

**The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective (4202F/9736A)  
2013**

**Andrés Pérez**  
SSC 4164  
[aperez@uwo.ca](mailto:aperez@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:**  
**Thursdays 1pm-3pm**

**Course Objective**

This course studies the relationship between religion and politics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. More specifically, the course is designed to help students identify and analyze affinities, tensions and contradictions between ideas of God and principles of political authority in these three religious traditions.

**Important Notice Re: 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

**Student Assessment**

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

Participation.....	20%
Essay.....	40%
Book review (s).....	20%
Take home exam.....	20%

**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 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 Monday 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>

### **Note**

This course has been designed to critically examine the interaction between religion and politics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Some aspects of the theological foundations of these religions will be analyzed from a social science perspective. If you are uncomfortable having your own religious views examined in an academic setting, you may want to reconsider taking this course.

### **Essay**

A research essay (12-15) double-spaced page will be due on November 16, 2013 **IN CLASS**. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor in class.

### **Book Review (s):**

Undergraduate students will review one of the following books. Graduate students will review two.

Mark Lilla, The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West. New York: Random House, 2008.

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.

Tariq Ramadan, Islam, the West and the Challenges of Modernity. Markfield, Leicester: The Islamic Foundation, 2001.

Bassam Tibi, Islam between Culture and Politics. London: Palgrave, 2001.

Noah Feldman, The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Michael Walzwe: In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible. Yale: Yale University Press, 2012.

Steven T. Katz, The Impact of the Holocaust in Jewish Theology. New York: New York University Press, 2007

David Novak, Covenantal Rights: A Study in Jewish Political Theory. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.

The first review (undergraduate and graduate students) is due on October 21, 2009 **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 December 16, 2009.

### **Take-home Examination**

This is an essay-type examination consisting of two questions which require answers of two or three pages each.

Handed out: November 16, 2013

Turned in: December 23, 2013

**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:**

John Corrigan, Frederick M. Denny, Carlos M.N. Eire, Martin S. Jaffee, Jews Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2012.

Michael Jon Kessler, ed., Political Theology for a Plural Age. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Paul S. Rowe, Religion and Global Politics. Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 2012.

### **Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## Reading Program

### PART I: INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION

September 9: Introduction

September 16: Political Theology or Theologies of the Political?

György Geréby, "Political Theology versus Theological Politics: Erik Peterson and Carl Schmitt." New German Critique, Volume 35, Number 3, 2008, 7-33.

Aaron W. Hughes, Abrahamic Religions: On the Uses and Abuses of History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-33.

Kessler, Introduction and chapter 1.

September 23: Who is/Should be in Charge? Providentialism and Political Authority in Abrahamic Religions

McCann, Hugh J., "Divine Providence", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2012 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2012/entries/providence-divine/>.

David B. Burrell, Towards a Jewish-Christian-Muslim Theology. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 63-85.

William A. Galston, "Religious Violence or Religious Pluralism: The Essential Choice." In John M. Owen and J. Judd Owen, Religion, the Enlightenment and the New Global Order. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010, 37-56.

### PART II: IDEAS OF GOD AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY

September 30: Providentialism and Political Authority in Christianity (I)

Corrigan et al., chapters 2, 5 and 8.

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

October 7: Providentialism and Political Authority in Christianity (II)

Corrigan et al., chapters 14 and 20.

Rowe, chapters 2 and 3.

October 21: Religion and Politics in the Christian World: Separation or Integration?

Mark Lilla, The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West. New York: Random House, 2008, 3-106.

Kessler, chapter 2.

October 28: Providentialism and Political Authority in Judaism (I)

Corrigan, chapters 1, 4 and 7.

Michael Walzer, In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 199-212.

Kessler, chapter 3.

November 2: Providentialism and Political Authority in Judaism (II)

Corrigan, chapters 13 and 19.

Rowe, chapter 4.

David Novak, "The Enlightenment Project, Spinoza, and the Jews." In John M. Owen and J. Judd Owen, Religion, the Enlightenment and the New Global Order. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010, 109-139.

November 9: Religion and Politics in Israel: Separation or Integration?

Michael Walzer, Menachem Lorberbaum and Noam J. Zohar, eds., Yair Lorberbaum, co-editor, The Jewish Political Tradition: Authority. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000, 463-524.

November 16: Providentialism and Political Authority in Islam (I)

Corrigan et al., Chapters 3, 6, and 9.

Fathi Osman, "Shura and Democracy." In John J. Donohue and John L. Esposito, Islam in Transition: Muslim Perspectives. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, 288-295.

Murad Hofmann, "Democracy and Shuracracy." In Donohue and Esposito, 296-306.

Abdulaziz Sachedina, "Why Democracy, and Why Now." In Donohue and Esposito, 307-310.

Abdolkarim Soroush "Tolerance and Governance: A Discourse on Religion and Democracy." In Donohue and Esposito, 311-318.

Abib Ullah Jan, "Neither Required nor an Issue." In Donohue and Esposito 319-330.

Ali A. Mazrui, "Human History as Divine Revelation: A Dialogue." In Donohue and Esposito 507-512.

November 23: Providentialism and Political Authority in Islam (II)

Corrigan, chapters 15 and 21.

Rowe, chapter 5.

Kessler, chapter 5.

November 30: Religion and Politics in Islam: Separation or Integration?

Tariq Ramadan, Islam, the West and the Challenges of Modernity. Markfield, Leicester: The Islamic Foundation, 2001, 11-134.

### **PART III: GOD AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD**

December 2: Religion and Politics in the XXI Century: The Search for a Multi-Faith Political Theology

Rowe, chapters 11 and 12.

Kessler, chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9.

**(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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)