

**The Department of Sociology and Anthropology, BGU**

**Course: Sociology of Religion**

**B.A. Elective course**

**Prof. Stephen Sharot**

**2008/9**

**Requirement: reading, attendance and two examinations.**

**Description:** the course addresses central issues in the sociology of religion: theories of the sources and functions, the secularization thesis, religious movements and more. Special emphasis is put on Jewish religiosity in Israel and abroad.

**Definition**

Malcolm B. Hamilton, *The Sociology of Religion: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives*, chapter 1: 1-20

**Theories**

Malcolm B. Hamilton, *The Sociology of Religion: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives*, chapters 2: 21-27, 4:48-54, 8:97-108, 10:113-122, 16:183-192.

**Popular religion**

Stephen Sharot, *A Comparative Sociology of World Religions: Virtuosos, Priests, and Popular Religion* ("Pantheon: Official and Popular" pp. 182-193)

Eyal Ben-Ari and Yoram Bilu, "Saints' Sanctuaries in Development Towns," pp. 255-280 in *Israeli Judaism*

**Secularization**

Steve Bruce, *Religion in the Modern World: From Cathedral to Cults*, chapter 3 ("The Erosion of the Supernatural" pp. 25-62), chapter 6 ("American and God" pp. 128-143)

Charles S. Liebman & Seven M. Cohen, *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli & American Experiences*, chapter 6 ("Religious Life" pp. 123-156), chapter 7 ("Are Two Judaisms Emerging" pp. 157-175).

**New Age**

Lorna L. Dawson, *Comprehending Cults: The Sociology of New Religious Movements*, chapter 2 ("What Are New Religious Movements" pp. 26-38), chapter 3

(Why Did New Religious Movements Emerge? pp. 39-60), chapter 4 ("Who Joins New Religious Movements and Why?" pp. 71-94).

שלמה פיישר וצבי בקרמן "כנסיה או כת" בתוך *שם אתגר הישראלית* עמודים 321-342

Steve Bruce, *Religion in the Modern World: From Cathedrals to Cults*, chapter 8 ("The New Age" pp. 196-225)

### **Fundamentalism and messianism**

Steve Bruce, *Religion in the Modern World: From Cathedrals to Cults*, chapter 6 ("America and God" pp. 147-162)

נורית שטדלר "להתפרנס או להכות לנס: המלכוד החרדי והשתקפותו ביחסי תורה ועבודה" בתוך *חרדים ישראלים: השתלבות בלא טמיעה?* עמודים 32-55

Stephen Sharot, "Traditional, Modern or Postmodern? Recent Religious Developments among Jews in Israel," pp. 118-130 in *Postmodernity, Sociology and Religion*