

## RELIGION 323: MORMONS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

Spring Semester 2006

Dr. Armand L. Mauss

### *Course Syllabus*

#### General Structure and Requirements

This is a small graduate class that lends itself well to collaborative teaching. Accordingly, although the professor provides an initial framework of theories, concepts and reading material, these will remain somewhat flexible, so that they can be adapted to the special interests of class members as these develop. Furthermore, members will be expected to share in making presentations to the class, based upon the reading material, “wherewith one may edify another” (Rom.14:19) that “all may be edified of all” (D & C 88:122).

In the reading assignments which follow, some will be identified as “core” readings (**CORE**), meaning that all class members will be responsible for reading and understanding them. The professor will lead discussions of these reading assignments as part of each class meeting. Other assignments will be designated for “rotating presentations” (**RP**), meaning that class members will take turns presenting and discussing them before the entire class (rotating assignments made from week to week). These discussion should bring out the importance of a given reading selection in light of the course topic for which it is assigned and the accompanying core reading. The professor himself will mainly occupy the first class session, and perhaps a second one, with his own “core” presentations to provide a common intellectual platform on which to build the course. After that, class sessions will be taken up with discussions led by other class members. *Since any given syllabus cannot contain all worthwhile reading, all class members are encouraged to offer relevant presentations from reading not formally assigned here.*

Given the practical necessity of providing some sort of formal assessment of student work, class members will be graded on both oral and written work. A third of the grade will come from the professor’s assessment of the class presentations; another third will be based upon a written mid-term examination, to be prepared outside of class, and submitted no later than March 21<sup>st</sup>; and the final third will be based on a final examination, also prepared outside of class during final exam week. The questions for both of these exams will be provided well ahead of time, along with further instructions.

#### Access to the Assigned Reading

The reading assigned for this course will be found in various locations.

- A. First of all, class members should acquire their own copies of the following books, all of which should be available at the university bookstore :

1. Rodney **Stark** and Roger **Finke**, *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. (**S & F**). Paperback available.
2. Jana **Riess** and Christopher **Bigelow**, *Mormonism for Dummies*. Hoboken, NJ : Wiley Publishing Co., 2005. (**R & B**) Paperback.
3. Richard N. **Ostling** and Joan K. **Ostling**, *Mormon America : The Power and the Promise*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1999. Paperback version available.
4. Armand L. **Mauss**, *The Angel and the Beehive : The Mormon Struggle with Assimilation*. Urbana & Chicago : University of Illinois Press, 1994. (no paperback available)
5. Marie Cornwall, Tim B. Heaton, and Lawrence A. Young, *editors*, *Contemporary Mormonism: Social Science Perspectives*. Urbana & Chicago : University of Illinois Press, 1994. (**Cornwall et al.**) Paperback version available.
6. Eric A. **Eliason**, editor, *Mormons and Mormonism: An Introduction to an American World Religion*. Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001. Paperback.

B. All of the above books will also be placed on 3-day reserve in the Honnold Library. In addition, the following books will also be on 3-day reserve [**R**] :

1. Thomas F. **O'Dea**, *The Mormons* (University of Chicago Press, 1957, reissued several times since then in paperback). This old classic is long out of print, but copies should be available in various local libraries and on Amazon or eBay.
2. Harold **Bloom**, *The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.
3. T. B. Heaton, S. J. Bahr, and Cardell K. Jacobson, *A Statistical Profile of the Mormons: Health, Wealth, and Social Status*. Edwin Mellen Press, 1992. (**Heaton et al.**)
4. A. L. **Mauss**, *All Abraham's Children: Changing Mormon Conceptions of Race and Lineage*. University of Illinois Press, 2003.

C. Electronic access to periodicals

1. Reading assignments will include many articles from back-issues of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, the main independently published scholarly journal in Mormon Studies. Every member of the class can acquire from the professor a copy of the entire set of *Dialogue* **back-issues on a DVD** for \$10.
2. A few assignments from other scholarly periodicals will be available electronically through individual student accounts at the Honnold Library. These assignments are mostly in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (JSSR) and in *Sociology of Religion* (SoR), and are indicated with a bold [**E**].

D. Handouts :

1. At no charge to students, the professor will occasionally hand out copies of special articles or book chapters that are not readily available otherwise. These are copyright-protected and should NOT be further reproduced. These assignments are indicated with a bold [**H**].

## *Course Outline and Reading Assignments*

### I. THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON RELIGION

**January 17, 24, and 31. All are CORE reading assignments**

- A. Basic epistemology and methods (Stark & Finke Introduction)
- B. The received wisdom vs. “rational choice” (S & F, Chapters 1 & 2)
- C. The secularization controversy (S & F Chapter 3)
  - Readings** : Bruce on British Isles, with responses from Stark & Iannaccone, *JSSR* December, 1995, 417-30 & 516-19, followed by turnabout, 431-44 & 520-22 [E].
- D. The religious economy : the market as metaphor and reality (S & F Chap. 8)
- E. New religious movements (NRMs) : Genesis and Exodus
  - Readings** :
  - Mauss on religious movements as social movements, from *Religion and the Social Order* 1993 [H]
  - Stark on why NRMs succeed or fail, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 1996 [H]
  - Stark on Mormon success as a NRM (Eliason, Chap. 11)
- F. The nature of revelation
  - Readings** :
  - Stark on a theory of revelations, *JSSR* June 1999, 287-308 [E]
  - Bushman on Joseph Smith’s Visionary World, *BYU Studies* 1997-98 [H]
  - L. Foster on the psychology of prophetic charisma, *Dialogue*, Winter 2003

### II. MORMONS AS AN “OLD NRM” IN AMERICA

- A. Historical outline, dialectic, and institutionalization (February 7 and 14)

CORE Readings :

- O’Dea, the first eight chapters [R]
- Mauss, *Angel & Beehive*, Chaps. 1 through 5
- Riess & Bigelow (R & B), Chapters 1, 11, 12, 13

RP Readings :

- Finke & Stark on upstart sects in America, *JSSR* March, 1989, 27-44 [E]
- Bloom, Chaps. 4, 5, and 16 [R], [H]
- Meinig on the Mormon nation in the *Journal of Mormon History*, Spring 1996 [H]

- B. Basic Mormon beliefs and values : Christianity with some differences (February 21 and 28)

- 1. Personal conversion and commitment, Mormons and others

CORE Readings :

- S & F, Chapters 4 and 5
- Lofland-Stark model revisited, 1978 [H]

Richardson, active&passive converts, *JSSR* June 1985, 163-79[E]

RP Readings :

Bromley & Shupe on role theory, 1979 [H]

Iannaccone on human capital, *JSSR* Sep. 1990, 297-314 [E]

Kirkpatrick & Shaver, attachment theory, *JSSR* Sep.1990, 315-34

[E]

2. Mormons and basic Christian principles : God, faith, repentance, baptism, prayer, forgiveness, charity, agency

CORE Readings : *Basic Beliefs* on LDS website [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)→

Basic Beliefs (Welcome page)→The Church→Summary of “Basic Beliefs” and the Articles of Faith. See also “Cheat the beginning of *Mormonism for Dummies*, plus various selections, as necessary, in the *Encyclopedia of* (Library Reference Section).

Sheet” at

*Mormonism*

3. Mormon doctrines of Deity and Christology

CORE Readings :

Ostlings, Chapter 18 and App.A

R & B Chapter 3

RP Readings :

R. D. Potter on theodicy (finitism and evil), *Dialogue*, Winter 2000

D. J. Davies, Gethsemane vs. Calvary, *Dialogue*, Fall-Winter 2001

4. Restoration, priesthood authority, and continuous revelation

CORE Readings :

Hughes, Chap. 1 in Eliason.

R & B Chapter 4

5. The Plan of Salvation : Family soteriology

CORE Readings :

R & B Chap.2

McDannell & Lang, Chap. 6 in Eliason

Bloom Chap. 6 [R], [H]

6. Spiritual and material monism

CORE Readings :

Max Nolan, Materialism and the Mormon faith, *Dialogue*, Winter 1989

- C. The scriptural canon : Open and not so open

(March 7)

1. Bible

CORE Readings :

D. F. Salmon, As Translated Correctly, *Dialogue*, Summer 1998

Mauss & Barlow in *Sociology of Religion*, 1991 [H]

## 2. Book of Mormon

CORE Readings :

R & B Chap. 9;  
 O’Dea, Chapter 2 (review)  
 Ostlings, Chap. 16

RP Readings :

Bushman on Book of Mormon and American Revolution,  
*BYU Studies*, Autumn 1976 [H]  
 R. A. Rees on Jos. Smith, the Book of Mormon and the American  
 Renaissance, *Dialogue*, Fall 2002  
 B. T. Ostler, BoM as an expansion of an ancient source, *Dialogue*,  
 Spring 1987  
 D. H. Leavitt et al., Search for the Seed of Lehi, *Dialogue*,  
 Winter 2003

## 3. Other scriptures

CORE Readings :

R & B, Chapters 10, 11, 12

RP Readings :

Ostlings, Chap. 17  
 B. J. Cook on the Book of Abraham, *Dialogue*, Winter 2000

## 4. Continuing revelation

CORE Readings :

R & B, Chapter 10, final few pages  
 M. Homer book review, “Open Canon,” *Dialogue*, Fall 2005

**Mid-Term Examination, March 7 - 21****SPRING BREAK : MARCH 13 - 19**

D. Life, values, and rituals in the Mormon community : home, ward, and temple  
**(March 21 and 28)**

CORE Reading – General :

S & F, Chapter 6  
 Shipps in Cornwall et al., Chapter 4

RP Reading – General : S & F, Chapter 7

## 1. lay ministry but centralized authority and hierarchy

CORE Reading :

R & B, Chapter 8, pp. 132-39

RP Readings :

S. Carter, Weight of the Priesthood, *Dialogue*, Fall 2005  
 J. R. Tarjan, Heavenly Father or Board Chairman? *Dialogue*, Fall,

1992

2. “callings”: personal and community functions  
RP Reading : R & B, pp. 94-98
3. quotidian quotas (day-to-day observances and rituals)  
CORE Reading : R & B Chapter 17
4. family, first, last, and always  
CORE Reading : R & B Chapter 5:  
RP Reading : Heaton in Cornwall et al., Chapter 5
5. genealogy and family history research  
CORE Reading : Ostlings, pp. 188-90
6. religious education, formal and informal  
RP Readings:  
R & B, Chap. 8, pp. 145-47  
Ostlings, Chapter 14
7. chapel and temple : ritualized and non-ritualized expressions of  
Mormonism  
CORE Reading : R & B Chapters 6 and 7  
RP Reading : Ostlings Chapter 12
8. going on a mission  
CORE Readings : R & B Chapter 14; Ostlings Chapter 13  
RP Readings : Cornwall et al., Chapters 8 through 11
9. health and social welfare  
CORE Readings : R & B, pp. 141-45, 277-81  
RP Readings : Ostlings, Chapter 7 (on welfare)  
Cornwall et al. Chapters 6 & 7  
T. B. Heaton, S. J. Bahr, and C. K. Jacobson, *A Statistical Profile of Mormons: Health, Wealth, and Social Life* (on 3-library reserve) – for browsing and selective  
day  
discussion.
10. Mormon pietism : tithing, fasting, and the Word of Wisdom, and sex  
CORE Readings : R & B, Chapter 16  
RP Reading : Holland on sexual ethics [H]
11. popular culture in the home, ward, and churchwide  
CORE Readings : R & B, Chapters 18 and 20  
RP Readings : The following selections from *Dialogue* :  
W. N. Kear, LDS sound world, Fall-Winter, 2001  
D. M. Quinn, LDS headquarters culture, Fall-Winter 2001

D. E. Jeffery, Mormonism and evolution, Winter 2002  
 D. H . Bailey, Mormonism and new Creationism, Winter 2002  
 Mauss on kleenex in Sacrament Meetings – handout [H]

E. Internal strains, contradictions, and paradoxes **(April 4 and 11)**

CORE Readings – General :

R & B, Chapter 15

O’Dea, Chapters IX, X [R]

1. theology vs. history

RP Readings :

Ostlings, Chapter 15

T. G. Alexander, the New Mormon History, *Dialogue*, Fall 1986.

2. racist ranking vs. non-racist universalism

CORE Readings :

Mauss, In Search of Ephraim, in *J. Mormon Hist.* 1999 [H]

Bush, Mormon Negro doctrine, *Dialogue*, Spring 1973

RP Readings :

Bush on writing “Mormon Negro Doctrine,” *JMH* 1999[H]

Mauss, Fading of the Pharoahs’ Curse, *Dialogue*, Fall 1981

Mauss, Dispelling the Curse of Cain, from *Sunstone* [H]

Campbell on “White or Pure” in *Dialogue*, Winter 1996

For further reading :

Bush and Mauss, *Neither White nor Black* (Signature

Books, 1984; available entirely online through

[www.signaturebooks.com](http://www.signaturebooks.com) → out of print

books

Mauss, *All Abraham’s Children: Changing Mormon*

*Conceptions of Race and Lineage* (U. of Illinois

Press, 2003). [R]

3. eternal truths vs. new revelation

RP Reading : C.Seshachari on revelation in *Dialogue*, Winter 1980

4. individual agency vs. obedience to authority

RP Reading :

R. Poll on “What the Church Means ...” in *Dialogue*,

Winter, 1967 (reprinted Spring-Summer

2001).

5. education vs. indoctrination

RP Reading ::

Rectors on the challenge for Mormon scholars and artists,  
*Dialogue*, Summer 2003

6. patriarchy vs. feminism

CORE Readings :

A. S. Miller & J. P. Hoffmann, Risk and Religion, *JSSR*,  
March 1995, 163-75 [E]

Stark on early Christian women, *Sociology of Religion*,  
Fall 1995, 229-44. [E]

Cornwall in Cornwall et al., Chapter 12

Iannaccone & Miles in Cornwall et al., Chapter 13

RP Readings :

Vance on evolution of ideals for Mormon women,  
*Sociology of Religion* , Spring 2002, 91-112 [E]

Beaman on “Molly Mormons” and others, *Sociology of  
Religion*, Spring 2001, 65-86 [E]

The following readings are all in *Dialogue* :

Heaton on LDS vs. non-LDS women, Summer 1994

Tina Hatch on changing times for the Relief Society, Fall  
2004.

J. A. Waterstradt on Relief Society’s golden age, Fall 2004

Any selections from the Fall 2003 issue, which focuses on  
various aspects of LDS women’s

experiences

7. sexuality vs. chastity

CORE Readings :

R. W. Mackelprang, “They shall be one flesh,” *Dialogue*,  
March 1992

E. Swedin, One Flesh, *Dialogue*, Winter 1998

M. Proctor, Bodies, Babies, Birth Control, *Dialogue*, Fall 2003

O. K. and D. White, Ecclesiastical Polity and Homosexuality,  
*Dialogue*, Winter 2004.

III. MORMONS AND CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PLURALISM

(April 11, continued, and April 18)

A. “The” American religion vs. “an” American religion

CORE Readings : Bloom, *American Religion*, Chap. 16 [R], [H]

RP Readings : Ostlings, Chapters 4, 6, 20

B. The Mormon quest to recover distinctiveness

CORE Readings :

S & F, Chapter 10

Mauss, *Angel & Beehive*, Chaps. 6 through 11

C. Are Mormons Christians? Who says yea and nay and why? Who cares?

RP Readings :

Ostlings, Chapter 19



- Shippo, Chapter 3 in Eliason  
 Givens, Chapter 4 in Eliason
- D. Mormons and the American class structure  
CORE Readings :  
 Heaton et al., *Statistical Profile*, Chapter 2 [R], [H]  
PR Reading : Hatch, Chap. 5 in Eliason
- E. Mormons and American politics : the theocratic residue  
CORE Readings :  
 Ostlings, Chapter 5  
 Heaton et al., *Statistical Profile*, Chapter 7 [R], [H]  
PR Reading : Prince on the “Red Peril” in *Dialogue*, Summer 2004.
- F. Mormon apostasy and defection  
CORE Readings :  
 Bromley on defection and apostasy in general, 1998 [H]  
 Mauss on Mormon apostasy, 1998 [H]  
PR Readings :  
 Wright, comparison of leaving religion and divorce [H]  
 Ostlings, Chapter 21  
 Shippo on Mormon and non-Mormon communities, Chap. 7 in Eliason

#### IV. MORMONS AND THE FUTURE

(April 25 and May

2)

- A. The Mormon message in the world religious market  
CORE Readings :  
 S & F, Chapter 9  
 Mauss, *Angel & Beehive*, Chapter 12  
 Mauss, Mormonism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, *Dialogue*, Spring 1996  
RP Readings (All in *Dialogue*) :  
 P. Q. Mason, Possibilities of Mormon Peace-Building, Spring 2004  
 R. Sherlock, Rooted in Christian Hope, Spring 2004  
 R. M. Hogge, War is Eternal, Spring 2004  
 R. A. Rees, America’s War on Terrorism, Spring 2003
- B. Calculating and coping with growth and success in the U. S. and elsewhere  
CORE Readings :  
 Stark on Mormon success so far [H]  
 Young in Cornwall et al., Chapter 3  
 L. C. Bennion & L. A. Young, Uncertain Dynamics of LDS Expansion,  
*Dialogue*, Spring 1996  
 G. & G. Shepherd, Membership Growth, *Dialogue*, Spring 1996  
 D. C. Knowlton on census records vs. church records, *Dialogue*,  
 Summer 2005
- RP Readings :  
 R. Phillips on Utah and religious competition, *JSSR*, March 1999, 72-82  
 J. T. Hepworth on Mormon growth, *JSSR*, March 1999, 59-71

M. L. Grover, Maturing of the Oak, *Dialogue*, Summer 2005

C. Managing the stresses and strains in exporting Mormonism

CORE Readings (all in *Dialogue*) :

W. Van Beek, Mormon Europeans or European Mormons? Winter 2005

G. C. Lobb, Mormon Membership Trends among People of Color,  
Winter 2000

J. Numano, Mormonism in Modern Japan, Spring 1996

D. C. Knowlton, Mormonism in Latin America, Spring 1996

T. Murphy, Reinventing Mormonism in Guatemala, Spring 1996

M. Grover, Relief Society and welfare in Brazil, Winter 1994

J. H. Basquiat, Embodied Mormonism (Haiti), Winter 2004

G. Huxford, Letter to Editor (Haiti and Africa), Fall 2005.

RP Readings :

Cavalanti, Human Agency in Missionary Work, *Sociology of  
Religion*, Winter 2005, 381-98 [E]

Brad Walker, Spreading Zion Southward, Part I, *Dialogue*, Winter 2002

Brad Walker, Spreading Zion Southward, Part II, *Dialogue*, Spring 2003

J-C Duffy and H. Olaiz, Correlated Praise (hymnbooks), *Dialogue*,  
Summer 2000.

D. A new world religion?

CORE Readings :

Ostlings, Chapter 22

D. Smith, Diverse Sheep of Israel, *Dialogue*, Winter 2005

**FINAL EXAMINATION : May 2 – May 9**