

Timothy A. Byrnes
POSC 328
Religion and Politics

Religion and politics influence each other- pervasively and controversially - in a number of complex ways. This course will examine this relationship from a variety of perspectives. We will start by examining academic theories that (incorrectly as it turned out) predicted the retreat of religion from the modern political realm. We will then turn to analyses of a variety of national settings – including our own – where religion continues to play a significant political role. Some of the specific matters we will examine in these contexts will include (but will not be limited to), constitutional relations between religious institutions and the state, the appropriate role of religious belief and identity in a democracy, the advantages and disadvantages that religious actors face when seeking to mobilize political influence, and the role that religious interests and religious leaders can play in elections and policy making. In addition to these various treatments of religion within individual polities, we will also turn our attention to the ways in which religion is implicated in relations *between* states as well. We will assess a rather sharp debate in the scholarly literature over the importance of religion to International Relations. And we will end the course, by applying the lessons of that debate to an analysis of the degree to which religion in all of its complexity affects US foreign policy.

Course Requirements

I will expect every student to attend every class session and to come fully prepared to engage actively in discussions of the assignments for that session. Given the importance of participation for an upper-level course such as this one, my judgment of an individual student's participation in our discussions will comprise 10% of the final grade. The rest of the course grade will be based on student performance on a midterm exam on March 7th (20%), a research paper due May 2nd (25%), a series of shorter response essays due over the course of the semester (20%), and a self scheduled final exam (25%). My office is 141 Person Hall, my phone number is 228-7509, and my e-mail is tbyrnes@colgate.edu Office hours will be Tuesday 4-5, Thursday 12:30-2:30, or by appointment.

Readings

Fowler, Hertzke, Olson, and Den Dulk, *Religion and Politics in America 5th ed.*
Fox, *An Introduction to Religion and Politics*
Shah, Stepan, and Toft *Rethinking Religion and World Affairs*

Other readings, available on-line or by distribution, are marked with an asterisk (*). In addition to the assigned readings, I will expect every student to be a daily reader of the *New York Times*, which is available without cost on campus. We will make regular reference to the *Times* over the course of the semester, paying particular attention to how it covers the intersection of religion and politics.

Class sessions and assignments

Monday January 23: ½ class introduction

No reading

Tuesday January 24: Secularism

Fox, Chs. 1 and 2

Shah, Ch. 2

Thursday January 26: Secularism

Shah, Ch. 3

Fowler, Ch. 12

Tuesday January 31: Religion and IR Theory

*Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998)

Shah, Ch. 1

Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993)

Thursday, February 2

*Fox, "Integrating Religion into IR Theory"

Tuesday February 7: Religion and Identity

Fox, Chs. 3 and 5

*Juergensmeyer, "The Global Rise of Religious Nationalism," *Australian Journal of Int'l Affairs* (June 2010).

*Hasler, "IR Theory and Nationalism: Any Room for Religion," UND

Thursday February 9: Religion and Identity in Poland

*Zuba, "The Political Strategies of the Catholic Church in Poland," *Religion State and Society* (June 2010)

*Porter, "The Catholic Nation: Religion, Identity, and the Narratives of Polish History," *The Slavic and East European Journal* (Summer 2001)

*Byrnes, "The Polish Church: Catholic Hierarchy and Polish Politics" in *The Catholic Church and the Nation-State*

Tuesday February 14: Religion and Identity in Turkey

*Haynes, "Politics, Identity, and Religious Nationalism in Turkey," *Australian Journal of Int'l Affairs* (June 2010).

*Bektil, "Dateline: Erdogan's One-Man Islamist Show," *Middle East Quarterly* (Spring 2016).

Tibi, "Islamists Approach Europe," *Middle East Quarterly* (Winter 2009).

Thursday February 16: Religion and Identity in The United States

Fowler, Chs. 2 and 7

*Bellah, "Religion and Legitimation in the American Republic" (*Society* January/February 1998)

Tuesday February 21: The US Constitution's Establishment Clause 1

Fowler, Chs. 8-9

Thursday February 23: The US Constitution's Establishment Clause 2
Cases TBA

Tuesday February 28: The US Constitution's Free Exercise Clause 1
Cases TBA

Thursday March 2: The US Constitution's Free Exercise Clause 2
*Byrnes, "The Politics of a Second Class Right."

Tuesday March 7: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Thursday March 9: Transnational Religion

*Nye and Keohane, "Transnational Relations and World Politics: An Introduction" *International Organization* (Summer 1971).

*Haynes, "Transnational Religious Actors and International Politics," *Third World Quarterly* (2001)

Tuesday March 14 and Thursday March 16: **SPRING BREAK**

Tuesday March 21: The Papacy and Transnational Religion

*Mariano Barbato, "Popes on the Rise: Mobilization, Media, and Political Power of the Modern Papacy"

Thursday March 23: Religion and Just War Theory
TBA

Tuesday March 28: A Secular Europe?

*Byrnes, "European Politics Gets Religion," *Current History* (March 2008)
Fox, Ch. 10

Thursday March 30:

*Davie, "Religion in Europe in the 21st Century"

Tuesday April 4: Religion and Political Mobilization

Fowler, Ch. 5

Fox, Ch. 6

Thursday April 6: The "Religious Right"

*Wilcox et al, "Religious Coalitions in the New Christian Right," *Social Science Quarterly* (Sept 1996).

Tuesday April 11: Religion and Voting in the US

Fowler, Ch. 4

*Campbell et al, "The Party Faithful," *American Journal of Political Science* (January 2011).

Thursday April 13: Religion and Voting in the US

*Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

Tuesday April 13: Religion and IR Theory

*Toft, "Religion and International Relations Theory," *Sage Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 673-691.

Thursday April 15: Religion and Terrorism

Juergensmeyer video

Fox, pp. 122-135

Rapoport, "Fear and Trembling: Terrorism in Three Religious Traditions,"
The American Political Science Review (Sept. 1984)

Shah, Ch. 8

Tuesday April 20: Religion, Violence, and War

*Sells, "Crosses of Blood," *Sociology of Religion* (Autumn 2003)

*Fox, "The Religious Wave," *Civil Wars* (June 2012)

Thursday April 22: Religion, Humanitarianism, and Peace

Fox, p. 135-136

Shah, Chs. 7 and 10

*Appleby, "The Ambivalence of the Sacred," sacred-sovereign.uchicago.edu/rsa-ambivalence.html

Tuesday April 27: Religion and US Foreign Policy 1

*Kerry, Remarks at Rice University's Institute for Public Policy," 4/26/16

*Inboden, "Religion and International Relations: How Should Policy-Makers Think About Religion?"

Thursday April 29: Religion and US Foreign Policy 2

Shah, Chs. 16-18

Tuesday May 2: **PAPERS DUE**

Thursday May 4: Conclusions