and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed. (University Of Chicago Press, 2008)
- 2) Otto Pesch, *What Big Ears You Have: The Theologians' Red Riding Hood* (Liturgical Press, 2000)
- 3) John Hinnells, *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion* (Routledge, 2005)

Requirements and Grading:

1. Attendance and active participation at all sessions (10% of grade)
2. 7 short reflection papers on each of the different methodologies presented (15% of grade per presentation)
3. A final proposal and bibliography for research paper in the Winter Quarter (20% of grade)

Academic Honesty Policy

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form (as described in the Student Conduct Code) will result in a failed grade for the project, and possibly for the course. All allegations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the department chair and Office of Student Life. For a full presentation of University policies concerning plagiarism, see:

<http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/>

In order to avoid the sanctions applied to cases of academic dishonesty, please make sure that you properly cite all sources that you utilize in your writing, including works that are directly quoted or paraphrased, as well as works used as a source of information. This includes both print and online sources. Your paper submissions must consist of your own writing, and any direct quotations or paraphrasing from other works must be properly cited.

Disability Accommodations Policy:

To receive academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in Benson 216. The phone number is 408-554-4109 or inquiries can be emailed to Robin Cole, Administrative Associate, rcole@scu.edu. Students must register with Disabilities Resources and provide documentation of a disability to Disabilities Resources prior to receiving academic accommodations.

Assignments

Week 1 September 22 and 24 Introduction

Read: Hinnells, The study of religion in historical perspective (21-45)
Hinnells, Theories of religion (49-60)
Hinnells, Theology (61-79)
Hinnells, Insider/Outsider perspectives (243-258)

Week 2 September 29 and October 1 Introduction

Read: Pesch, Once Upon a Time (1-6)
Pesch, A Theological Propaedeutic (1-13)
Pesch, An Academic Treatment (64-72)

Week 3 October 6 and 8 Presentation (Jason Smick)

Week 4 October 13 and 15 Presentation (David Gray)

Topics: Myth and Ritual

Week 5 October 20 and 22 Presentation (Philip Riley)

Week 6 October 27 and 29 Presentation (Paul Crowley)

Week 7 November 3 and 5 Presentation (Sally Vance-Trembath)

Week 8 November 10 and 12 Presentation (Keith Warner)

Topics: Retrieving Tradition; Working with Scientists

Week 9 November 17 and 19 History and Theology (Gary Macy)

Read: Gary Macy, Diversity as Tradition (on ANGEL)

Gary Macy, Impasse Passé (on ANGEL)

Dale Irvin, Christian History, Christian Traditioning (on ANGEL)

Week 10 November 30 and December 3 Preparation of proposal and bibliography