

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science
Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective (4202F/9736A)
2012**

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Office Hours:
Wednesdays 10 am- 12m

Course Objective

This course studies the interaction between religion and politics in the Americas. More specifically, it analyzes and compares the relationship between dominant ideas of God and the political cultures of Canada, the United States and several Latin American countries.

Prerequisites/Antirequisites

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Important Notice

Because of the sensitive nature of the topics covered in this course, it is imperative that we respect both those who have religious beliefs and those who do not. However, you should keep in mind that this course has been designed to critically examine the interaction between religion and politics. Religious organizations and values will be analyzed from a political and critical perspective. If you are uncomfortable having your own religious views examined, you may want to reconsider taking this course.

Student Assessment

The overall grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Participation.....	20%
Essay.....	50%
Book review (s).....	30%

Participation

Students in this course will be expected to master the assigned readings and to actively participate in the discussions that will take place every week. Moreover, students will be required to post a short critical assessment of the assigned readings on the *Religion and Politics Bulletin Board* that has been created for this purpose. Critical assessments must be posted each week by Friday at noon.

One or two students will formally introduce the assigned readings each week having read the other students' critical comments on the bulletin board. To visit the *Religion and Politics Bulletin Board* on the web, go to:

<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/religionandpoliticsuwo>

Essay

A research essay (15-17) double-spaced page will be due on December 3 **IN CLASS**. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor in class.

Book Review (s):

Select one of the following books:

Richard Gwyn, Nation Maker: Sir John A. Macdonald: His Life, Our Times. Toronto: Random House, 2011.

Joe Bageant, Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War. New York: Random House, 2007.

Francisco Goldman, The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop? New York: Grove Press, 2007.

In addition, graduate students will review one of the following books:

Michel Allen Gillespie, The Theological Origins of Modernity. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Jeremy Waldron, God, Locke, and Equality: Christian Foundations in Locke's Political Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, Sovereignty, God, State and Self. New York: Basic Books, 2008.

A. P. Martinich, The Two Gods of Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes on Religion and Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

The first review (undergraduate and graduate students) is due on October 15, 2012 **IN CLASS**. Book reviews should not exceed 8 double-spaced pages. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor in class. The second book review (for graduate students only) is due on November 19, 2012.

Note: A penalty of 5% per day (including week-ends and holidays) will be imposed on any written assignment that is not handed in on time, **IN CLASS**.

Books Recommended for Purchase:

Reginald W. Bibby, Beyond the Gods and Back: Religion's Demise and Rise and Why It Matters. Project Canada Books, 2011.

Frank Lambert, Religion in American Politics: A Short History. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Jung Mo Sung, Desire, Market and Religion. London: SCM Press, 2007.

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

September 10 Introduction: Ideas of God, Human Security and Political Culture

September 17: Ideas of God in History

Genevieve Lloyd, Providence Lost. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2008, 279-332.

Charles Taylor, A Secular Age. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007, 221-269.

September 24: Human Security and Ideas of God

Pippa Norris, Ronald Inglehart, Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, 3-79.

James K. Wellman and Clark B. Lombardi, eds. Religion and Human Security: A Global Perspective. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2012, 1-29.

October 1: God, Religion, and your Brain

Justin L. Barrett, Cognitive Science, Religion, and Theology: From Human Minds to Divine Minds. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2011, 3-57.

Edward Slingerland, "Who's Afraid of Reductionism? The Study of Religion in the Age of Cognitive Science", Journal of the American Academy of Religion, June 2008, Vol. 76, No. 2, pp. 375-411

October 15: Human Security, Ideas of God, and the Political Culture of Canada (I)

Bibby, 1-135.

Pierre Anctil, "Reasonable Accommodation in the Canadian Legal Context: A Mechanism for Managing Diversity or a Source of Tensions?" in Howard Adelman and Pierre Anctil, eds., Religion, Culture, and the State: Reflections on the Bouchard-Taylor Report. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011, 16-36.

October 22: Human Security, Ideas of God, and the Political Culture of Canada (II)

Bibby, 136-216

Howard Adelman, "Monoculturalism versus Interculturalism in a Multicultural World", in Howard Adelman and Pierre Anctil, eds., Religion, Culture, and the

State: Reflections on the Bouchard-Taylor Report. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011, 37-57.

John Geddes, "What Canadians think of Sikhs, Jews, Christians, Muslims...". MACLEAN'S, 2009, 20-24.

October 29: Human Security, Ideas of God, and the Political Culture of the United States (I)

Lambert, 1-103

Joe Bageant, Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War. New York: Random House, 2007, 161-193.

November 5: Human Security, Ideas of God, and the Political Culture of the United States (II)

Lambert, 104-250

Randall Balmer, God in the White House: A History. New York: Harper One, 2008, 221-3.

November 12: Human Security, Ideas of God, and the Political Culture of Latin America (I)

Anthony Gill, Rendering unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1998, 17-46.

Michael Löwy, The War of Gods: Religion and Politics in Latin America. New York: Verso 1996, 32-80.

Sung, 129-154.

November 19: Human Security, Ideas of God, and the Political Culture of Latin America (II)

Sung, 1-75; 100-128

Andrés Pérez-Baltodano, "Between God and the State: Globalization and Human Insecurity in Latin America", in Manuela Nilsson, Jan Gustafsson, eds., Latin American Responses to Globalization in the 21st Century. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 115-133.

November 26: Globalization, Religion, and Insecurity

Dominique Moisi, The Geopolitics of Emotion: How Cultures of Fear, Humiliation and Hope are Reshaping the World. New York: Anchor Books, 9-30; 56-89.

David Wessels, "Religion and Globalization" in Jeffrey Haynes, ed., Routledge Handbook of Religion and Politics. New York: Routledge, 2009, 323-339.

Sung, 76-99

December 3: Conclusions

Religion and Politics in the XXI Century: A Debate