

840: 341 **RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

Dr. James W. Jones

Fall, 2014

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:00 & by appointment, Loree 118

The following books are required

J. Fowler, Stages of Faith

S. Freud, The Future of An Illusion

K. Jung, Psychology and Religion

J. Jones, Contemporary Psychoanalysis And Religion

All other readings are on electronic reserve at the Sakai site for this course under “resources.”

Requirements: Each class period will be devoted to both lecture and discussion. Students are expected to have done the reading and come to class prepared with questions and comments for discussion. Class participation will be part of the final grade. There will be 4 brief (25 question) multiple choice exams as marked on the syllabus. They will probably be given during the first half of the class meeting time. If the technology can be worked out, they will be given in an online format. The exact date for exams depends on the time spent in discussion of the previous topics except that the last one is during the regularly scheduled final exam time.

No make up exams will be given unless either: (1) You can document that YOU (not a friend or relative) were confined to the hospital when the exam was given. Making an appointment at the health service will NOT suffice. Or (2) a close relative has died and the exam is being given the day of the funeral: a copy of the death notice or obituary is required for documentation. All make up exams must be taken within one week of the date of the exam.

Note: All cell phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off in class. Anyone whose device goes off during class will be asked to leave for the remainder of that period. During an exam, they will receive an “F” on that exam.

Instructor: Dr. James W. Jones holds earned doctorates in both Philosophy of Religion and in Psychology and an Honorary Doctorate in Theology (from the Uppsala University in Sweden). He is Distinguished Professor of Religion at Rutgers, where he has taught a variety of courses in religion and psychology and religion and science for over forty years. He has also taught in Graduate Faculties of Criminal Justice, Medical Humanities, and Theology. He is the author of fifteen books and numerous professional papers and is the editor several of several volumes of collected papers, dealing with Religion, Psychology and Science. He has been a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies at Cambridge University in the UK and was elected a Visiting Fellow of St. Edmund’s College in Cambridge in 2013. He has received an award from the Templeton Foundation for his science and religion course. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and in 1993 at their annual convention, he received an award for his contributions to the psychology of religion. For six years he was co-chair of the Religion and Social Sciences Section of the American Academy of Religion. He is a member of the International Society for Science and Religion and also served as vice-President of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion. He serves on the editorial boards of several

publications. He is a NJ and NY licensed psychologist and maintains a private practice of clinical psychology, specializing in psychophysiology and behavioral medicine.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the role religion plays in the lives of individuals and to the field of religion and psychology. The first half of the course will focus on models of moral and religious development. The second half will introduce students to psychoanalytic theories of religion and personality. This course will also provide some of the intellectual tools necessary to think critically and constructively about these issues.

Even though it is graded by multiple-choice exams, this course will require you to think about very difficult topics. But these are topics that every conscious human being should think about because our capacity to think about such things defines us as *Homo sapiens* (which means “thinking hominoids”). Simply taking notes and memorizing terms and concepts will not be sufficient to benefit from this course (nor, probably, to get a good grade). This course is taught by an instructor who has been thinking and writing about these things for a very long time. But who is also a practicing clinical psychologist who has worked with convicts, veterans, police officers, and patients from most every social and economic group and, more recently, been involved in studying terrorism and counter-terrorism. So the connection of psychology to religious beliefs and practices is of vital concern to the instructor. There will be opportunities to ask questions, debate with the instructor, and have small group discussion. How much you take advantage of those opportunities is entirely your responsibility.

Please Note: class will not meet on October 7th, or 9th, or November 25th.

Course Outline

Introduction

Part One: The Place of Religion in Human Development

Moral Development

Lawrence Kohlberg, "The six stages of moral judgment" from The Philosophy of Moral Development [E-Reserve]

“Lawrence Kohlberg Biography.” [E-Reserve]

James Fowler, Stages of Faith, part II

Religious Development

James Fowler, Stages of Faith, parts IV-V

James Day, “Religion, Spirituality in Adulthood” [E-Reserve]

[First exam: Moral and Religious Development]

Religion in the Life Cycle

Erik Erikson, “The human life cycle” from A Way of Looking at Things [E-Reserve]

“Erik Erikson Biography” [E-reserve]

Part Two: Religion and Dynamics of Personality

Freud and Religion

S. Freud, The Future of An Illusion

Forsyth, Psychological Theories of Religion, Chapter 1 [E-Reserve]

[Second Exam: Erikson and Freud on Religion]

Jungian Psychology of Religion

C. Jung, Psychology and Religion

Forsyth, Psychological Theories of Religion, Chapter 2 [E-Reserve]

[Third Exam: Erikson, Freud and Jung on Religion]

Current Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Religion

J. Jones, Contemporary Psychoanalysis and Religion

[Fourth Exam: Freud Jung and Contemporary Psychoanalytic Theories on Religion is currently scheduled for Monday 12/22/14 –1 hour, starting 12:00 Noon. **Fourth exam must be taken when scheduled**].