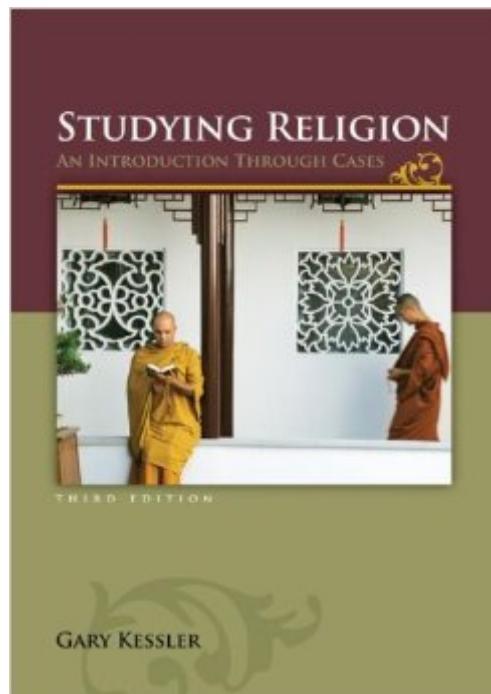


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# Studying Religion: An Introduction Through Cases



## **Synopsis**

Through the use of thought-provoking case studies, summaries, and review questions, this introductory level text shows students how to engage in the academic, objective study of religion and helps instructors address some of the typical problems they encounter when introducing students to the study of religion. Kessler guides students through an unbiased and varied study of religious beliefs and practices such as sacred power, myths and rituals, religious art, the problem of evil, and the relationship between religion and morality. The text also addresses issues of gender and religious institutionalization.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (21 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

I'm a religion professor, and I wanted to use this book as the main textbook for a college Introduction to Religion course. It has a nice organization so that it does not privilege any one religion in defining religion. For example, it discusses "Sacred Power" instead of "God," and attends to texts, art, ritual, and experience. What keeps me from requiring this book is the price!!! Ethically, I cannot require a book for a college course that costs \$90 to buy and \$20 to rent! It is really a shame that textbook publishers charge so much more than a normal paperback on a similar topic. I will keep looking...

I am a RS student and this is a very well thought out text book. Some of the topics are a bit hard to follow but that is also the nature of the topic. Kessler does his best to try and explain everything clearly and simply. If you need it for school great if you want some general knowledge of religion

then this is a great book as well. I am only taking off a star because the book I ordered was in very poor condition so it is really a star off of for that one.

I am in love with Gary Kessler. This was the most AMAZING BOOK ON STUDYING RELIGION/RELIGIOUS COMPARISONS! Kessler maintains such a perfect neutrality for all religions and always gives you a good argument supporting his points. (Except extreme Evangelical Christians... he kind of shows a sway in neutrality. He's not too fond of those guys). He also gives you examples of why certain aspects in different are both beneficial while still showing some of the dangers these beliefs might lead to. His writing style is just.... a work of art.

Anyone who has studied religion and attempted to classify it knows the difficulty of the task; there are few categorizations which do any faith justice, without excluding the rest. This field, like Culture Studies, is notoriously vague, distinct only in priority and negation. Therefore it is hardly surprising that Kessler's Introduction Through Cases suffers not from a lack of organization, but from a well-structured sense of chaotic misemphasis. One can hardly keep one's feet for the flitting from faith to faith, topic to topic. This is not the text to use if you wish for a layman's read, or an introduction to religions of the world. It is clear that Kessler knows his material exceeding thoroughly, but he just doesn't make the effort at clarity and introduction that an "Introduction" should have. Read it through, and create your own notes on the generous lists of typologies and interpretive styles; for the learned in the field, this might be a nice summary/articulation of your academic fodder. But for the rest of us, this is a tough introduction to the study unless it comes with a teacher, to a student gifted in the creation of outlines. For a personable (and generous) introduction to the major religions of the world, read Huston Smith's "The World's Religions". Please let me know if this review was helpful to you.

Wow! This should be called Gary Kessler's thoughts about religion. I have already begun reading the text, but was extremely disappointed in the misinformation that the author Gary Kessler has written. See page 171 about The Catholic's view on Purgatory. "Other religions, like Roman Catholic Christianity, combine a doctrine of hell with a doctrine of purgatory. For most people, especially those who have not committed the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit, forgiveness and hence salvation is always possible once they pay the price for sin. Here there is hope, even beyond the grave in the part of hell where SEE:CCC (Catechism of the Catholic Church) That is not what the Catholics believe at all. Purgatory is purification on the way to Heaven - not another tier of hell at

all.. <http://www.schorromeo.org/ccc/p123a12.htm>. I went on to read about how Moses is just a myth and is symbolic in that people want to be free as Moses frees the people. This is really sad Gary Kessler - do you knot have faith in anything? This book is fiction. I want to learn about what other faiths believe. I therefore; feel that this text is more like a fiction book and I am sorely disappointed as to what I am reading may not be true or substantiated, and this is an outrageous waste of my money.

Easy to read, great product!

This book is interesting and easy to follow. I read it because I had to for a class but I would've read it a lot sooner had I known it existed. It's a good read.

Had to buy this book for a class that only read selected passages. I've had a lot better books on the subject.

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