

**Method and Theory 1**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Reading list**

**Required Books**

Bayne, Tim. *Philosophy of Religion: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, 2018.

Comaroff, Jean. *Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance*. Chicago, 1985.

Durkheim, Emile. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press, 1965.

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane*. New York: Harvest/HBJ Book, 1968.

Freud, Sigmund. *The Future of an Illusion*. New York: Norton, 1989.

Marx, Karl and F. Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Ed. Robert Tucker. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978.

Weber, Max. *The Sociology of Religion*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

**Additional readings (available on Canvas or online)**

Alter, Robert. "Biblical Type-Scenes and the Uses of Convention." *Critical Inquiry* 5, No. 2 (Winter, 1978): 355-368.

Alter, Robert. "Sacred History and the Beginnings of Prose Fiction." *Poetics Today* 1, No. 3, (Spring, 1980): 143-162.

Alter, Robert. "Balaam and the Ass: An Excerpt from a New Translation of the 'Five Books of Moses.'" *The Kenyon Review, New Series* 26, No. 4 (Autumn, 2004): 6-32.

Bellah, Robert. 1967. "Civil Religion in America." *Daedalus* 96, no. 1 (Winter): 1-21.

Bellah, Robert. 1964. "Religious Evolution." *American Sociological Review* 29 (June): 258-374.

Berger, Peter L. 1990. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*, Ch. 1: "Religion and World Construction." New York: Anchor.

Berger, Peter L. "Sectarianism and Religious Sociation." *American Journal of Sociology* 64, No. 1 (July 1958): 41-44.

Berger, Peter L. "Some Second Thoughts on Substantive versus Functional Definitions of Religion." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 13, No. 2 (June 1974): 125-133.

Cadge, Wendy, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde. "De-Centering and Re-Centering: Rethinking Concepts and Methods in the Sociological Study of Religion." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50, No. 3 (Sept. 2011): 437-449.

Dewey, John. *A Common Faith*. In *The Collected Works of John Dewey, 1882-1953*. Electronic edition. The Later Works of John Dewey, 1925-1953. Volume 9: 1933-1934. Ed. Jo Ann Boydston. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1986.

Douglas, Mary. *Purity and Danger*, Ch. 3 "The Abominations of Leviticus" and Ch. 4, "Magic and Miracles." Routledge, 2002.

Douglas, Mary. "Animals in Lele Religious Symbolism." *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 27, No. 1 (Jan., 1957): 46-58.

Douglas, Mary. "The Effects of Modernization on Religious Change." *Daedalus* 111, No. 1 (Winter, 1982): 1-19.

Douglas, Mary. "Passive Voice Theories in Religious Sociology." *Review of Religious Research* 21, No. 1 (Autumn, 1979): 51-61.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. "The Sacrificial Role of Cattle among the Nuer." *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 23, No. 3 (Jul., 1953): 181-198.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. "Some Features of Nuer Religion." *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 81, No. 1/2 (1951): 1-13.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. "The Meaning of Sacrifice Among the Nuer." *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 84, No. 1/2 (Jan. - Dec., 1954): 21-33.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. "The Nuer Conception of Spirit in Its Relation to the Social Order." *American Anthropologist, New Series* 55, No. 2, Part 1 (Apr. - Jun., 1953): 201-214.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. "Nuer Spear Symbolism." *Anthropological Quarterly* 26, No. 1, New Series, Vol. 1 (Jan., 1953): 1-19.

Frazer, J. G. *The Golden Bough*, Book I: "The King of the Wood," Ch. 1-4; Book II, "Killing the God," Ch. 1, 2, 21, 22; Book III: "The Scapegoat," Ch. 1-3, 5.  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/3623>

Geertz, Clifford. "Religion as a Cultural System" and "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." From *Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, 1973.

James, Williams. *Varieties of Religious Experience*, Lectures I-V.

Kupari, Helena. *Lifelong Religion as Habitus: Religious Practice among Displaced Karelian Orthodox Women in Finland*. Ch. Two: Practice, Habitus, and Lived Religion. Brill, 2016.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. *Myth and Meaning*.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. "The Science of the Concrete." In *The Savage Mind*.

Lund, Christopher. "Religion is Special Enough." *Virginia Law Review* 103, No. 3 (May 2017): 481-523.

Müller, Max. "Introduction to the Science of Religion."  
<https://archive.org/details/introductiontoth014888mbp/page/n1>

Müller, Max. "The Meaning of Nirvana"; "Semitic Monotheism"; and "On False Analogies in Comparative Theology." In *Selected Essays, Vol. 2*.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*, Ch. 1 ("The Enduring Problem") and Ch. 7 ("Concluding Unscientific Postscript"). Harper & Row, 1974.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *The Meaning of Revelation*, Ch. 1: "The Point of View." MacMillan, 1960.

Ogden, Schubert M. "Theology and Biblical Interpretation." *The Journal of Religion* 76, No. 2 (April 1996): 172-188.

Omer, Atalia. "Can a Critic Be a Caretaker too? Religion, Conflict, and Conflict Transformation." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 79, No. 2 (June 2011): 459-496.

Orsi, Robert. "Is the Study of Lived Religion Irrelevant to the World We Live in?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 42, No. 2 (Jun., 2003): 169-174.

Otto, Rudolph. *The Idea of the Holy*.  
[https://archive.org/stream/theideaoftheholy00ottouoft/theideaoftheholy00ottouoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/theideaoftheholy00ottouoft/theideaoftheholy00ottouoft_djvu.txt)

Ploch, Donald. "Methods for the Time Being." *Sociological Analysis* 47 (supplement) (March 1987): 43-51.

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. "The Ethics of Biblical Interpretation: Decentering Biblical Scholarship." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 107, No. 1 (Mar., 1988): 3-17.

Slingerland, Edward. "Conceptual Metaphor Theory as Methodology for Comparative Religion." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72, No. 1 (March 2004) 1-31

Tillich, Paul. "The Method of Correlation." In *Systematic Theology*, vol. I, pp. 59-66. Chicago, 1951.

Tillich, Paul. "Religion as a Dimension in Man's Spiritual Life." In *Theology of Culture*, pp. 3-9. Oxford, 1964.

Tillich, Paul. "Religion and Secular Culture" and "The Protestant Principle and the Proletarian Situation." In *The Protestant Era*, pp. 55-65 and 161-181. Chicago, 1957.

Trible, Phyllis. "Depatriarchalizing in Biblical Interpretation." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 41, No. 1 (Mar., 1973): 30-48.

Turner, Victor. "Themes in the Symbolism of Ndembu Hunting Ritual." *Anthropological Quarterly* 35, No. 2 (Apr., 1962): 37-57.

Turner, Victor. "The Center out There: Pilgrim's Goal." *History of Religions* 12, No. 3 (Feb., 1973): 191-230.

Turner, Victor. "Sacrifice as Quintessential Process Prophylaxis or Abandonment?" *History of Religions* 16, No. 3 (Feb., 1977): 189-215.

Tylor, E. B. Selections from *Primitive Culture*  
[https://archive.org/stream/primitiveculture01tylouoft/primitiveculture01tylouoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/primitiveculture01tylouoft/primitiveculture01tylouoft_djvu.txt)

Vernon, Glen. "Measuring Religion: Two Methods Compared." *Review of Religious Research* 3, No. 4 (Spring, 1962): 159-165.

### **Recommended**

A social scientific research book covering qualitative methods (and also quantitative and mixed methods, if you are interested). These books tend to be very expensive, but some are available used. Some appropriate books include:

Michael Strausberg and Steven Engler, eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion*. Routledge, 2011.

Focused on religion and especially helpful.

Leavy, Patricia. *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches*. Guilford, 2017.

Has a section on aesthetics and arts, which may be especially helpful for some of you.

Neuman, Lawrence. *Social Science Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Pearson, various editions.

A basic guide to both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Creswell, John and Creswell. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage, various editions.

Another basic guide, including mixed methods.

Creswell, John, and Cheryl Poth, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*. Sage, 2017.

Only addresses qualitative research, but offers a good variety of models.

Wertz, Frederick, et al. *Five Ways of Doing Qualitative Analysis: Phenomenological Psychology, Grounded Theory, Discourse Analysis, Narrative Research, and Intuitive Inquiry*. Guilford, 2011.

A detailed discussion of diverse qualitative research methods, including some that are especially relevant to religion, e.g. narrative and discourse analysis.

Patton, Michael. *Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods: Integrating Theory and Practice*. Sage, 2014.

The most detailed, and includes some theoretical perspectives that are not addressed in the other books, e.g. grounded theory, which may be especially useful in religion.

Glazer, Barney, and Anselm Strauss. *The Discovery of Grounded Theory: Strategies for Research*. Aldine, 1967.

The classic introduction to grounded theory, in which theory is generated from data.

Holton, Judith and Isabelle Walsh, *Classic Grounded Theory: Applications With Qualitative and Quantitative Data*. Sage, 2016.

Focuses only on grounded theory, but is broad enough that it will be generally useful.

Charmaz, Kathy. *Constructing Grounded Theory*. Sage, 2014.

Similar to the previous book.