

The Gods Have Landed Suny Series In Religious Studies

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since its inception almost 200 years ago the study of religion has informed enlightened provoked and challenged our notions of humanity's deepest beliefs and longings now walter capps nationally recognized for the quality and depth of his teaching has written the first full scale introduction to the history and methods of religious studies to assess the many points of view in this mature but diffuse discipline capps uses the idea that four basic of fundamental questions and three enduring interests have given formal structure to the study of religion the essence of religion the origin of religion descriptions of religion the function of religion the language of religion comparisons of religion and the future of

religious studies in this way capps relates the chief insights and theories of philosophy anthropology phenomenology sociology and theology of religion and spotlights theorists from immanuel kant to mircea eliade his valuable text unites in a single narrative and conceptual framework the major methodological proposals for the academic study of religion treats all the major theorists in their respective disciplines schools of thought and intellectual movements treats the whole discipline as a dynamic and evolving tradition religious studies constitutes not only an erudite introduction to the field exhibiting vast scholarship and careful assessment but also a bold synthetic proposal for its future

this paperback edition contains selected articles from the original clothbound editions of contemporary approaches to the study of religion vol i the humanities vol ii the social sciences religion and reason 27 28

drawing on recent developments in the comparative study of religion this book explores the trends of the past sixty years from a global perspective each of the ten chapters covers the study of religion in a different region of the world from europe and the americas to asia and the far east topics covered include local background to the study of religions formation of religious studies in the region important thinkers and writings institutions interregional diversity and interregional connections emerging issues this book is a major contribution to the field of religious studies and a valuable reference for scholars researchers and graduate students

the routledge companion to the study of religion is a major resource for courses in religious studies it begins by explaining the most important methodological approaches to religion including psychology philosophy anthropology and comparative study before moving on to explore a wide variety of critical issues such as gender science fundamentalism ritual and new religious movements written by renowned international specialists this new edition includes eight new chapters including post structuralism religion and economics religion and the environment religion and popular culture and sacred space surveys the history of religious studies and the key disciplinary approaches explains why the study of religion is relevant in today s world highlights contemporary issues such as globalization diaspora and politics includes annotated reading lists a glossary and summaries of key points to assist student learning

why do we find historians psychologists sociologists anthropologists even neurologists so interested in religion in the first place perhaps it is because religion is less about god than it is about human beings representing our psycho social emotional biological state our cultural values and our overall history the purpose of this book is to introduce the student to the main questions in religious studies and to survey some of the dominant theories drawing from a variety of disciplines in sum it is a short introduction to the field of religious studies

the prominence of religion in recent debates around politics identity formation and international terrorism has led to an increased demand on those studying religion to help clarify and contextualise religious belief and practice in the public sphere while many texts focus on the theoretical development of the subject this book outlines a wider application of these studies by exploring the role of religious studies scholars and theologians as public intellectuals this collection of essays first seeks to define exactly what makes an intellectual public it then goes on to deal with a few questions of concern how do public intellectuals construct knowledge in religious and theological scholarship what is the link between public intellectuals of higher education and their role in society do higher education institutions have a responsibility to endorse public intellectualism looking at the individual and collective role of religious studies scholars and theologians in public life this book will be of great interest to all scholars and academics involved in religious studies and theology across the academy

why do people study religion how have they studied it in the past how do we study religion today is the academic study of religion the same as religious education these and many other questions are addressed in this engaging introduction to the discipline of religious studies written by two experienced university teachers the authors have crafted this book to familiarize novice students with key concepts and terminology in the study of religion more advanced students will find a varied array of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches to the field topics include definitions of religion perspectives in the study and teaching of religion how religion began to be studied traditional perspectives philosophical and theological how people experience religion perspectives in the study of religious consciousness and perception phenomenological and psychological studying religion within communities social and cultural perspectives anthropological sociological political and economic judging religion critical perspectives feminist approaches the interaction of popular literature and religion contextual perspectives historical and comparative the book encourages students to think critically about the theories and methods presented students will find arguments for the strengths and limitations of these approaches understand connections among religious studies and other intellectual movements and develop their own ideas of how they might want to go about the study of religion summary boxes a timeline a glossary and other pedagogic aids help students grasp key concepts along with a companion website at sastor.com

the religion toolkit a comprehensive survey of the study of religion worldwide from ancient indigenous traditions to today's religious nationalism this is an excellent book that is a good comprehensive overview of the history of religions and the ways of studying religion within religious studies it really brings religions to life for the reader gavin flood professor of hindu studies and comparative religion oxford university the authors provide a clear first rate introduction to the study of religions origins leading scholars and their theories and

beliefs this is by far the best introductory volume i am aware of both in terms of substance clarity and insights john l esposito distinguished university professor georgetown university and past president of the american academy of religion the religion toolkit understanding religion in the world today is a clear and comprehensive introduction to the academic study of religions providing readers an introduction to the history and theories of religious studies a survey of global religious traditions and an overview of religion in the public sphere today discusses theory and methodology in religion including the disciplines of anthropology psychology philosophy biblical studies and theology describes the early development of religion with overviews of traditions around the world including judaism christianity islam baha i hinduism zoroastrianism jainism buddhism sikhism daoism confucianism and shinto covers traditions not commonly addressed in introductory textbooks such as santeria vodou tengrism and indigenous traditions of the americas examines recent developments and contemporary issues such as secularization bioethics and the rise of religious nationalism includes access to a companion website with discussion questions additional material and helpful primary and secondary sources providing the knowledge and tools required to explore and understand the nature and roles of religion the religion toolkit understanding religion in the world today second edition is an excellent introductory textbook for undergraduate and graduate courses in religious studies history of religion religions of the world and theory and method in the study of religion as well as a valuable resource for general readers interested in the role of religion in the world today

explore a rigorous but accessible guide to contemporary approaches to the study of religion from leading voices in the field the wiley blackwell companion to the study of religion delivers an expert and insightful analysis of modern perspectives on the study of religion across the humanities and the social sciences presupposing no knowledge of the approaches examined in the collection the book is ideal for undergraduate students who have yet to undertake extensive study in the humanities or social sciences the book includes perspectives from those in fields as diverse as globalization cognitive science the study of emotion law esotericism sex and gender functionalism terror the comparative method modernism and postmodernism many of the topics covered in the book clearly hail from religious studies while others are grounded in other areas of academia all of the chapters contained within are written by recognized authors who show how their chosen discipline contributes to the understanding of the phenomenon of religion this book also includes topics like a comprehensive exploration of multiple approaches to religious study including anthropology economics literature phenomenology philosophy psychology sociology and theology a review of various topics germane to the study of religion including the study of the body cognitive science the comparative method death and the afterlife law magic music and myth a selection of subjects touching on modern trends in extremism and violence including chapters on terror and violence fundamentalism and

nationalism a discussion of the influence of modernism and postmodernism in religion ideal for undergraduate graduate and postgraduate students in humanities and social science programs taking courses on religion and myth the wiley blackwell companion to the study of religion will also earn a place in the libraries of specialists working in the fields of religious studies theology sociology anthropology psychology political science history and philosophy

the aim of this book is to make a major contribution to the field of religious studies while at the same time paying tribute to the work of wilfred smith although the basis of the chapters is provided by smith s themes of faith and tradition and smith s approach to the study of religion this book stands in its own right as a significant addition to both content and method in the global history of religions first published in 1984 it includes contributions by geoffrey parrinder annemarie schimmel george rupp ninian smart and others

featuring comprehensive updates and additions the second edition of understanding theories of religion explores the development of major theories of religion through the works of classic and contemporary figures a new edition of this introductory text exploring the core methods and theorists in religion spanning the sixteenth century through to the latest theoretical trends features an entirely new section covering religion and postmodernism race sex and gender and religion and postcolonialism examines the development of religious theories through the work of classic and contemporary figures from the history of anthropology sociology psychology philosophy and theology reveals how the study of religion evolved in response to great cultural conflicts and major historical events student friendly features include chapter introductions and summaries biographical vignettes a timeline a glossary and many other learning aids

religion today introduces students to key concepts in religious studies through a compelling problem solving framework each chapter opens with a contemporary case study that helps students engage in current religious issues explore possible solutions to difficult religious problems today and learn key themes and concepts in religious studies to enhance student learning a free student study guide is available for download from rowman littlefield the study guide features chapter summaries definition quizzes for students to test themselves on key terms and possible learning activities

this first volume on the state of the art in religious studies in canada offers a description and critique of the field in the colleges universities and secondary schools in alberta among the findings philosophical theological and textual approaches to the study of religion predominate to the relative neglect of methodologies employed in fields such as sociology and anthropology the quality and quantity of published research is significant but focusses on christian studies some interdisciplinary study is being carried on and benefits religious

studies as well as other fields religious studies scholars in alberta have a relatively high public profile but their exercise of public responsibility is time consuming and can jeopardize career advancement in view of wide spread religious illiteracy among students descriptive courses must not be neglected in favour of analytical ones an appendix listing courses offered in the schools surveyed concludes the volume

it has been argued that religious studies is a polymethodic discipline and that the student of religion should be familiar with the approaches of the major disciplines concerned with understanding the nature of religion not least because the approach adopted has profound influence on the phenomena chose for investigation and the conclusions reached this book is the first textbook specifically designed for undergraduate students that provides the essential background on methods of the major relevant disciplines presenting each of the significant approaches to religion in an informed manner the book brings together experienced researchers from feminism anthropology sociology phenomenology psychology philosophy and theology it presents a consistent approach throughout with each chapter dealing with the same themes the historical development of the approach the characteristics of the approach and the surrounding issues and debates

the transition from re a level or from entirely alternate roots many rs students have not taken previous rs related courses to religious studies at university requires some careful shepherding the field is huge this introductory book will provide a clear map for the key features of the terrain the two main strands shaping the book define what religions are and explain how religious studies approaches the religions the language is clear at the same time as introducing some of the key terminology used in the study of religions the study of religions and the academic discipline of religious studies are growing areas in tertiary education in the uk the continued interest in re as and a level as well as the growth in cognate humanities and social sciences such as psychology sociology philosophy at a level and gnvq level indicates the significant interest amongst students on matters that pertain to culture and humanity in general students realise that religion is a driving force in contemporary culture and the study of it is central to understanding the contemporary world the statistics on religious belief bear out their interest four billion out of the six billion people who inhabit the world profess religious belief even in the secular societies of the western world religiosity is growing and changing a recent bbc poll stated that 70 of people in the uk believe in a higher being or spiritual force

reinventing religious studies offers readers an opportunity to trace the important trends and developments in religious studies over the last forty years over this time the study of religion has been transformed into a critical discipline informed by a wide range of perspectives from sociology to anthropology politics to material culture and economics to cultural theory reinventing religious studies brings together key writings which have helped shape scholarship teaching and learning in the field all the essays are drawn from

the cssr bulletin a provocative occasionally irreverent and always critical journal which has long been at the centre of debates in religious studies this collection will prove invaluable for students and scholars of theory and method in religious studies it offers readers a unique opportunity to understand the history of key issues in the study of religion and what remains central to the study of religion today

this updated textbook unravels the complex issues related to methodology and theory in the study of religion it equips students with the knowledge needed for the academic study of religion explaining the history of the methodology including ideas of key theorists and discusses key issues in the field such as gender phenomenology and the insider outsider discourse updated throughout additional material includes new chapter on colonialism and post colonialism new chapter on insider outsider discourse coverage of cyber religion and the internet as a research tool in religious studies study and classroom features in each chapter include chapter outlines case studies boxed key concepts discussion questions chapter bibliographies the text is illustrated throughout with 35 images and extra resources can be found online including additional coverage of levels of religion

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Introduction

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