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SOCI A230 Sociology of Religion  
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BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT AND PRESENTATION

This book review assignment is made up of two components—an oral presentation of roughly 15-20 minutes on the date you sign up for and a written report submitted at any point up until 5pm on the last day of classes. The written report should be about 6-8 pages and include both a brief summary and a more extensive critical reflection on the material.

The report and the presentation should follow the basic format—a brief introduction and summary, a critical evaluation of the book and a conclusion. However, I also request that as part of your presentation you develop at least one big question for us to discuss as a class. You may use PowerPoint or any videos or materials you think would be illustrative as part of your presentation but depending on the number of other students presenting on your day you may not have much time so use audiovisuals wisely.

You should try to address the following specific points in your review. The ordering of them can depend on the specifics of the book and your personal style.

- What is the topic of the book? How well does it cover this topic? Why is this topic important?
- What are the book’s objectives? Does it convincingly meet its objectives?
- What types of evidence are given to support the author’s thesis? Is the evidence convincing or not?
- Are topics missing that should be covered? Explain why you think so. Give examples.
- Please comment on the book’s style, organization, clarity and use of figures, diagrams, data, tables, or artwork.
- How does the text relate to other things we have covered in the class?
- Did the book shape your thinking on the subject?

The assignment is worth 40 points, 10 points are awarded on the basis of the quality of the written summary, 10 points are awarded on the basis of the quality if the critical reflection, and 20 points are awarded for an effective presentation and for producing an interesting class discussion.

SOCI A320 Book Options


