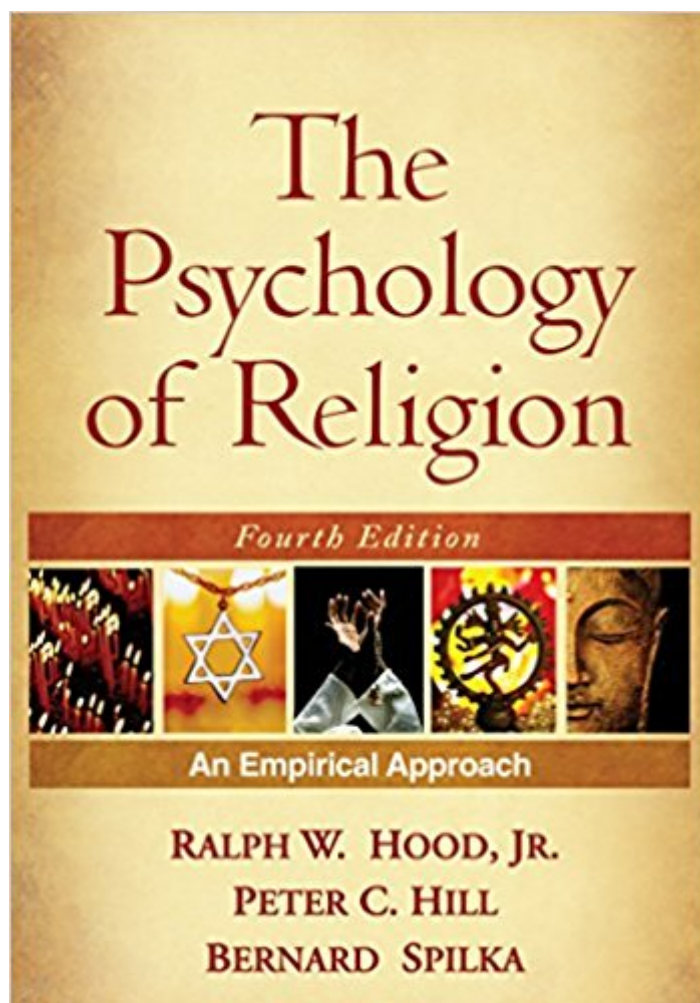


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The Psychology Of Religion, Fourth Edition: An Empirical Approach



Synopsis

Scholarly and comprehensive yet accessible, this state-of-the-science work is widely regarded as the definitive graduate-level psychology of religion text. The authors synthesize classic and contemporary empirical research on numerous different religious groups. Coverage includes religious thought, belief, and behavior across the lifespan; links between religion and biology; the forms and meaning of religious experience; the social psychology of religious organizations; and connections to morality, coping, mental health, and psychopathology. Every chapter features thought-provoking quotations and examples that bring key concepts to life.

New to This Edition

- *Revised and updated with the latest theories, methods, and empirical findings.
- *Many new research examples.
- *Restructured with fewer chapters for better "fit" with a typical semester.
- *More attention to the differences between religion and spirituality
- *Covers emerging topics: genetics and neurobiology, positive psychology, atheism, and more.

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Customer Reviews

"A splendid update of the definitive text in the psychology of religion. Important new developments in the psychology of atheism, conversion, evolutionary perspectives, and the cognitive science of religion receive extensive coverage. This is an authoritative and cutting-edge resource that can be used in either undergraduate courses or graduate seminars. Research in the psychology of religion has accelerated in the past decade, and these authors capture the excitement and main threads of contemporary developments without ignoring classic work in the field."--Robert A. Emmons, PhD,

Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis; Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Positive Psychology

“A truly marvelous work of scholarship--an indispensable resource for anyone with a serious interest in the scientific study of religion. Hood, Hill, and Spilka offer a highly readable text that systematically presents the growing body of research in a comprehensive yet concise way. The fourth edition has a restructured format that makes it even more practical and adaptable for classroom use. Without doubt, this fourth edition will retain its place as the leading text in the field.”--W. Paul Williamson, PhD, Department of Psychology, Henderson State University, Arkansas

“The volume is broad in scope, yet grounded in a meaning-making approach. It integrates a wide range of topics and classic research along with the latest findings. Hood, Hill, and Spilka write with wisdom, wit, and authority, making this a highly enjoyable and thought-provoking text.”--Crystal L. Park, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Connecticut

“This is the standard reference for scientific knowledge about how people live their religious and spiritual lives. This book grapples with quandaries about religion at the leading edge of our cultural discourse, including the differences between religiousness and personal spirituality and the ways in which religion can both heal and harm. It covers the lifespan from childhood to late life, addressing a range of challenges for which religion can bolster coping, such as illness, personal tragedy, and loss. The authors admirably carry forward the torch of William James and Gordon Allport in the fourth edition of this seminal text.”--James L. Griffith, MD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, George Washington University School of Medicine

“The field has grown by leaps and bounds since the third edition of this book, and Hood, Hill, and Spilka have clearly kept pace with the changes. In-depth without being overwhelming, the volume strikes just the right balance. This well-written and engaging text is ideal for graduate and advanced undergraduate courses. In addition, the book provides researchers with an invaluable means of orienting themselves to new topic areas within the psychology of religion.”--Julie Juola Exline, PhD, Department of Psychology, Case Western Reserve University

“This book just keeps getting better. It is by far the most comprehensive and engaging psychology of religion text on the market. The authors review classic and contemporary theory and research on the development of religion, neuroscience of spiritual experiences, positive psychology, health, and much more. This book has it all. It is highly appropriate for use in advanced undergraduate courses and graduate seminars, and should be on the shelf of every scholar who studies religion at the level of the individual, couple, family, group, community, or society.”--Wade C. Rowatt, PhD, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Baylor University

Ralph W. Hood, Jr., PhD, is Professor of Psychology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is past president of the Psychology of Religion division of the American Psychological Association, and a recipient of its William James Award, Virginia Sexton Mentoring Award, and Distinguished Service Award. He is cofounder of The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, for which he has served as coeditor and book review editor. Dr. Hood has also been editor of the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion and is currently coeditor of the *Archiv für Religionspsychologie*.
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I guess I can't ask for much from a textbook situation but I think I had my hopes up too high for this one. I mean I view textbooks as a reference tool and it should be easy to navigate and go straight to the topic you wish. I would've had better results with just google. I am conducting research for a book on communication and religion and I was hoping this book would be the foundation of my research. I guess not. I will have to keep looking.

Good condition and a fair price

Very in-depth and enlightening.

Excellent book but too expensive.

Great book!

Perhaps because this book has 3 authors and has had several editions the content is iterative and

choppy, but somehow the writing manages to produce a soporific effect . It is about the only reasonably current overview of the Psychology of Religion so for someone who wants an introduction to the field or a general reference choices other than Hood et al's text are limited or non-existent. However, after reading this book I find myself still uncertain about what exactly psychology of religion is as a field of study. A more comprehensive, clearer and critical presentation and evaluation of appropriate research methodology in this area. The same can be said about approaches to integrative theory. The authors attempt to satisfy this second request with some superficial reference to several general theories in social psychology. To be fair this perceived lack may simply be a reflection of the state of the art in this area of study. The authors deserve much credit for example for including information from diverse areas of study ranging from social psychology to neuroscience and just this range of material certainly makes production of any over-arching theory impossible. However, even within subareas there is some times a bothersome lack of integrative thought.

The book, while very complex, is a great tool for any student to have. Great for religion and psychology majors!

This book will tell you everything you need to know to begin to study the psychology of religion. This is a must have book for anyone interested in the field. It is the best introductory book available.

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