Student Learning Feedback Form Example REL 461: Senior Seminar: Theory in Religious Studies

Course Goals or Objectives

- I better understand a variety of theories of religion
- I better understand the role of theory in religious studies
- I better understand how to formulate research questions in religious studies
- I better understand how to do research in religious studies

Skills and Abilities

- Considering religion from multiple theoretical perspectives
- Formulating focused research questions appropriate to religious studies
- Conducting research in religious studies
- Matching research questions with appropriate methodologies
- Connecting research in religious studies to research in other fields of study.

Concepts

- The role of the body in religion
- Narrative, storytelling, and myth-making as a dimension of religion
- Rational choice as a dimension of religion
- Perspectives on secularization
- The "presence" of the sacred as an alternative approach to writing history

Assignments

- Daily papers
- Scaffolded research paper submissions (i.e., topic worksheet, question worksheet, bibliography, etc...)
- Drafting workshops
- Final research paper

Resources and Experiences

- Miles, Religion as we know it
- Fuller, The body of faith
- Stark and Finke, Acts of Faith
- Classroom discussions