

# Religion and Politics

## Political Science 3015

Fall, 2016	Professor Kimberly Conger
<b>Class Information:</b>	Email: kimberly.conger@uc.edu
MWF 2:30 – 3:25pm	Crosley Tower 1208
Crosley Tower 801	Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:30pm

### **Introduction:**

Religion and Politics, individually, are the two topics you are not supposed to talk about in polite company. Put them together and you create what can be a volatile mix, and the topic of this course. The class is designed to increase your understanding of the role of religion in politics in the United States and around the world. While we will certainly discuss the pros and cons of the inter-relationship between religion and politics, this course will take the view that the two are fundamentally intertwined, for better or worse. We'll start by looking at the role of religion in politics in general. Next we'll examine the behavior of religious people in American politics and how individuals, groups, and denominations interact with our government and with other actors in the political arena. Finally, we'll apply what we've learned so far and take a look at how religion and politics interact in a number of different countries around the world. Our goal will be to assess the political implications of the variety of religious traditions as they interact with each other and social and political structures.

### **Class Procedures:**

Most class periods will consist of lecture and discussion, both as a class and in groups. You'll be asked to analyze what you've read for class and to take notes on the concepts and ideas we discuss. This class is fairly large, but that doesn't mean that there can't be interesting discussions. Please ask questions in class. There will be times when we have class or group discussions. It is expected that students will treat these discussions as an integral part of the class. Many of the concepts we will discuss may be controversial or emotional. In order to allow us to have these discussions in an effective way, norms of civility will be expected from all participants.

If you have questions about the material or class, please contact me. My office hours are listed above, and you can make appointments for other times.

## Required Texts (Available from the bookstore):

You MUST obtain the correct editions.

1. *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment, Fourth Edition.* By John Witte, Jr. and Joel Nichols. Westview Press, 2016. Referred to in the Syllabus as **Witte**.
2. *Religion and Politics in America: Faith, Culture, and Strategic Choices, Fifth Edition.* By Robert Fowler, Allen Hertzke, Laura Olson, and Kevin Den Dulk. Westview Press, 2013. Referred to in the Syllabus as **Fowler**.
3. *Taming the Gods: Religion & Democracy on Three Continents.* By Ian Buruma. Princeton University Press, 2010. Referred to in the syllabus as **Buruma**.

There will be extra readings assigned throughout the semester and listed on Blackboard. These will be listed as **ONLINE** Readings in the syllabus.

## Student Responsibilities:

*Attendance and Participation:* This is not a class that you can read the book and just do the assignments. Much of what you need to know and will be tested on will occur only in lectures and class discussions. I guarantee that simply showing up for class and remaining engaged with what is going on will improve your understanding. Attendance and Participation, including pop quizzes and in-class assignments, is worth 20% of your total grade. I do not allow make up of in class work for any reason. The lowest two attendance and participation grades will be dropped to account for any absences. Absences for University sanctioned events will covered by these dropped grades and extra credit.

*Reading:* Students are expected to carefully read each assignment BEFORE class time. This will allow you to get the most out of lectures and not become confused by the concepts we discuss.

*Group Project:* You will be randomly assigned to a group to prepare a research presentation for the last week of class. Each group will do a 12-15 minute presentation on topic of their choosing. More specific guidelines will be discussed in class. The Group Presentation will be worth 20% of your final grade.

*Exams:* There are three required exams in this class. There are two midterms and a final exam. The midterms are due October 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>, the final exam is due December 9<sup>th</sup>. All exams are in take-home essay format and are due **at the beginning of class time** on their scheduled date (2:30pm on 10/3 and 11/4 and 10:30am on 12/9). **If you are late to class, the exam is late.** For each 24 hours the exam is late, the penalty is 10% of the exam grade. Each exam must be turned in person because of the honor code signature that will be required on each exam. Each of these exams will be worth 20% of your final grade. More information about exams will be discussed in class.

*Summary:*

Attendance and Participation	20%
Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Group Presentation	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

**Extra Credit will be offered throughout the semester.**

*Technology Policy:* You may use computers to take notes or access other course information during class time. However, you may not use your computer for any other purpose during class time. This includes, but is not limited to, email, Facebook, IM, games, or accessing the internet. **Any unauthorized use of your computer will result in losing your privilege to have the computer in class for the rest of the semester.**

**NO TEXTING. It's rude and disruptive. If you have an emergency, please leave the classroom before texting or using your phone.**

*Academic Dishonesty:* All of the work you do in this course is expected to be by your own, done exclusively for this course. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. Any such act will not be tolerated in this class. **Any student caught plagiarizing their work will be given a failing grade for the course and reported to University officials for possible expulsion from the University.** More information about academic integrity can be found on the university website: [http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic\\_Integrity.html](http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic_Integrity.html).

It is each student's responsibility to know and comply with the University of Cincinnati's Student Code of Conduct. The Code defines behavior considered misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and classroom disruption. (Failure to abide by my policy on cell phones and electronic devices can be construed as classroom disruption, incidentally.) The range of possible sanctions and penalties are also outlined in this document, which is available on-line at [http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code\\_of\\_Conduct.html](http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html).

*Students with Disabilities:* Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Your first point of contact is the disability services office, which is located in 210 University Pavilion (phone: 556-6823; email: [disabisv@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:disabisv@ucmail.uc.edu)).

Course Schedule:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC: READING</b>
Monday, 8/22	Course Introduction
Wednesday, 8/24	<i>History</i> : Witte Ch. 1
Friday, 8/26	<i>History</i> : Fowler Ch. 1
Monday, 8/29	<i>Theology and the Religion Clauses</i> : Witte Ch. 2
Wednesday, 8/31	<i>Essential Rights and Liberties</i> : Witte Ch. 3
Friday, 9/2	<b>NO CLASS – National Political Science Conference</b>
Monday, 9/5	<b>LABOR DAY, NO CLASS</b>
Wednesday, 9/7	<i>Religion in the Constitution</i> : Witte Ch. 4
Friday, 9/9	<i>Religion and Politics Before 1947</i> : Witte Ch. 5
Monday, 9/12	<i>Free Exercise Part I</i> : Witte Ch. 6
Wednesday, 9/14	<i>Free Exercise Part II</i> : Witte Ch. 7
Friday, 9/16	<i>Religious Establishment</i> : Witte Ch. 8
Monday, 9/19	<i>Free Exercise and Education</i> : Witte Ch. 9
Wednesday, 9/21	<i>Establishment and Education</i> : Witte Ch. 10
Friday, 9/23	<i>Religion and Public Life</i> : Witte Ch. 11
Monday, 9/26	<i>Religious Organizations and the Law</i> : Witte Ch. 12
Wednesday, 9/28	<i>The Church, the State, and the Courts</i> : Fowler Chs. 8&9
Friday, 9/30	Catch up and Review
Monday, 10/3	<b>MID-TERM EXAM #1</b>
Wednesday, 10/5	<i>Christianity in America</i> : Fowler Ch. 2
Friday, 10/7	<i>Judaism and Islam in American</i> : Fowler Ch. 3
Monday, 10/10	<i>Voting and Religion</i> : Fowler Ch. 4
Wednesday, 10/12	<i>Organized Religious Interests</i> : Fowler Ch. 5
Friday, 10/14	<b>READING DAY, NO CLASS</b>
Monday, 10/17	Group Project Introduction
Wednesday, 10/19	<i>The Christian Right</i> : ONLINE Reading
Friday, 10/21	<i>Religion and Elites</i> : Fowler Ch. 6
Monday, 10/24	<i>Religion and Political Culture</i> : Fowler Ch. 7
Wednesday, 10/26	<i>Latino &amp; African-American Religion and Pol</i> : Fowler Ch. 10
Friday, 10/28	<i>Gender and Religion</i> : Fowler Ch. 11
Monday, 10/31	<i>Religion and The Culture Wars</i> : Fowler Ch. 12
Wednesday, 11/2	Review and Catch-up Day
Friday, 11/4	<b>MID-TERM EXAM #2</b>
Monday, 11/7	<i>European Religion and Democracy</i> : Buruma Ch.1
Wednesday, 11/9	<i>European Religion and Democracy</i> : Buruma Ch.1
Friday, 11/11	<b>VETERAN'S DAY, NO CLASS</b>
Monday, 11/14	<i>Asian Religion and Democracy</i> : Buruma Ch. 2
Wednesday, 11/16	<i>Asian Religion and Democracy</i> : Buruma Ch. 2
Friday, 11/18	Group Project Work Day
Monday, 11/21	<i>Enlightenment and American Religion</i> : Buruma Ch. 3
Wednesday, 11/23	<i>Comparative Religious Freedom</i> : Witte Ch. 13

Friday, 11/25	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS</b>
Monday, 11/28	Group Presentations
Wednesday, 11/30	Group Presentations
Friday, 12/2	Final Exam Review
Friday, 12/9	<b>FINAL EXAM 10:30AM – 12:30PM</b>