

Tutorial Examination

100960 Contemporary Society - 2012

This is a CLOSED BOOK examination of 50 minutes duration (no reading time) worth 40% of your overall assessment.

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THE EXAMINATION BOOKLET PROVIDED

During the tutorial your tutor will choose 4 questions (out of these 10) for you to answer.

Spend 12 mins on each question.

READ CHAPTERS 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13

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- 1) Religion has become an important source of identity, worldviews and form of social organisation for a growing number of people. How has globalisation played a part in this process?

(How has globalisation made religion expand?)(Look at **week 7 reading** – secularisation)

Religion was expected to be replaced by science, but this has not been the case.

An increase in the modern, industrialised, urbanised and rationalised society would leave religion devalued and marginalised. But instead religion has created a science/secular

society. Secularisation theory argues that modernisation and secularisation would go hand in hand, so the more modern a society, the more secular it would be. Science would replace religion as a meaning-making source. Decline in individual religiousness. Now more recently social scientists have rejected this secularisation theory.

Secularisation theory is like evolutionism, religion belonged to a prior level of human evolution and now it is just an appendix/attachment to the modern culture repertoire.

But religion has increased 3 fold in the last 150 years.

There is now lots of subjective religiousness, people are not necessarily going to church more but are becoming more religious in their own ways in their everyday life, in their thoughts, etc. New Religious Movements (NRMs) have expanded in secular societies, e.g. Scientology.

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- 2) 'Most of the world today is certainly not secular (non-religious). It's very religious' (Berger in Stark 1999:270). Briefly explain the characteristics of modernity which have helped the resurgence of religion.

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- 3) Why can't we speak simply of "cultural imperialism" when we address the global-local issue? Give 1 example to explain how homogenisation/heterogenisation processes are mutually implicated.

(Imposing one culture upon another culture...McDonald's spreading across the globe is seen as westernising traditional cultures...Homogenisation is making everything the same)(Look at [week 12 reading](#))

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- 4) "In the case reviewed here, most McDonald's management and staff on the one hand and engaging customers on the other have been active participants in the localisation [of McDonald's in Beijing] process" (Yan 1997:40). Explain.

(Explain quote...Look at [week 12 reading](#))

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- 5) "This website... enables a privileged few with knowledge, time, and fluency in English mostly from the north-western hemisphere, to discuss the rest of the world. This reflects a wider problem: the tendency for global inequality and linguistic division to distort online dialogue" (Curran 2010:9). Discuss this and give examples to back up your assertions.

(Look at [week 8 second reading](#))

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- 6) What role do social movements play in contemporary Australian society? Discuss with reference to the Occupy Movement.

(Look at [week 13 reading](#)...plus search Google for Occupy Movement)

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- 7) What kind of understanding of the relation between the individual and society do we find in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

(How do I fit into society?) (Look at [week 11 reading](#))

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- 8) How is terrorism gendered? Discuss with reference to the post-9/11 'War on Terror'.

(Look at [week 10 first reading](#))(For example when you think of a terrorist, you think of a man)

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- 9) Samuel Moyn argues that "human rights are not so much an inheritance to preserve as an invention to remake—or even leave behind". Do we need to leave human rights behind? Why, or why not?

(Look at [week 11 second reading](#)) (Do we keep them as is? Do we need to change them or leave them behind? Human rights are something we inherit, our generation did not write)

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- 10) Critically analyse Cooper's claim that "the world has come to the shocking and almost certainly correct realization that, after all, the female of the species may well be deadlier than the male."

(Look at [week 10 second reading](#))