

Political Science 324
Religion and Politics
UWSP Fall 2018
2-3:15 MW CCC 234

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CCC 484
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Office Hours: M, T, Th 11-12, and by appointment.

This course investigates the dynamic interaction between religion and politics in the United States and other countries. The course covers diverse topics on the connections between religion and American political culture, voting behavior, political and elite leadership, interest groups, and public policy issues.

Importantly, as this is a political science course, the main theoretical and methodological approaches will be social scientific in origin, with the main goal of investigating how religion affects, molds, and shapes political power, outcomes, and public policy. Thus, the course's primary concern is with *empirical approaches* to how religion and politics interact, and various theoretical perspectives that allow us to place our knowledge within a specific worldview will drive our empirical investigation.

Texts:

Rental: Robert Booth Fowler, et.al., Religion and Politics in America: Faith, Culture, and Strategic Choices, 5th ed., (Westview, 2010).

Grading

Class participation	20%	
Online Midterm	20%	In D2L. Opens on October 24 at 5pm, and closes on October 29 at 10am.
Final Paper	25%	Due date to be determined.
Online Final Exam	25%	In D2L. Opens on December 17, 8am, and closes on December 20, 8am.
Online Poll Analysis	10%	Due in D2L Dropbox by September 23, 12 noon.

Online Poll Analysis: for this assignment you will take data from the Pew Forum's Religious Typology Survey, available in D2L and online at: <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/08/29/the-religious-typology/>

Your essay must be a minimum of 800 words. For this assignment do **ONE** of the following:

1. Pick two religious typology groups and compare and contrast them across some of the policy issues or community issues measured by the data. The policy issue data is in section 4 of the report, and the community issue data is in section 3 of the report.
2. Pick two policy issues and discuss similarities and differences between religious traditions.

Online Midterm: There will be an online midterm exam, consisting one or two essay questions answered in D2L. You will have 3 hours to answer the question prompts once you open the exam. The exam will be an open book exam.

Final Paper: there will be a final paper due towards the end of the semester. It will be approximately 2500 words, and will address public policy issues that we've discussed in class.

Online Final Exam: There will be an online final exam consisting of two essay exams and some short answer questions. The exam will be an open book exam. You will have 3 hours to complete the exam.

D2L: several important public opinion polls and scholarly articles are in D2L. Students are expected to access and read them, and will be expected to know the materials for class and exams.

Participation: 20% your semester grade is based on participation in class. This semester I do not have a required attendance policy. However, your participation grade is heavily dependent on class attendance AND participation in discussions. Please see the participation grade rubric for more information. I will post your participation grade and attendance in D2L on a regular basis.

Course Outline:

NOTE: the readings schedule may be changed from time to time.

September

5 Introduction

Religion and Political Culture in America: Religious Traditions, Religious Affiliations, and Religiosity

10 Religion and Political Culture in America Fowler, Chapter 1

12/17/19 Documents, Themes, and Thinkers on American Religious Liberty
Readings in D2L:

The Puritans:

The Fundamental Agreement or Original Constitution of the Colony of New-Haven
The Body of Liberties of the Massachusetts Collonie in New England
Roger Williams, The Bloody Tenent, Of Persecution for Cause of Conscience

The drive towards religious diversity:

John Locke, A Letter concerning Toleration
Thomas Paine, Common Sense
Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, bk. 5, CH. 1, PT. 3, ART. 3
Thomas Jefferson, A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom
James Madison, Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments
James Madison, Federalist #10
People v. Ruggles

Roger Finke, "Religious Deregulation: Origins and Consequences," Journal of Church and State, Summer 1990.

Roger Finke and Rodney Stark, "How Upstart Sects Won America," Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 1989.

24/26 Fowler, Chapters 2-3

Online study: review PEW Religious Typology Survey

<http://www.pewforum.org/2018/08/29/the-religious-typology/>

October

Religion and Political Behavior: Voting, Interest Groups, and Political Elites

- 1/3/8 Religion and Voting Behavior
Fowler, Chapter 4 and Chapter 10.
“Faith Transformed: Religion and American Politics from FDR to George W. Bush,” by Lymon Kellstadt, et al. D2L.
Laura Olson and John Green, “The Religion Gap” in the 2004 election. D2L.
Readings on religion and voter mobilization in 2008 election. D2L.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2014/11/05/how-the-faithful-voted-2014-preliminary-analysis/>
<http://projects.pewforum.org/rp2012/>

PEW Data from 2018 poll of Verified voters, available in D2L

PRRI Poll on American Hispanics and Religion, available in D2L

- 10/15 The Politics of Organized Religious Groups
Fowler, Chapter 5.
Pew Forum Study on Religious Advocacy: D2L, and also here:
http://www.pewforum.org/files/2011/11/ReligiousAdvocacy_web.pdf

- 17/22 Religion and the Presidency and Congress
Fowler, Chapter 6.
Readings in D2L to be announced.
<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/01/05/faith-on-the-hill/>

- 24 Religion, Civil Society, and Political Culture; Fowler, Chapter 7

Religion, Law, and Courts

- 29/31 Fowler, Chapters 8-9

November

- 5 As above

Religion and Public Policy: Economic/Social Policy and Foreign Policy

- 7/12 Economic and Social Policy
<http://publicreligion.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/2013-Economic-Values-Report-Final-.pdf>

- 14/19/21 Religion and Foreign Policy and International Relations; Lecture and Assigned Readings in D2L.
Samuel Huntington, Clash of Civilizations
Polls on Clash of Civilizations
Other readings to be assigned in D2L

Religion and Terrorism

26 Readings in D2L

David Rappaport, “The Four Waves of Terrorism”, and “Religious Terrorism.”
West Point Data on White Supremacists, esp. pages on Christian Identity Movement
Materials on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)
Other readings in D2L

28 Thanksgiving Break: No Class

December

3/5/10/12 Religion and Terrorism

Class Participation Rubric

Your participation grade in this class will be based on the following rubric. Students are expected to participate regularly in class discussions. Participation is to be based on *quality and quantity*. If you don't come to class, you obviously cannot participate. Given that you will be graded on your participation in a somewhat spontaneous atmosphere of seminar discussion, the following general rules apply for participation grades.

- **A grade:**
 - frequent participation in class discussions;
 - shows a real familiarity with the assigned readings;
 - demonstrates a critical and analytical reading of the material;
 - understands the readings well enough to prompts further class discussion;
 - demonstrates ability to make connections between and among assigned readings and to larger political and philosophical issues.

- **B grade:**
 - usually participates in class discussions;
 - shows a basic familiarity with the assigned readings;
 - can describe the readings and make connections between reading selections.

- **C grade:**
 - infrequently participates in class discussions;
 - shows minimal familiarity with the assigned readings;
 - shows only basic understanding of the readings;
 - participation is not well-informed, based on the assigned readings, and tends to describe the readings without providing individual analysis.

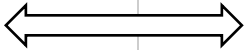




- **D/F shows that the student is deficient for the following reasons:**
 - participation is infrequent due to student absence;
 - student is not prepared and has not done the reading prior to class;
 - student cannot engage in discussion of the readings;
 - student shows hostility, indifference, or inability to engage with other students in the class.

Rubric for Final Paper, POLI 324 Fall 2018

The paper must be uploaded to the D2L dropbox by the deadline specified in the syllabus. Plagiarism on this assignment will result in a grade of 0 for this assignment. Late papers will NOT be graded, and the grade category will be assigned a 0. Minimum word count is 2000.

	Excellent (A to B+)	Satisfactory (B to C)	Unsatisfactory (C- to F)
Grammar, Spelling, Sentence Structure	Minimal grammatical, spelling, and structural errors. Generally no more than 2 per page.	More than 2 grammatical, spelling, or structural errors per page	Paper contains an excessive number of grammatical, spelling, and structural errors
Style	Paper is written in clear prose	General style conventions are usually followed	Style is poor, i.e. paper uses inappropriate narrative (such as 1 st person), colloquialisms, etc
Structure of argument	Argument is clear, logical, supported by appropriate references to sources	Argument is generally clear and logical, nominally supported	Argument is unclear, structure of paper is illogical and does not substantiate the author's thesis
Strength and use of Sources	Writer shows detailed and comprehensive command of sources used. Sources are scholarly and current and relevant. Sources are of high quality and indicate significant research effort.	Writer shows some familiarity with sources used. Sources are scholarly and generally current. Other sources should have been used.	Scholarly sources are poorly used, nonexistent, or misunderstood. Not clear that writer has engaged in serious research. Sources are less scholarly and are generally popular media. Or, sources used are inappropriate to the project.
Strength of Analysis	Writer shows clear understanding of materials and the outstanding ability to critically analyze and reflect upon them	Writer shows nominal understanding of materials and the intermediate ability to critically analyze and reflect upon them	Writer is unfamiliar with the materials and is generally general unable to critically analyze and reflect upon them
Word Count, Font	Word count and font and paper mechanics (margins, spacing, etc) are appropriate	Font and paper mechanics are inconsistent	Paper does not meet word count requirements. Font and paper mechanics are inappropriate to 300 level university course.

Mid-Term and Final Exam Rubric

Criteria	A Grade Excellent	B Grade Above Average	C Grade Average	D Grade Unsatisfactory
Addresses the Exam Question or Questions	Fully addresses the exam question or questions			Does not address the exam question or questions
Incorporates course materials	Uses course materials in a meaningful, insightful manner.			Does not use course materials in a meaningful manner; shows unfamiliarity with course materials..
Offer insights	Offers insights that go beyond just answering the question; perhaps the writer poses, and answers, follow-up questions			Offers minimal to no original insights.
Skill in understanding and explaining difficult concepts	Demonstrates skill in understanding and explaining difficult concepts.			Does not demonstrate the skill. Shows little to no understanding of concepts and does not demonstrate ability to explain them.
Grammatical/Word Choice/Sentence Structure	No major mistakes	Minimal to some major mistakes	Minimal to some major mistakes	Too many mistakes
Understanding of the material	Demonstrates excellent understanding of the course material			Does not demonstrate understanding of the course materials.
Follows the assignment	Answer conforms to the assignment, and all relevant questions are answered in a meaningful way.	Most questions are answered in a meaningful way.	Most questions are answered in a meaningful way.	Answer does not address the question or questions.
Organization of Essay	Excellent	Above average	Average	Essay is unorganized, incoherent.