

FAITH & POLITICS IN AMERICA
HON 2973/ PSC 3033

"It is one thing to say with the prophet Amos, 'Let justice roll down like mighty waters,' and quite another to work out the irrigation system." William Sloane Coffin

Instructor: Allen Hertzke, Professor of Political Science
Honors Presidential Teaching Fellow

107 DLB, Honors College, 325-4933
223 Dale Hall Tower, Department of Political Science, 325-4713 (in process)
Cell 405-760-0212
ahertzke@ou.edu

Office Hours:

107 DLB: Tuesday-Thursday 4:30-5:15 (often happy to linger longer on Thursday)
223 Dale Hall Tower: Wednesday 3-5
Thursday 1-2
Or by drop by and appointment

Lunch or coffee at Cate Food Court, Couch Cafeteria (or elsewhere, my treat), especially Fridays

Honors Writing Assistants (I will elaborate on their role over the semester)

KC Poe <poe@ou.edu> and Gehrig Thurston <gthurston@ou.edu>

Books for purchase (But I have placed all of them on reserve at the library)

Fowler, Hertzke, Olson, Den Dulk, *Religion and Politics in America* (Fifth Edition)
Russell Moore, *Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel*
Eboo Patel, *Acts of Faith: The Story of An American Muslim*
Kwok Pui-Lan, *Globalization, Gender, and Peacebuilding*

Additional book to obtain on your own (lots of library copies available):

Elie Wiesel, *Night*

Additional Readings:

The literature on religion and politics is vast, encompassing a huge diversity of voices, including competing voices within religious traditions. So in addition to the books, a wide variety of scanned readings and web linkages will be posted on Canvas. Many of these are listed in the course outline, but additional ones will be posted as we go along. Pay attention to announcements in class or on canvas.

Grading:

Weekly Written Reactions	15%
Midterm:	20%
Paper on Selected Religious Group, 5-7 pages	15%

Paper on Religious leader/activist, 5-7	15%
Final Exam:	25%
Class Participation	10%

Weekly Written Reactions: A 1-2 page reaction to select readings will be due most weeks. These should be thoughtful and crisply written and posted on the Canvas course site by Monday night at 10:00. Late papers will be docked. Guidance on the specifics of each assignment will be announced on Canvas. Please post in a word document.

INTRODUCTION

Contrary to the prediction of secular theorists, religious movements and actors continue to play an assertive role in public affairs, not only around the world but in the United States. Indeed, religion in America is intensely engaged in civic life and politics. This raises a number of *empirical* questions. How much influence does religion really have? What role does it play in shaping American civic culture and political participation? What is its specific impact on social movement mobilization, voting behavior, campaigns, lobbying, domestic and foreign policy, congressional or presidential action, or judicial decisions? How much does this religious influence vary by group, issue, or circumstance? What assets do different religious communities bring to civic affairs? What obstacles do they face? What are the different strategies groups employ to shape opinion, mobilize followers, and form alliances? How does globalization shape religious advocacy? Finally, what new challenges confront communities and their leaders?

An inquiry into religion and politics also raises profound normative questions. How much influence *should* religion have? Are there lines separating faith and politics that should not be crossed, either to the detriment of religious communities themselves or to the body politic? Do religious clashes polarize politics or undermine liberal democratic norms? Is political engagement, or certain kinds of political engagement, inherently seductive or corrupting of the spiritual mission? Are there tradeoffs between the culture-forming role of religion and political activism? Or does religious activism provide a necessary or valuable moral witness to the issues of the day? Finally, are there better, or wiser, ways for religious actors to join the political fray than the ones they commonly employ?

In exploring these issues we will constantly confront the dominant characteristics of religion in the United States, its diversity and dynamism. Multiple faiths thrive, proliferate, and constantly evolve on American soil, and pluralism reigns within religious communities as well. The constantly changing religious landscape, new social trends, and shifting political tides also ensure that religious political witness is never static.

In sum, we will probe how the diverse and often competing religious actors translate their religious values into concrete political aims, and how they navigate the profound normative challenges of maintaining their integrity in the high pressure and dynamically changing world of politics.

Course Structure:

We will employ a variety of teaching modalities, including thematic lectures in which I will introduce important scholarly arguments or ideas not necessarily covered, or fully covered, in our readings, extensive discussions of the readings (student-led), team-based exercises, and role playing (in which I

will come as a particular religious political leader and field questions from the class). Thus Attendance and participation are a must and will not only constitute a percentage of the grade but will be the deciding factor in borderline cases.

Religion touches the core of human commitments, and in light of that I urge students to help me maintain an environment of civility and respect for people of different faiths, even as we critically analyze issues, engage vigorous discussion and debate, and mutually challenge each other's assertions and assumptions.

University Policies:

Accommodation Policy: The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. Prior to receiving accommodations in this course, students with disabilities must be registered with the Disability Resource Center, located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, 325-3852.

Beyond this university policy statement, if anything is impeding your ability to participate fully in this course, please see the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Professors have to obey rules of honest scholarship, and so do students. For more information about academic integrity, including a statement of what constitutes academic misconduct and plagiarism, see OU's "A Student's Guide to Academic Integrity" at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity/>

Religious Obligations: It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

OU Cares: We want you to succeed, not only in this course but in your career at OU. A great resource to access these resources is the clearinghouse, Compass Network compass.network@ou.edu, 325-8103.

COURSE OUTLINE: *Approximate* Weekly Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments:

Keep posted especially for additional readings or adjustments

Week 1 August 23-25: Introduction

Tuesday: The Pluralism and Dynamism of American Religion
Thursday: Roots and dynamics of American religious engagement
Chapter 1, Fowler, et al.
Presentation on *The Churching of America*, Finke and Stark

Monday Posting on Thomas Kidd's account of the Founding Era, 10:00 pm

Week 2 August 29-September 1: Historical Roots and Contemporary Status of Religion

Tuesday:

Thomas Kidd, Jefferson, “Madison, Henry, and the context for Religious Liberty in Revolutionary America,” Chapter 1 of *Religious Freedom in America*, Hertzke editor
Chapter 2 of Fowler et al.

Thursday:

Pew Religious Landscape survey, class presentation
Chapter 3, Fowler, et al.

Monday Posting on some theme on religion and civic culture from Chapter 7

Week 3 September 6-8: Religious Culture and Civic Culture

Tuesday: Chapter 7 of Fowler et al.

Excerpt/discussion of Ram Cnaan, Byron Johnson, Putnam & Campbell on religion and social capital, social benefits, civic participation

Thursday, Chapter 12: Theories of religion, politics, and culture

No Monday Posting, work on Religious Advocacy Group paper

Week 4 September 12-15: Lobbying and Direct Religious Advocacy

Tuesday:

Chapter 5, Fowler et al.
Lobbying for the Faithful

Wednesday, 10:00 pm Draft papers due on religious advocacy group

Thursday: Discussion of religious advocacy groups

Posting on implications of Dignitatis Humanae for American Catholics

Week 5 September 19-22: Catholics and Evangelicals in American Politics

Catholics in American politics

Dignitatis Humanae and other select readings on Catholic social teaching

USCCB statements on Religious liberty, marriage, life, immigration

Bishop Braxton on Black Lives Matter

Competing Voices

Wednesday, 10:00 pm Final drafts of religious advocacy paper

Begin Russell Moore

Monday posting on Russell Moore

Week 6 September 26-29: Evangelicals, seculars, new challenges and alliances

Russell Moore

Jim Wallis
Robert George
Mary Eberstadt

Monday posting on Elie Wiesel

Week 7 September October 3-6: Jews in American politics

Elie Wiesel, Night; Speech on dedication of Holocaust Museum
Select chapters on Jewish liberalism and activism
James Skillen, "Three Zionisms in the Shaping of American Foreign Policy"
Discussion of Jewish groups, competing groups on Israel, Christian Zionism

No posting

Week 8 October 10-13: Exam and Globalization

Tuesday: Exam

Globalization of Advocacy, Hertzke chapter in Canvas
Faith based movements for human rights
Émigré communities
Gary Haugen video

Monday posting on some aspect of Black church or Latino Religion

Week 9 October 17-20: The Black Church and Latino Religion

Chapter 10, Fowler et al.
King, Letter from Birmingham Jail
"Cesar Chavez as Mystic"

Visits:
Cone, Black Theology of Liberation
John Perkins

Monday posting on Rajdeep Singh

Week 10 October 24-27: Immigrants, the new religious America, and navigating pluralism

Rajdeep Singh, Chapter 8 of *Religious Freedom in America*
Begin Patel
Eck

Monday Posting on Patel

Week 11 October 31-November 3: Competing Voices in Islam

Finish Patel

Hertzke in DC on Tuesday: November 15

Zainab Al-Suwaij, Applying the Montgomery Method in the Middle East

No posting, work on paper on profile of individual activist/leader

Week 12 November 7 to November 10: Political Attitudes and Voting Behavior

Tuesday:

Chapter 4 of Fowler et al.

Louis Bolce et al.: Seculars and the anti-fundamentalist vote

Pew surveys on the 2016 dynamics of the presidential election

Thursday: Post-Election Analysis

Final draft on individual profile

Monday posting on Kwok as situated by Chapter 12

Week 13 November 14-17: Gender dynamics, Feminists, radical alternative voices, and counterpoints

Chapter 11, Fowler et al.

Kwok Pui-Lan

Nuns on the Bus

Feminist Theologians

Gender and Politics: clashes over same-sex marriage, transgender rights, contraceptives

Counterpoint voices, Alvare, conservative women

Monday Posting Chapter 6 on religion and political elites

Week 14 November 22: Religion & Elite Culture

Tuesday: Chapter 6 Fowler et al. on Presidents, Congress, elite culture

Thanksgiving

No posting

Week 15 November 28-December 1: Religion and Law

Chapters 8 and 9 in Fowler et al.

Chapter 1 of Hertzke on Emerging Challenges

Robin Fretwell Wilson on Emerging Clashes, Chapter 6 of *Religious Freedom in America*

Legal simulations

Week 16 December 5-8 Symposium and Normative Debates

Tuesday:

No readings, prepare for Symposium
Symposium on Diverse Religious Voices

Thursday: Normative debate: Tocqueville versus Hertzke

Final Exam: Friday, December 16, 4:30-6:30