

POL 210: Religion and American Politics

Fall 2007

Instructor: Alisa Kessel

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OH: T 1:30-2:45 (and by appointment)

T 3:00-5:30

Tribble C316

Course goals and description: This course in American politics analyzes the dimensions of the relationship between religion and politics in contemporary American politics. It is a politics class, not a religion class, and we will not explore scriptures, theologies, or doctrines in any significant way. Perhaps more important, this class is not about the validity of faith (yours or anyone else's). Its focus will be on the relationship between religion and political rhetoric, doctrines, and policy actions in American politics. The course aims to develop students' methodological and theoretical frameworks for understanding this relationship and generating answers to questions regarding the appropriate relationship between religion and politics.

Course design: This course meets once a week, and each class period will be divided into discussion, lecture, presentation, and special activities. Because the class meets every week, it is IMPERATIVE that students attend each week.

Course policies:

1) Ethical obligations: By registering for this course, you have agreed to abide by the Wake Forest University honor code, available at <http://www.wfu.edu/new/publications/academics/ugb2007-2008.pdf> (page 14).

2) Laptops: The policy of the department of political science is that laptop computers only be used in classrooms for note taking and other academic purposes as designated by the instructor. Individual faculty members further reserve the right to ban computer use in their courses, should this policy be violated.

3) Special accommodations: You must give me advanced notification if you require special accommodation for class activities or exams.

4) Student obligations: Please arrive to class on time and prepared to discuss materials thoughtfully. You are expected to conduct yourselves honorably and responsibly in this class.

Books for purchase (available on amazon.com or any bookstore)

Sam Harris, *The End of Faith*, (Paperback edition published by Norton). ISBN: 0393327655

J.C. Green, M. J. Rozell, and C. Wilcox, *The Values Campaign?: The Christian Right and the 2004*

Elections, (Paperback edition published by Georgetown University Press). ISBN: 1589011082.

*All other course materials will be available through e-reserve, the library, or the web.

Course requirements:

Mini essays (5 essays worth 5% each)	25%
Presentations	15%
Presidential candidate/memo:	10%
Religious organization:	5%
Midterm examination	15%
Final examination	25%
Research paper	20%
TOTAL	100%

Reading assignments: Many of the reading assignments are available online. In these instances, I have provided you with URL or database information. They *should* work, but obviously, you are required to obtain the reading for each day and complete it before you come to class, *even if they don't*. I have

included extensive citation information so that you can locate the articles, even if the URL does not function. Please take advantage of the reference librarians if you have trouble using a database or locating a resource.

Mini essays: These short, reflective writing assignments are designed to help you think formally about the critical issues of the week before coming to class. They will be assigned periodically throughout the semester, and you will have at least one week to complete them.

Candidate presentation and memo: Each week, a different group of students will present a 10-15 minute presentation briefing the class on the relationship between a particular presidential candidate and his/her religious beliefs. They will also complete and distribute a written memo on the candidate. The memo template may be downloaded from the "Assignments" folder on Blackboard.

Religious organization presentation: In weeks 9 & 10 of the course, students groups will give 5-10 minute presentations on various political religious organizations in the U.S. Details to follow.

Midterm examination: The midterm examination will be administered on October 16, 2007. You will receive details prior to the exam.

Final examination: The final exam will be administered during our regularly scheduled examination time. You will receive details prior to the exam.

Research paper: Each student will write a 8-10 page research paper. You will provide a hard copy of the paper to me AND upload the paper to the Turnitin service by 3 pm on November 13, 2007.

Participation and attendance: One goal of this class is for us to learn from each other by discussing complex issues together. Your attendance and participation is critical; you will not have successfully completed the course if you do not attend and participate. Please email me and let me know if you will not be able to attend class.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are absent for 1/3 or more of the class periods (3 classes), *you will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.*

Course schedule:

Week 1: Course introduction; American public opinion on religion

September 4: Janet Elder, "Finding Religion on the Campaign Trail," *New York Times*, July 11, 2007, available online at http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/11/us/politics/11web-elder.html?_r=1&oref=slogin; "Many Americans Uneasy with Mix of Religion and Politics," *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life*, August 24, 2006, available online at <http://pewforum.org/docs/index.php?DocID=153> (view the file as it appears on the website (about 12 pages), not the .pdf for the complete report (about 38 pages); John C. Green, "Religion Republicans: Hanging Tough with Bush," *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life*, June 22, 2007, available online at <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=229>; Andrew Keen, "Web 2.0," *The Weekly Standard*, February 15, 2006, available online at <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/006/714fjczq.asp?pg=1>.

Week 2: The Constitution & founding principles

September 11: John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity," available online at <http://religiousfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/charity.html>; Annotations of the First Amendment of the US Constitution (read the First Amendment, and the sections on religion (pages 969-1019) at http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/html/amdt1toc_user.html; Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptists, available online at <http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9806/danpre.html>

Week 3: Separation of church and state/Lemon test

September 18: “Establishment Clause: Overview,” *Religious Liberty in Public Life*, available online at http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/rel_liberty/establishment/index.aspx; Claire Mullally, “Free Exercise: Overview,” *Religious Liberty in Public Life*, available online at http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/rel_liberty/free_exercise/index.aspx; L. Scott Smith, “Religion Interfacing with Law and Politics: Three Tired Ideas in the Jurisprudence of Religion,” *Logos*, 10.2 (2007) 14-28, available on Project Muse; Michelle Boorstein, “Hindu Groups Ask ’08 Hopefuls to Criticize Protest,” *Washington Post*, July 27, 2007, available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/27/AR2007072700206.html?referrer=emailarticle>.

Week 4: Public spheres and religion

September 25: **Read the case summaries and syllabi for the following:** *LEMON v. KURTZMAN* (403 U.S. 602; 91 S. Ct. 2105; 29 L. Ed. 2d 745; 1971 U.S. LEXIS 19); *VAN ORDEN v. PERRY* (545 U.S. 677; 125 S. Ct. 2854; 162 L. Ed. 2d 607; 2005 U.S. LEXIS 5215); *McCREARY COUNTY, KENTUCKY v. AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF KENTUCKY* (545 U.S. 844; 125 S. Ct. 2722; 162 L. Ed. 2d 729; 2005 U.S. LEXIS 5211), available on Lexis Nexis; Laura S. Underkuffler, “Through a Glass Darkly: Van Orden, McCreary, and the Dangers of Transparency in Establishment Clause Jurisprudence,” *First Amendment Law Review*, Fall 2006 (5 First Amend. L. Rev. 59), available on Lexis Nexis.

Week 5: Sources of moral authority in civic life

October 2: Robert Bellah, “Civil Religion in America,” *Daedalus*, Fall 2005 (134:4), available in Proquest; Pat Buchanan, “1992 Republican National Convention Speech,” available online at <http://www.buchanan.org/pa-92-0817-rnc.html>; J.D. Hunter, *Culture War* (excerpts), available on e-reserve; Morris Fiorina, “What Culture Wars?” available online at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/digest/3010006.html>.

MINI ESSAY #1 DUE

Week 6: *Mozert v. Hawkins*

October 9: [Mozert v. Hawkins County Bd. of Education](#), Nos. 86-6144, 86-6179, 86-6180, 87-5024, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, 827 F.2d 1058; 1987 U.S. App. LEXIS 11385; 102 A.L.R. Fed. 497, August 24, 1987, Decided, available on Lexis Nexis (search in federal case law, PLEASE NOTE: this is an *appeals court* decision, not a Supreme Court decision); L. Scott Smith, “From Promised Land to Tower of Babel: Religious Pluralism and the Future of the Liberal Experiment in America,” *Brandeis Law Journal*, Spring 2007 (45 Brandeis L.J. 527), available on Lexis Nexis.

MINI ESSAY #2 DUE

Week 7: Midterm examination

October 16: Examination

Week 8: Political mobilization and religion

October 23: Aldon Morris, “The Black Church in the Civil Rights Movement: the SCLC as the Decentralized, Radical Arm of the Black Church,” from *Disruptive Religion*, ed. C. Smith, available on e-reserve; Djupe and Grant, “Religious Institutions and Political Participation in America,” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, June 2001, p. 303-314, available on EBSCOhost; McVeigh & David, “God, Politics, and Protest: Religious Beliefs and the Legitimation of Contentious Tactics,” *Social Forces* (79:4, June 2001), available on Project Muse.

MINI ESSAY #3 DUE (Annotated bibliography and abstract)

Week 9: Considering the 2004 presidential election

October 30: Green, Rozell, and Wilcox, *The Values Campaign?* Selections TBD.

Week 10: Party politics and religion in America

November 6: David Boaz, "A Republican Party for the Future," (February 13, 2007), available online at http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=7544; Robert Dreyfuss, "Evangelicals in Exile," *Rolling Stone*, March 8, 2007, available on Proquest; Smith & Craighill, "Do the Democrats have a God problem?" Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, available online at <http://pewforum.org/docs/index.php?DocID=148>; "God's Politics: An Interview with Jim Wallis," *Mother Jones* (2005), available online at http://www.motherjones.com/news/qa/2005/03/gods_politics_jim_wallis.html.

Week 11: Modernity vs. religion??

November 13: Benjamin Barber, "Jihad v. McWorld," *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1992, available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/199203/barber>; Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993; John DiIulio, "Spiritualpolitique: Religion matters more than ever in global affairs. But don't count on the experts--or the State Department--to know that," *The Weekly Standard* (12:33), May 14, 2007, available online at http://www.weeklystandard.com/Utilities/printer_preview.asp?idArticle=13603&R=1136B8C12

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 12: Religion in U.S. foreign policy

November 20: Judis, John B. "The Author of Liberty: Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy" *Dissent* Fall 2005, available on Proquest; "God Is Not Neutral: Religion and US Foreign Policy after 9/11," A Bacevich, *Orbis*, Winter 2004, available on Science Direct; Walter Russell Mead, "God's Country?" *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2006, available on Ebsco Host.

MINI ESSAY #4 DUE

Week 13: Contemporary critique of religion: the "new atheism"

November 27: Sam Harris, *The End of Faith*, entire

Week 14: Contemporary challenges for Muslims in America

December 4: Abdo, Geneive, "Islam in America: Separate but Unequal," *The Washington Quarterly* (28:4) Autumn 2005, available on Project Muse; Kathleen M. Moore, "Muslims in the United States: Pluralism under Exceptional Circumstances," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, (612:1), 116-132 (2007), available on e-reserve.

MINI ESSAY #5 DUE

FINAL EXAM: during regularly scheduled final examination period