Religion and the News

main class instructor: Susan B. Ridgely

10 credits

MAIN CLASS
Religious Studies 200
Religion in the News

LINKED CLASS
Anthropology 104
Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity

LINKED CLASS
Journalism and Mass Communication 201
Introduction to Mass Communication

This FIG will examine the power of the media in all its manifestations in shaping public opinion about religion, religious groups, and a range of issues frequently presented through a religious lens. We will identify the major themes in media depictions of religious groups and evaluate their consequences. Through this process, students will learn criteria for evaluating news stories about religion and gauging their influence. As a class, we will practice creating news stories of our own about religion in Madison. Overall, this FIG will enable students to think critically about media representation and to practice written and to practice the skills they learn through “real-world” engagement with our community. The other classes in this FIG will compliment and deepen students’ understanding of the relationship between religion, culture, and mass communication.

Anthropology 104: “Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity” — This class is an introduction to cultural anthropology. It provides a comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change.

Journalism and Mass Communication 201: “Introduction to Mass Communication” — Mediated communication shapes every aspect of our lives, from interpersonal relationships to political economy. It influences how we choose our leaders, how we learn about ideas and decide what to purchase, and how we perceive other members of society. This class is about exploring conceptual tools for understanding how and why our society’s mediated communications work the way they do. It is an introduction to the work of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC, sometimes called the J-School), a diverse department with scholars in media effects, political communication, history, neuroscience, sociology, and more. We will touch these subjects during the class, often with the help of guest lectures by SJMC faculty.
**Religion and the News**

figs.wisc.edu/2019fall63  
**FIG 63 • Fall 2019**

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**Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?**

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

**Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.**

So, here’s what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.

**MAIN CLASS**

Religious Studies 200  
**Religion in the News**

LEC 1: R 3:30–5:25

- Humanities
- Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **64832**

**LINKED CLASS**

Anthropology 104  
**Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity**

LEC 3: TR 9:55–10:45 +
DIS 333: T 3:30–4:20

- Ethnic Studies
- Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **51678**

**LINKED CLASS**

Journalism and Mass Communication 201  
**Introduction to Mass Communication**

LEC 1: MWF 9:55–10:45 +
DIS 317: R 1:00–2:15

- Communication Part B
- Social Science
- Elementary
- Honors Optional

credits: 4

class number: **45830**