Course Description: This is a course in methodology for the humanities and the social sciences. Methodology consists of the following two processes: First, as the theoretical means by which one approaches one’s object of analysis. Second, and intrinsically linked to the first process, as the tools by which one gathers data about one’s object of analysis. In this case, our object of analysis will be religion. Therefore, throughout the course of the semester we will be examining the following: Thinkers who have used very different theoretical approaches in their analysis of religion such as Durkheim, Weber and Berger representing sociology, Geertz, Levi-Strauss, Turner and Douglas representing anthropology, Freud, Jung and James representing psychology, Foucault representing Philosophy, Eliade, Long, Doniger and Lincoln representing the History of Religions, and Gross and Spivak representing feminist and subaltern theory. Intertwined with our analysis of these various theoretical approaches will be our examination of different modes of both qualitative and quantitative data gathering such as the following: how to undertake a literature review; how to do in-depth textual analysis; how to be a participant observer, conduct an interview and use life stories; and how to prepare surveys and questionnaires.

Required Reading
Course Packet available at Sir Speedy
Bryman, Alan, Social Research Methods Third Edition

Week 1, Introduction to the Class
Thursday, January 21

Week 2, The Sociologists
Tuesday, January 26
Reading: Course Packet, Weber, The Sociology of Religion, Chapters Intro, 1, 2, and 3.

Sociologists, con’t.
Thursday, January 28

Week 3, Undertaking a Literature Review
Tuesday, February 2
Bryman, Chapter 4
Homework: Construct your own literature review
Literature Review, con’t.

Thursday, February 4

In class assignment: Discuss the significance of your literature review.

**Topic Paragraph Due**

Week 4, The Anthropologists
Tuesday, February 9

Anthropologists, con’t.
Thursday, February 11
Reading: Course Packet, Turner, “Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage,” and Geertz, “Religion as a Cultural System.”

Week 5, The Psychologists
Tuesday, February 16

**Bibliography Due**

Psychologists, con’t.
Thursday, February 18

**In Class Exercise: An Historian of Religion, Doniger, Uses Freud**

Week 6, The Philosophers
Tuesday, February 23
Reading: Course Packet, Foucault, *Religion and Culture*, Part 1

**Test on the Readings**
Thursday, February 25

Week 7, Ethics and Politics in Social Research
Tuesday, March 2
Working with Human Subjects
Read Bryman, Chapter 5

Ethics and Politics, con’t.
Thursday, March 4
Working with Human Subjects

**Guest Speaker from the Office of Research**

Week 8, The Historians of Religions
Tuesday, March 9

**Outline Due**

Historians of Religion, con’t.
Thursday, March 11
Reading: Course Packet, Lincoln, *Emerging from the Chrysalis: Rituals of Women’s Initiation*, Chapter 5 and Afterword.
**Exercise: Which Lincoln is Right?**

**WEEK 9, SPRING BREAK, 15-19**

Week 10, Qualitative Data Gathering
Tuesday, March 22
Ethnographic Research, Interviewing and Life Stories
Bryman Chapter 17
**First Draft Due**

Qualitative Data Gathering, con’t.
Thursday, March 24
Ethnographic Research, Interviewing and Life Stories
Bryman Chapter 18
Exercises: Interviewing fellow classmates

Week 11, The Feminist Approach
Tuesday, March 30
Reading: Course Packet, Rita Gross, *Feminism and Religion*, Chapters 1 & 2.

Feminist Approach, con’t.
Thursday, April 1
Reading: Course Packet, Luce Irigaray and Judith Butler Pgs. TBA

Week 12, The Subaltern Approach
Tuesday, April 6
**Second Draft Due**

Subaltern Approach con’t.
Thursday, April 8
Reading: Course Packet, Mahasweta Devi, *Chotti Munda and His Arrow*, Pgs. TBA.

Week 13, Qualitative Data Gathering
Tuesday, April 13
Documents as Sources of Data
Bryman, Chapter 21
Qualitative Data Gathering, con’t.
Tuesday, April 15
Primary Texts as Sources of Data
Course Packet: Pgs. TBA

Week 14, Quantitative Data Gathering
Tuesday, April 20
Surveys and Questionnaires
Bryman, Chapter 9

Quantitative Data Gathering, con’t.
Thursday, April 22
Surveys and Questionnaires
Bryman, Chapter 10

Week 15
Tuesday April 27
Presentation of Final Paper

Thursday April 29
Presentation of Final Paper

Grading: Students must write a research paper of 20 pages or more utilizing a theoretical approach and data gathering method discussed in class or one they have discussed in detail with me. The paper will be worth 50% of your grade. Additional exercises will count as follows: the Literature Review Exercise—10%; the Doniger Exercise—10%; the Lincoln Exercise—10%; the reading test—10%; and the ethnographic exercise—10%.