

Religion and Global Politics

Introduction to Religion and Global Politics
Gina Giliberti

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The so-called 'resurgence' of religion in the international politics has in recent decades generated a significant area of scholarship eliciting a complex array of responses, ranging from debates over the relation of religion to modernity, secularism, democratization, violence, terrorism, multiculturalism, globalization, and foreign policy. This introductory course will offer an introduction to the various debates around 'religion,' and how these differences are instantiated in theoretical and methodological approaches to religion within international and/or transnational contexts.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Grades are based on the following criteria:

- **Class participation (20%):** You should complete the assigned readings and actively participate in class discussion. This portion of your grade is based on both quantity (how often you discuss the readings, ask questions, etc.) and quality (comments based on a careful reading of the material vs. unsubstantiated opinions).
- **Op-Ed Writing Assignments (30%):** You will compose 3 "op-ed" writing assignments in response to *an current event that you care about* using theoretical and conceptual evidence from course readings. The papers should be 400-600 words (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Take seriously the challenge of adding something new to the public conversation, something you would like to have people read.
- **Presentation (10%):** Working in assigned pairs, students will give one 15-20 minute presentation based on the week's reading. The presentation should summarize central themes of the readings and raise questions for discussion.
- **Paper Précis (5%):** A précis of the paper (1-2 pp max) offering a rough sketch of your general themes/texts/arguments and on which I'll provide comments and suggestions. You can also include your secondary sources in the précis, or some of them; but this isn't a requirement.
- **Final Paper (35%):** Students are expected to write one 5,000-word essay (10-12 pages) that explores a question of relevance to the core themes and topics of the course. The essay is due at noon on XXX. Your paper may extend on themes from your op-eds.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through taking this course, students will:

- Engage with literature, research, and theories related to religion and world politics, situating the literature in global and comparative perspective;

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- Understand the impact that histories, institutions, and social structures have led to varied perspectives on religious issues in world politics;
- Develop an ability to think and write critically about political, religious, economic, and cultural issues in world politics using nuanced and analytic approaches;
- Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with student colleagues who may have different religious, economic and political backgrounds and experiences.

ASSIGNED READINGS:

Week 1: Did Religion “Return?” Contested Narratives

Monday

Shah, Timothy and Monica D. Toft. “Why God is Winning” *Foreign Policy* 155 (July/August 2006): 38-43.

Dirlik, Arif (2003) ‘Modernity in Question?: Culture and Religion in an Age of Global Modernity’, *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, 12: 2, pp.147-168.

Wednesday

Thomas, Scott M. “Taking Religious and Cultural Pluralism Seriously: The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Society,” *Millennium – Journal of International Studies* 29:3 (December 2000): 815-841

Friday

Daniel Philpott, “The religious roots of modern international relations,” *World Politics* 52 (January 2000): 206-45

Hurd, E. *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations*. Princeton, 2008. 134-146.

Week 2: Conceptual Debates

Monday

Shah, Timothy Samuel and Daniel Philpott (2011) ‘The Fall and Rise of Religion in International Relations: History and Theory’ in Jack Snyder, ed. *Religion and International Relations Theory*. New York: Columbia University Press. 24-59.

Bellin, E. 2008. 'Faith in politics: new trends in the study of religion and politics', *World Politics*, 60(2): 315-347.

Wednesday

Mitchell, J. (2007), 'Religion is not a Preference', *The Journal of Politics*, 59: 351-62.

Asad, Talal. 2012. “Thinking about Religion, Belief, and Politics,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies*, Robert Orsi. 36-57.

Friday

Mancini, S. (2007), 'Comparativism in the History of Religions: Some Models and Key Issues', *Religion*, 37: 282-293

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Haynes, Jeffrey. "Religion and International Relations: What are the issues?"
International Politics 41:3 (September 2004): 451-462

SUNDAY 9PM: *****FIRST OP-ED DUE*****

Week 3: History of "Religion"

Monday

Cavanaugh, William T. (2009) 'The Invention of Religion' in *The Myth of Religious Violence: Secular Ideology and the Roots of Modern Conflict*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 58-122.

Wednesday

Bosco, Robert M (2009) 'Persistent Orientalisms: The Concept of Religion in International Relations', *Journal of International Relations and Development* 12, pp. 90-111.

Friday

Nandini Chatterjee, "Muslim or Christian? Family Quarrels and Religious Diagnosis in a Colonial Court." *American Historical Review* 117, no. 4 (October 2012): 1101-1122.

C.S. Adcock, "Sacred Cows and Secular History: Cow Protection Debates in Colonial North India." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Vol. 30, no. 2 (2010): 297-311.

Week 4: Secularism and Modernity

Monday

Casanova, José. *Public Religions in the Modern World*. Chicago: U of Chicago, 1994. Print. Chap 1-2. 11-74.

Wednesday

Eisenstadt, Shmuel N. "Multiple Modernities," *Daedalus* 129:1 (Winter 2000): 1-29.
Hussein Ali Agrama, "Secularism, Sovereignty, Indeterminacy: Is Egypt a Secular or Religious State?" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52:3 (2010): 495-523.

Friday

Hurd, E. *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations*. Princeton, 2008. 1-64,

Week 5: Conflict

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Monday

- Appleby, R. Scott (2000) *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 1-19, 121-165.
- Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72, 3: 22- 49.

Wednesday

- Henderson, Errol A. and Richard Tucker. "Clear and Present Strangers: The Clash of Civilizations and International Conflict," *International Studies Quarterly* 45:2 (June 2001): 317-338.
- Said, Edward. 2001. "The Clash of Ignorance." *The Nation*, Oct 22.

Friday

- Cavanaugh, William T. (2009) 'The Creation Myth of the Wars of Religion' in in *The Myth of Religious Violence: Secular Ideology and the Roots of Modern Conflict*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 123-180.

SUNDAY 9PM: ***SECOND OP-ED DUE*******

Week 6: Terrorism

Monday

- Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003: 121-147 (Ch. 7).
- Walzer, Michael (2004) 'After 9/11: Five Questions about Terrorism' in *Arguing About War*. London and New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 130-142.

Wednesday

- Dunne, T. (2009) 'Liberalism, International Terrorism, and Democratic Wars', *International Relations*, 23(1), 107-114.
- Devji, Faisal. "The Terrorist as Humanitarian." *Social Analysis*. Vol. 53, no. 1, 2009, pp. 173-192.

Friday

- Washington Post*. 2014. "How the Islamic State Evolved in an American Prison." Nov 4.
- Audrey Kurth Cronin, "ISIS Is Not a Terrorist Group: Why Counterterrorism Won't Stop the Latest Jihadist Threat" *Foreign Affairs* March/April 2015, pp. 1-9.
- Andrew F March and Mara Revkin, "Caliphate of Law: ISIS' Ground Rules," *Foreign Affairs* March/April 2015, pp. 1-7.

Week 7: Multiculturalism and Pluralism

Monday

- Taylor, Charles, et al. (1994) 'The Politics of Recognition' in *Multiculturalism and 'The Politics of Recognition'*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 25-73.

Wednesday

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Mahmood, Saba. *Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A Minority Report*. Princeton University Press, 2016. 31-65

Friday

Kymlicka, Will (2009) *Multicultural odysseys: navigating the new international politics of diversity*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. 247-294.
Courtney Bender and Pamela E. Klassen, eds. *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010. 31-58.

Week 8: Democracy

Monday

Jonathan Fox, 2006. "World Separation of Religion and State Into the 21st Century," *Comparative Political Studies* 39:5, 537-569.

Wednesday

Alfred Stepan, 2000. "Religion, democracy, and the "twin tolerations," *Journal of Democracy*, 11:4, 37-56.
Robert D Woodberry, "The missionary roots of liberal democracy," *American Political Science Review* 106:2 (2012): 244-274.

Friday

Stathis N. Kalyvas, 1998. "From Pulpit to Party: Party Formation and the Christian Democratic Phenomenon," *Comparative Politics*, 30:3, 293-312.
Charles Kurzman and Ijlal Naqvi, 2010. "Do Muslims Vote Islamic?" *Journal of Democracy* 21:2, pp. 50-63.

****PRECIS DUE****

Week 9: Globalization

Monday

Furet, Francois. 2015. "How to be Both Under God and Under the European Union." In *Nations Under God: The Geopolitics of Faith in the 21st Century*. pp. 192-202.
Thomas, Scott. 2004. "Faith and Foreign Aid: How the World Bank Got Religion and Why it Matters." *The Brandywine Review of Faith and International Affairs*: 21-29.

Wednesday

Koning, Juliette and Heidi Dahles. 2009. "Spiritual Power: Ethnic Chinese Managers and the Rise of Charismatic Christianity in Southeast Asia." *Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies* (27) 5-37.
Corten, André, and Marshall-Fratani, Ruth. *Between Babel and Pentecost : Transnational Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 2001. 1-21.

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Friday

Fischer, Johan. 2011. *The Halal Frontier: Muslim Consumers in a Globalized Market*. Palgrave. Chap 1, 5.

SUNDAY 9PM: *****THIRD OP-ED DUE*****

Week 10: Foreign Policy

Monday

Farr, Thomas F. *World of Faith and Freedom: Why International Religious Liberty is Vital to American National Security*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008: Chs. 9-10). 243-307

Philpott, Daniel. "Religious Freedom and Peacebuilding: May I Introduce You Two?" *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* 11:1 (2013): 31-37.

Wednesday

Preston, Andrew. 2012. "Why Is American Foreign Policy So Religious?" *Religion & Politics*. May 7.

Hurd, Elizabeth S. "Political Islam and Foreign Policy in Europe and the United States," *Foreign Policy Analysis* 3:4 (October 2007): 345-367.

Friday

Sullivan, Winnifred Fallers, Hurd, Elizabeth Shakman, Mahmood, Saba, and Danchin, Peter G. *Politics of Religious Freedom*. Chicago ; London: U of Chicago, 2015. 45-77, 142-157. 301-312, 324-334

*****FINAL PAPER DUE*****