Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 11**

11.1 Explain the components and functions of religion.

**Video Link:** [8 Elements of Religion](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1Wv0FHfzD8)

*This video shares eight elements commonly found in religions as listed by Michael Molloy in his book, "Experiencing the World's Religions."*

1. What are the components to the definition of religion and what do they mean to the overall definition of religion?
2. What are four of the eight elements of religion?

**Audio Link:** [Functions of Religion](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfGqCwF6gvc)

*This audio discusses the definition and function of religion.*

1. What are the two main categories of religion as determined by Robert Merton?
2. Describe two functions of religion as described in the audio.

**Web Resource:** [Religion – Meaning, Definitions and Components of Religion](http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/religion/religion-meaning-definitions-and-components-of-religion/6151/)

*This source provides detailed information regarding the many facets of religion.*

1. Explain why religion is an important social institution.
2. Explain the meaning of religion as described by this source.

11.2 Discuss the process of becoming religious.

**Video Link:** [My first steps in becoming religious](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpxjd02DjhA)

*In this video, Rabbi Alon Anava speaks about his first steps in becoming religious. This is part of a long lecture about his personal near death experience.*

1. What did Rabbi Alon Anava describe regarding the difficulty in becoming religious?
2. How does Rabbi Alon Anava describe his process of becoming religious in the beginning in Chicago?

**Audio Link:** [Know When to Fold ‘Em – Is this War or is this Hearts?](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/432/know-when-to-fold-em?act=1)

*This audio describes a man’s interaction with his evangelical Christian family after he determined that religion was not all he thought it was once he went to school to study it.*

1. How does David explain the scientific proof he used with his brother to point out fallacies in the Bible?
2. How did David’s father find religion and what purpose does it serve in his life?

**Web Resource:** [Four steps to hearing your call](http://www.vocationnetwork.org/articles/show/5-four-steps-to-hearing-your-call)

*This source explains how, throughout the ages, people have struggled to understand God’s call to them. It explains that four basic steps of discernment—becoming aware, gathering information, making a decision, and looking for confirmation of your choice—can help.*

1. According to this source, what is the importance of discernment in becoming religious?
2. What role does the community play in helping one become religious?

11.3 Describe how the United States became a “denominational society.”

**Video Link:** [Religion in America – Mainline Protestantism in the 20th Century](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=685khj633gA)

*This video discusses a number of features "mainline" churches have in common, and the origins of a number of these churches in mergers within denominational families, on the one hand, and shedding theological conservatives and fundamentalists, on the other hand.*

1. Name three mainline Protestantism churches.
2. What does the lecturer explain as the main catalyst for the change in denominations in the United States in the 1960s and why was it such a major catalyst?

**Audio Link:** [The Devil in Me](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/340/the-devil-in-me)

*This audio focuses on the issue of hate and demonization within society.*

1. Where does the voice that the people in Act Two generally come from?
2. From Act Three, explain how David comes to the conclusion that the devil may not actually exist and what that does to his entire religious belief system.

**Web Resource:** [History of Religion in America](http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3787.html)

*This source provides detailed information regarding the history of religion in America.*

1. How many different denominations of faith did the splintering of Christianity in the United States create?
2. What type of deity did Native Americans worship and where did they believe it existed?

11.4 Compare the functionalist and conflict perspectives on religion.

**Video Link:** [Sociology of Religion: Marx, Weber & Durkheim](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2-rnGiTFRU)

*This video details religion according to Marx, Durkheim, and Weber.*

1. Were Marx, Durkheim or Weber religious and name one other aspect of their views of religion in which they agreed?
2. What was Marx’s main philosophy regarding religion as compared to Durkheim’s?

**Audio Link:** [Enemy Camp - Confession](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/404/enemy-camp-2010?act=1)

*This audio is about a monk whose specialty is to deal with scandal.*

1. How did the monk use his religion to deal with conflict?
2. How would you characterize the monk’s

**Web Resource:** [Functional-Conflict Perspectives](http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dbromley/functionalconflictperspectives.html)

*This source provides details regarding religion from a functionalist and conflict perspective.*

1. What is moral authority as defined by Durkheim?
2. Explain how religion constitutes a reversal of the true situation.

11.5 Predict the future role of religion in the modern world.

**Video Link:** [What Does The Future Of Religion Look Like?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1qtTY0VdEY)

*This video focuses on the prediction of the outlook of religion over the next 35 years.*

1. Which two religions make up more than half of the world’s population?
2. What affect will conversion have on the future of religion?

**Audio Link:** [Mortal vs. Venial](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/463/mortal-vs-venial)

*This audio addresses the varying degrees or differences in sinning.*

1. Provide an example of a mortal sin from the audio.
2. Provide an example of a venial sin from the audio.

**Web Resource:** [Religion Faces an Unrecognizable Future](http://www.slate.com/bigideas/what-is-the-future-of-religion/essays-and-opinions/donald-miller-opinion)

*This source addresses the future of religion and the evolutionary process it will go through over the next 100 years.*

1. What are the three major stresses that are pulling apart the historic religions?
2. Explain in detail two of the responses to the challenges that the future of religion faces as explained in this article.