

## Political Science 305 Religion and Politics

Instructor: Dr. Troy Gibson

Contact Information:

Office Location: LAB 418

Email: troy.gibson@usm.edu

Phone: 601-266-4277

Office Hours: TR 3:30-5pm; Tues 8:30-9:30; Friday Noon-4pm

**Add/Drop Deadline:** August 17 (after Oct 26 student must receive a W to withdraw from class)

### Course Information:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the relationship between religion and politics primarily in the United States. We will examine the religious roots of constitutionalism and the American founding. We will explore boundaries between church and the state, religion and politics, both in public policy debate and law. We will also assess the contemporary impact that religion is playing in American political behavior (elections, partisanship, etc.).

### Required Reading:

- *Religion and Politics in the United States*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Kenneth Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown.
- *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. John Witte, Jr.

Other readings will be made available to you as handouts, on e-reserve, or online. Blackboard will be used to disseminate class notes and/or other reading material.

### Course Requirements and Grading:

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 30%

\*Research Paper 20%

\*\*Participation and Daily Grades: 20%

\*Write a 10-12 page paper (double-spaced, minimum 6 sources including 1 book with NO internet-only web sources; use APSA style:

<http://www.apsanet.org/Portals/54/APSA%20Files/publications/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf>) on either of the following topics:

1. A key figure or thinker and their views regarding the relationship between religion and politics (e.g., Althusias, Marx, Augustine, Aquinas, Jefferson, John Adams, Patrick Henry, John Witherspoon, Groen Prinsterer, Abraham Kuyper, Francis Schaeffer, Martin Luther, ML King, , John Calvin, Joseph Smith, Carl Henry, Henry Fosdick, Wilhelm Ropke, James Cone, Walter Rauschenbusch, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Cromwell, Constantine, Pope Ratzinger, etc.)
2. Any key group and their views regarding the relationship between religion and politics (e.g., Calvinists, American Catholics, Theonomists, Lutherans, Muslim groups,

Mormons, Nation of Islam, Jesuits, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, religious groups and thinkers debating slavery)

\*\*Every student must watch the documentary God In America from PBS (available on Netflix and at <http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica>). Write a 2-page single-spaced report on it (summary of and reflection on one part of it). **Due Oct. 2**. Also every student must watch The (Ken Burns). **Due Oct. 18**

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 28	Class Organization: Why Study R and P?	
30	Secularization? Yes and No; Dualism? Yes	Wald 1
Sept 4	Presuppositions in Politics: The 'Worldview' concept; Politics as Public Ethics	Wald 12
Sept 6	Religious Arguments, Keep them out or bring them in? John Rawls lecture; <i>Discuss Role of Religious Arguments in Politics</i>	Wolterstorff/Rorty article
11	Classification Schemes (world affirming, denying, indifference)	
13	Key Concepts and Definitions for Political Theology	
18	American Religious Landscape and Traditions	Wald 2
20	Continue.... <i>Discussion: Should abortion be legal in most cases?</i>	Debate video
25	Continue...	
27	Roots of Constitutional liberal democracy: Covenant & Contract; Reformation & Enlightenment	Witte 1; David Hall article <a href="https://acton.org/pub/religion-liberty/volume-7-number-4/reformation-roots-social-contract">https://acton.org/pub/religion-liberty/volume-7-number-4/reformation-roots-social-contract</a>
Oct 2	Puritans and Evangelicals; Classical liberals and Classical republicans; <b><u>God in American Documentary Assignment Due</u></b>	Witte 2
4	Founders' Views on Religion and Politics	Witte 3
9	Founders' Solutions: Civil Religion (American version different than Rousseau's!) and Religion Clauses	Wald 3
11	****MIDTERM EXAM****	
16	Religion Clauses: Formation; Religion Clauses: Prior to 1947 and a word on slavery and Christianity in America	Witte 4
18	19 <sup>th</sup> century evangelical engagement; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Great Awakenings (19 <sup>th</sup> century); Modernist-Fundamentalist controversy; Fundamentalists split-up (Machen); <b><u>Mormon Documentary Due</u></b>	Witte 5
25	Modern Free Exercise; <i>Case Discussion Day 1</i>	Witte 6 <i>Locke vs. Davey</i> ; <i>Hobby Lobby</i> article
27	Contemporary Issues in American Religious Liberty	First Things Article by Reno; Witte 12
Nov 6	Modern Establishment Clause; <i>Case Discussion Day 2</i>	Witte 7 <i>Hastings vs Christian Legal Society</i>
8	Progressivism; The Evangelicals and Rise of the Christian Right; Mainline Protestants; Roman Catholics	Wald 8; Wald 9 pp. 241-270
13	Secularists; Homosexuals	Wald 11:331-349
15	<i>Discussion: Do Human Rights need God as a</i>	

	<i>Foundation? Subtitle: Why do ANY lives matter?</i>	
20	Latinos and Black Protestants	Wald 10: 279-297
22	Jews, Mormons, Islam in America <b>Video Reports Due (Mormons)</b>	Wald 9: 270-278; Wald 10: 305-311 Wald 10: 297-304
27	continue	

**Class Policies:**

- You may only use a laptop/tablet in to take or pull up class notes. Surfing the web or social networking is strictly prohibited. Turn off or put on silent all cell phones so as not to distract other students or yourself; no use of cell phones in class is permitted. Violations of this policy will result in a 5 point deduction from your test grade.
- While I will not take attendance, I will occasionally give an attendance or pop quiz. Missing the quiz results in a zero configured into your daily grade average.

**If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA), for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Box 5128; voice telephone or TTY 214-3232.**