



## American Religion and the Early Social Sciences

### Course Description

This course will introduce students to the leading “schools” of social scientific thought throughout the first half of the twentieth century in regards to religion, race and ethnicity. Major topics to be addressed include anthropological and sociological approaches that led to Africanisms, cultural relativism and particularism on the one hand, versus universalism, acculturation, and assimilation on the other. Beyond evaluating the works of leading proponents of aforementioned approaches, students will also engage social context, political motivations, and economic influences that animated the early growth of the social sciences in general, and work on religion and race more specifically. Readings will include Nathaniel Shaler, W.E.B. Du Bois, Franz Boas, Zora Neale Hurston, Newbell Niles Puckett, Robert Park, Hortense Powdermaker, et.al

This course fulfills: African and African American Religions, Religions in the Americas, Religion, Ethics and Politics, and Religion and the Social Sciences

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**Plummer Professor of Christian Morals**

**Professor of Religion and Society on the Faculty of Divinity**

## Requirements

All students are expected to read the assigned material closely and carefully toward contributing to the seminar discussion. In addition, each student is required to lead at least one seminar discussion, offering both an analysis of the text and a clearly defined set of questions and criticisms. A typed version of the presentation should be made available on I site by 12 pm on Friday. Students are then required to respond to the presentation – asking their own questions, offering criticisms and/or suggesting alternative avenues of discussion. Though I require critical interpretations of the assigned readings and each other's perspectives, all conversation MUST remain collegial. (Always err to the side of generosity! You never know when you will need liberality reciprocated. Being rude and “going hard” at your colleagues in order to perform your intelligence in public is not a sign of intelligence. It's a sign of being an @\$#!!!)

Finally, every enrolled student is required to write a 15 (no more than 20) critical essay/research article on a topic approved by the instructor. Final papers are due Monday, December 16, 2013. Papers should be placed in the digital dropbox on I site by 12 noon.

## Book List

Lee Baker, *From Savage to Negro: Anthropology and the Construction of Race*  
E. Franklin Frazier, *The Negro Church in America/ The Black Church Since Frazier*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica* (P.S.)

Hortense Powdermaker, *Stranger and Friend: The Way of an Anthropologist*

Newbell Niles Puckett, *Folk Beliefs and the Southern Negro*

William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki, *The Polish Peasants in Europe and America: A Classic Work in Immigration History*

Phil Zuckerman, Editor, *Du Bois on Religion*

## Reading Schedule

### September 3

Review syllabus, schedule, introductory comments

### **Beyond Peasants and Proletarians**

**HDS 3262/ Religion 1910**

## September 10

Lee Baker, *From Savage to Negro*, chapters 1-4

## September 17

Nathaniel Southgate Shaler

- ~ “The Negro Problem,” *Atlantic Monthly* 54: 696-709
- ~ <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=atla;iel=2;view=toc;idno=atla0054-5>
- ~ “The African element in America,” *The Arena* 2: 660-73
- ~ “The Nature of the Negro,” *The Arena* 2: 23-35
- ~ “Science and the African Problem,” *Atlantic Monthly* 66: 36-45
- ~ <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=atla;iel=2;view=toc;idno=atla0066-1>
- ~ “The Negro Since the Civil War,” *Popular Science Monthly* 57: 29-39
- ~ “The Future of the Negro in the Southern States,” *Popular Science Monthly* 57: 147-56
- ~ “Our Negro Types,” *Current Literature* 29:44-45

## September 24

W.E.B. Du Bois in *Du Bois on Religion*

- ~ “The Problem of Amusement”
- ~ “The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study”
- ~ “The Negro Church” [Essay]
- ~ “Of the Faith of Our Fathers”
- ~ “Of Alexander Crummell”
- ~ “The Church and the Negro”
- ~ “The Burden of Black Women”
- ~ “The Negro Church”
- ~ “The Color Line and the Church”

## October 1

Farah Jasmine Griffin: Black Feminists and Du Bois: Respectability, Protection, and Beyond, *Annals of the American Academy of Political Science*, Vol. 568, The Study of African American Problems: W.E.B. Du Bois’s Agenda, Then and Now (March., 2000)

**Beyond Peasants and Proletarians**

**HDS 3262/ Religion 1910**

Mary Jo Deegan, "W.E.B. Du Bois and the Women of Hull-House, 1895-1899" *The American Sociologist*, Vol 19, No.4 (Winter, 1988), pp. 301-311  
Barbara Dianne Savage, W.E.B. Du Bois and 'The Negro Church,' *Annals of the American Academy of Political Science* (2000)

### October 8

Franz Boas, *The History of Anthropology*, Science, Vol 20. No 512, 1904, pp 513-524

Mary White Ovington, [Half a Man: The Status of the Negro in New York](#)

Fanny Jackson-Coppin, *Reminiscences of School Life, and Hints on Teaching*  
~ Review section of the "Women's Conference" and Coppin's notes from the Hampton Conference, September 1897

Albion Small, "Scholarship and Social Agitation," *American Journal of Sociology*; Vol 1, No. 5 (March 1896) pp 564-582

### October 15

Newbell Niles Puckett, *Folk Beliefs and the Southern Negro*

### October 22

Zora Neale Hurston, *Hoodoo in America*, *The Journal of American Folklore*

Karen Jacobs, "From 'Spy-Glass' to 'Horizon': Tracking the Anthropological Gaze in Zora Neale Hurston," *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*

Yvonne Chireau, *Conjure and Christianity in the Nineteenth Century: Religious Elements in African American Magic*, *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Summer 1997, 225-246

### October 29

Paul J. Baker, "The Life Histories of W.I. Thomas and Robert E Park" *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 79. No. 2

W.I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki, *The Polish Peasants in Europe and America: A Classic Work in Immigration History*

Robert E. Park, "The Bases of Race Prejudice,"

### November 5

**Beyond Peasants and Proletarians**

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The Atlanta University Publications, No. 20, *Select Discussions of Race Problems: A Collection of Papers of Especial Use in Study of Negro American Problems: with the Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Conference for Study of Negro Problems, held at Atlanta University, May 24, 1915*, edited by J.A. Bigham, (Atlanta University Press: Atlanta, 1916)

**November 12**

*{Samuel Freedman visit to campus}*

**November 19**

William Andrew Daniel, [The Education of Negro Ministers](#)

Vattel Elbert Daniel, "Ritual and Stratification in Chicago Negro Churches"

Benjamin Elijah Mays, "The Education of Negro Ministers," *The Journal of Negro Education*, Vol 2. No 3.

**November 26**

E. Franklin Frazier, *The Negro Church in America*

**December 3**

Hortense Powdermaker, *Stranger and Friend: The Way of an Anthropologist*