

POSC 227-001: Seminar in Religion and Politics – Spring 2020
Tuesdays, 9:00AM – 11:50AM
Watkins 2145

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OVERVIEW: This course provides graduate students with an introduction to the study of religion in political science. The course is divided into four sections. The first section provides a theoretical background to religion and its study in political science. The second section discusses long-standing debates over the concept of ‘secularization.’ The third section examines the study of religion and democracy, with a special focus on the non-western case of India. The final section explores the effect of religion on political violence, with empirical examples from around the world. The last class explores the future of the study of religion in political science.

BOOKS:

1. Smith, Christian. 2017. *Religion: What It Is, How It Works, and Why It Matters*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2. Norris, Pippa, and Ronald Inglehart. 2011. *Sacred and Secular*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
(available online:
https://ucr.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991010730909704706&context=L&vid=01CDL_RIV_INST:UCR&lang=en&search_scope=MyInstitution&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&isFrbr=true&tab=LibraryCatalog&query=any,contains,991032986422304706&sortby=date_d&facet=frbrgroupid,include,9012123312236936982&offset=0)
3. Chhibber, Pradeep. 2014. *Religious Practice and Democracy in India*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

All books are available for purchase at the university bookstore, and are also on reserve at the library. All other book chapters and journal articles are available on the iLearn course page.

Here is some advice on critical reading from Professor Kanchan Chandra at NYU (see pp. 4-5):
<http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/faculty/chandra/ethnicpolitics2.pdf>

POLICIES:

Accommodation: Students with documented learning and/or physical disabilities in need of accommodation are encouraged to work with Student Special Services (<http://specialservices.ucr.edu/disabilities/>) and inform the instructor about any special requirements they may have. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate students with regard to note taking, reading assignments, test taking, etc.

Academic Dishonesty: I will vigorously enforce UCR's policies on academic integrity (<http://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academicintegrity.html>). Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication, forgery and obstruction; multiple submissions; complicity; misconduct in research and creative endeavors; computer misuse; and misuse of intellectual property.

Grading: Your course grade will be made up of the following components:

1. *Participation*: 30%

The quality of a seminar depends heavily on the participation of its members. You are expected to finish all assigned readings before class, and actively participate in discussion.

2. *Weekly Questions*: 10%

Each week you will be required to turn in three questions on the readings. One question may be factual, i.e. asking for clarification of a point that you did not understand. The other questions must be analytical in nature, designed to promote class discussion. The questions must be posted on our iLearn 'Discussions' page. Due on Mondays by 12PM.

3. *Book Review*: 10%

You will write an approximately 1,000-word review of one of the three assigned books for this quarter. The book review will be due on the date when the book is assigned in class (i.e., either 4/7, 4/28 or 5/12). See this guideline for writing book reviews in political science: (<https://depts.washington.edu/pswrite/bookrev.html>)

4. *Presentation*: 20% (**June 2nd**)

During our final class, you will give a presentation that summarizes your research paper. Separate instructions will be handed out at a later date.

5. *Research Paper*: 30% (**June 9th**)

You will write a 15 to 20-page paper dealing with politics and religion. Separate instructions will be handed out at a later date.

Students will not be allowed to receive an incomplete except under extraordinary circumstances. Students will be allowed to take make-up exams or turn in work late *in the case of an emergency* (they should contact the instructor beforehand if possible). Late assignments will be graded a full letter grade down per day after the due date; after three days, they will no longer be accepted.

Grade Scale: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (0-59)

Note: Grades will be rounded, i.e. an 89.5 becomes an A-.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: TRANSITION WEEK; Course Introduction – Religion and Political Science

March 31st:

- a. Wald, Kenneth D., and Clyde Wilcox. 2006. "Getting Religion: Has Political Science Rediscovered the Faith Factor?" *American Political Science Review* 100(4): 523-529.
- b. Philpott, Daniel. 2009. "Has the Study of Global Politics Found Religion?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 183-202.
- c. Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2012. "Why Comparative Politics Should Take Religion (More) Seriously." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 421-442.

Week 2: What is Religion?

April 7th:

- a. Smith, Christian. 2017. *Religion: What It Is, How It Works, and Why It Matters*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 3: Measuring Religion and Religiosity

April 14th:

- a. Ammerman, Nancy T. 2014. "Finding Religion in Everyday Life." *Sociology of Religion* 75(2): 189-207.
- b. Verghese, Ajay. 2020. "Taking Other Religions Seriously: A Comparative Survey of Hindus in India." *Working paper*.
- c. McCauley, John F., and Daniel N. Posner. 2017. "The Political Sources of Religious Identification: Evidence from the Burkina Faso-Côte d'Ivoire Border." *British Journal of Political Science* 49(2): 421-441.
- d. Margolis, Michele F. 2018. "How Politics Affects Religion: Partisanship, Socialization, and Religiosity in America." *The Journal of Politics* 80(1): 30-43.

Week 4: Secularization Theory I

April 21st:

- a. What is Secularization Theory?
 - a. Shiner, Larry. 1967. "The Concept of Secularization in Empirical Research." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 6(2): 207-220.
 - b. Tschannen, Olivier. 1991. "The Secularization Paradigm: A Systematization." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 30(4): 395-415.
- b. Classic approaches:
 - a. Marx, Karl. 1844. "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction" in Tucker, Robert C. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978: 53-54 ONLY.

- b. Freud, Sigmund. *The Future of an Illusion*, edited by James Strachey. 1961. New York: W.W. Norton & Company – Chapter 3.
- c. Berger, Peter. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy*. New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc. – Chapter 1.
- c. Against Secularization Theory:
 - a. Berger, Peter, ed. 1999. *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Ethics and Public Policy Center – Chapter 1.
 - b. Stark, Rodney. 1999. “Secularization, R.I.P.” *Sociology of Religion* 60(3): 249-273.
- d. Overview:
 - a. Gorski, Philip S. and Ates Altinordu. 2008. “After Secularization?” *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 55-85.

Week 5: Secularization Theory Revisited

April 28th:

- a. Norris, Pippa, and Ronald Inglehart. 2011. *Sacred and Secular* (2nd Edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 6: Religion and Democracy I

May 5th:

- a. Shiffrin, Steven. 1999. “Religion and Democracy.” *Notre Dame Law Review* 74(5): 1631-1656.
- b. Leiter, Brian. 2008. “Why Tolerate Religion?” *Constitutional Commentary* 25: 1-27.
- c. Stepan, Alfred C. 2000. “Religion, Democracy, and the ‘Twin Tolerations.’” *Journal of Democracy* 11(4): 37-57.
- d. Fish, Steven. 2002. “Islam and Authoritarianism.” *World Politics* 55(1): 4-37.
- e. Vlas, Natalia, and Sergiu Gherghina. 2012. “Where Does Religion Meet Democracy? A Comparative Analysis of Attitudes in Europe.” *International Political Science Review* 33(3): 336-351.
- f. Ben-Nun Bloom, Pazit, and Gizem Arikan. 2012. “Religion and Support for Democracy: A Cross-National Test of the Mediating Mechanisms.” *British Journal of Political Science* 43(2): 375-397.

Week 7: Religion and Democracy II

May 12th:

- a. Chhibber, Pradeep. 2014. *Religious Practice and Democracy in India*. New York: Cambridge University Press

Week 8: Religion and Violence

May 19th:

- a. Armstrong, Karen. 2014. *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. – Introduction.
- b. Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2016. “The Difficulty with Doctrine: How Religion Can Influence Politics.” *Government and Opposition* 51(2): 327-350.
- c. Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. Berkeley: University of California Press. – Chapter 2.
- d. Wellman, Jr., James K., and Kyoko Tokuno. 2004. “Is Religious Violence Inevitable?” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43(3): 291-296.

Week 9: The Future of the Study of Religion and Social Science

May 26th:

- a. Kettell, Steven. 2012. “Has Political Science Ignored Religion?” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 45(1): 93-100.
- b. Cadge, Wendy, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde. 2011. “De-Centering and Re-Centering: Rethinking Concepts and Methods in the Sociological Study of Religion.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50(3): 437-449.
- c. Kettell, Steven. 2016. “Do We Need a ‘Political Science of Religion?’” *Political Studies Review* 14(2): 210-222.
- d. Grewal, Sharan, Amaney A. Jamal, Tarek Masoud, and Elizabeth R. Nugent. 2019. “Poverty and Divine Rewards: The Electoral Advantage of Islamist Political Parties.” *American Journal of Political Science* 63(4): 859-874.

Week 10

June 2nd: **CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

June 9th: **FINAL PAPER DUE**