

**HON 301 – Religion and Politics**  
**DePaul University**  
**Winter Quarter, 2019**

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Honors 301, Sec. 203  
Winter 2019  
Arts and Letters, Rm 309  
Tues/Thurs 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Description:**

This course will examine the interaction of religion and politics in comparative perspective. The central focus of the course is the manner in which multi-ethnic, multi-religious societies have grappled with questions of tolerance and religious diversity and how these questions (and their answers) have evolved over time. Of particular interest is the manner in which religion informs collective identities, provides a language for political action, and often sanctions discrimination and ill treatment of those outside of the dominant group. The first section of the class will look at these issues theoretically, focusing specifically on the connection between religion and nationalism, religion and violence, and the treatment of women and minority populations. The second part of the course will examine a variety of case studies drawn from different regions and traditions. The last part of the course will focus on religious peacebuilding, and the manner in which religious traditions can (and do) provide a basis for peaceful coexistence.

**Requirements:**

Each student is expected to read the assigned material before class and to be prepared to discuss its contents each week. Class attendance and participation is mandatory, and will comprise 10 percent of your grade. There will also be short, weekly writing assignments (worth 15 percent of your grade), a final exam (worth 50 percent), and an 8 - 10 page research paper (worth 25 percent) on a topic of your choosing. The topic needs to correlate with one covered in class, and must draw from the course readings assigned for that week, though it is by no means limited to those readings. More on the assignment will be posted on the course Desire2Learn (D2L) site.

**Required Reading:**

The book listed below can be purchased at the college bookstore. Articles designated by an asterisk (\*) in the following pages are available through the course D2L website. Articles and readings listed under the heading ‘additional material’ are *NOT* required reading, but recommended for the research paper.

-John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, ed. James Tully.

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the effort to pass someone else's work off as one's own. This includes turning in papers that you did not write, cutting and pasting material from the internet, directly quoting written material without proper citation, or turning in a paper that you purchased either on-line or from another source. Any paper submitted with plagiarized material will result in a failing grade for the assignment. More than one infraction will lead to your failing the course. For more on the University policy on plagiarism and academic integrity, see the DePaul University Website.

**Learning Disabilities:** For students with learning disabilities, please contact me at the beginning of the course. The school has a clear policy on this issue, and I am more than happy to accommodate students with legitimate needs. All conversations along these lines will remain confidential. You should also be in touch with the CSD Program office, which is located in the Student Center (Room 370).

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** There are two sets of learning objectives in this course. The first involves understanding and mastering the course content. This course will expose you to the enduring debates and ideas that inform religious politics in all multi-ethnic, multi-religious societies. The substantive goal of studying this material, then, is to better understand the religious politics of our own society by seeing the common trends in other societies, as well as to recognize the importance of tolerance and non-discrimination as a basis for peaceful coexistence. Second, the emphasis on reading and writing is intended to improve the basic skills essential for your future professional development: reading, writing and analytical thinking.

In addition, Honors students who apply themselves and successfully complete HON 301 should be able to –

- Demonstrate a respect for human diversity, and a critical awareness of their own assumptions, stereotypes, and biases when confronting difference.
- Convey a critical perspective about the meaning of multiculturalism, and understand the historical and/or contemporary manifestations of inequality.
- Identify various aspects of multiculturalism that can be illuminated by available methods of research; evaluate the merits and drawbacks of particular sources.
- Use research materials to critically explore the course topic, and present findings in a substantial paper based on analysis of the research.
- Identify particular actions that might be taken based on the knowledge gained from this research.

**Technology:** The use of cell phones, tablets and laptops is prohibited in the classroom without prior permission.

## Schedule and Readings

### Part 1: Religion, Politics, and Nationalism

#### **Week 1: Introduction (January 8, 10)**

##### Class 1: Introduction

##### Class 2: Religion and Nationalism

- Peter Berger, "The Desecularization of the World," in Berger, ed., *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics* (1999).\*
- David Little, "Belief, Ethnicity and Nationalism," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 1995.\*
- Scott Hibbard, *Religious Politics and Secular States*, Introduction.\*

##### *Additional Material:*

- Samuel Huntington "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993.\*
- Mark Juergensmeyer, "The New Religious State," *Comparative Politics*, July 1995.

#### **Week 2: Religion and Violence (January 15, 17)**

##### Class 1: Religion and Violence

- Juergensmeyer, "The Logic of Religious Violence," in David Rappaport *Inside Terrorist Organizations*.\*
- Rudolph and Rudolph, "Modern Hate: How Ancient Animosities Get Invented," *New Republic* 208 (March 22 1993), 24-28.\*
- Robert Pape, "Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *APSR*, August 2003.\*

##### Class 2: Religion and Tolerance

- John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, ed. James Tully (focus on pp. 1-11 in introduction, and pp. 23 – 40 of the text).

##### *Additional Material:*

- Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God: the Global Rise of Religious Violence*, (Berkeley : University of California Press, 2001).
- Scott Appleby, "Religious Violence: The Strong, the Weak, and the Pathological," Appleby, et. al., *Oxford Handbook*.
- Magnus Ranstorp, "Terrorism in the Name of Religion," *Journal of International Affairs*, Summer 1996.

#### **Week 3: Tolerance and its Limits (January 22, 24)**

##### Class 1: Religion in the Public Square

- Scott Hibbard, Religion, Nationalism and the Politics of Secularism, in Appleby, Omer and Little, *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (2015).\*
- Stanley Fish, "Liberalism and Secularism," *New York Times*, September 2, 2007.\*
- Peter Simpson, "Theocracy's Challenge," in Tabachnik et. al., *Challenging Theocracy: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics* (2018).\*

## Class 2: Gender and Religion

- Shahra Ravai & Anne Jenichen, “The Unhappy Marriage of Religion and Politics,” *Third World Quarterly*, September 2010.\*
- Zoya Hasan, “Gender, Religion and Democratic Politics in India,” *Third World Quarterly*, September 2010.\*
- Ruth Halperin-Kaddari & Yaakov Yadgar, “Between Universal Feminism and Particular Nationalism: Politics, Religion and Gender (in)Equality in Israel,” *Third World Quarterly*, September 2010.\*

### *Additional Material:*

- Jürgen Habermas, “Religion in the Public Sphere” *European Journal of Philosophy* 14.1 (2006): 1-25.
- Christopher Hedges Interview with Peter Simpson.\*
- Katherine Marshall & Susan Hayward, “Religious Women’s Invisibility: Obstacles and Opportunities,” in *Women, Religion and Peacebuilding: Illuminating the Unseen*.
- R. Marie Griffith, “Sexing Religion” in *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies*, pp. 338-359.\*
- Saba Mahmood, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (Princeton University Press, 2005): chapters 1 & 5

## Part II: Case Studies

### **Week 4: Bosnia (January 29, 31)**

#### Class 1: War in the former-Yugoslavia/Bosnian Genocide

- Michael Sells, *A Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), Chapters 1 and 2.\*
- Veljko Vujacic, “Review: Elite Narratives and Nationalist Mobilization in the Former-Yugoslavia,” *Comparative Politics*, October 2007.\*

#### Class 2: Religious Peacemaking in the Former-Yugoslavia

- Little and Mojzes, Report on Religious Peace making, 1997.\*
- Zoran Brajovic, “The Potential of Inter-Religious Dialogue,” in Fischer, ed., *Peacebuilding and Civil Society in Bosnia-Herzegovina*.\*
- Tatjana Peric, “Facing the Past: Religious Communities, Truth and Reconciliation in Post-Milosevic era.”\*

### *Additional Material:*

- Christian Moe, “Religion in the Yugoslav Conflicts: Post-War Perspectives,” *Scripta Institui Donneriani Aboensis*.\*
- Gerard Powers, “Religion, Conflict and Prospects for Reconciliation in Bosnia, Croatia and Yugoslavia,” *Journal of International Affairs*, Summer 1996.\*
- Paul Mojzes, *Balkan Genocides: Holocaust and Ethnic Cleansing in the Twentieth Century* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2011).
- Paul Mojzes, “Religiously Inspired Reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Winter/Spring 2002.\*

## **Week 5: India (February 5, 7)**

### Classes 1&2: Secularism and Hindu Nationalism in Indian Politics

-Hibbard, "Religion and State in India," in Tamadonfar and Jelen, *Religion and Regimes*.\*

-Stanley Tambiah, "The Crisis of Secularism in India," in Bargeev, ed., *Secularism and its Critics*.\*

-Nicola Missaglia, "'Unity in Diversity' or a Hindutva India?" in Ugo Tramballi and Nicola Missaglia, eds., *India: The Modi Factor* (Milano: ISPI, 2018).\*

-James Traub, "Is Modi's India Safe for Muslims?" *Foreign Policy*, June 2015.\*

-Sunil Khilnani, "Nehru's Faith," *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2002.\*

-Aatish Taseer, "Learning to Love Nehru," *The New York Times*, January 4, 2018.\*

### *Additional Material:*

-Alex Traub, "India's Dangerous New Curriculum," *New York Review of Books*, November 22, 2018.

-Christophe Jaffrelot, *The Hindu Nationalist Movement in India* (New York, Columbia University Press, 1996).

-Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India* (New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1997).

## **Week 6: Islamist Politics (February 12, 14)**

### Class 1: Islamist Politics – Issues and Debates

McCloud, Hibbard and Saud, *An Introduction to the Islamic World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Chapters 5 & 6.\*

### Class 2: The Theology and Politics of Militancy

-Quintan Wiktorowicz, "A Genealogy of Radical Islam," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 2005.\*

-Osama Bin Laden, "Letter To America," November 24, 2002.\*

-Andrea Elliot, "Why Yasir Qadhi Wants to Talk about Jihad," *The New York Times*, March 7, 2011.\* (See also associated video clip, the link for which is on the D2L site).

### *Additional Material:*

-*Understanding Islamism*, International Crisis Group, March 2005.

-Wiktorowicz and Kaltner, "Killing in the Name of Islam: Al-Qaeda's Justification for September 11," *Middle East Policy*, Summer 2003.\*

-William McCants, *The ISIS Apocalypse* (St. Martin's Press, 2015).

-Alexander Flores, "Secularism, Integralism and Political Islam: The Egyptian Debate," in *Political Islam: Essays from Middle East Report*, ed. By Joel Beinin and Joe Stork (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997).\*

## **Week 7: Islamist Politics Part II – Part II/ Paper Workshop (February 19, 21)**

### Class 1: Gender, Minorities, Discrimination and Violence

-Mohamed Mohieddin, *No Change in Sight: The Situation of Religious Minorities in Post-Mubarak Egypt*, Minority Rights Group International, 2013.\*

-Caterelli et. al., "ISIS' Yazidi Genocide," *Foreign Affairs*, June 2017.\*

- Rukmini Callimachi, "ISIS Enshrines a Theology of Rape," *The New York Times*, August 31, 2015.\*
- Jillian Schwedler, "ISIS is One Piece of the Puzzle," MERIP Fall 2015.\*

### Class 2: Research Paper Workshop

### **Week 8: Israel, Zionism and Christian Zionism (February 26, 28)**

#### Class 1: Religious Nationalism in Israel

- Benjamin Acosta, "The Dynamics of Israel's Democratic Tribalism," *Middle East Journal*, Spring 2014.\*
- Eliezer Ben-Rafael, "The Faces of Religiosity in Israel," *Israel Studies*, Fall 2008.
- Uri Ram, "Why Secularism Fails? Secular Nationalism and Religious Revivalism in Israel," *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, December 2008.\*

#### Class 2: Christian Zionism

- Rammy Haija, "The Armageddon Lobby: Dispensationalist Christian Zionism and the Shaping of US Policy towards Israel-Palestine," *Holy Land Studies*, 2006.\*
- Pastor John Hagee on National Public Radio's *Fresh Air*:  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6097362>
- Lawrence Davidson, "Christian Zionism as a Representation of American Manifest Destiny," *Critique: Critical Middle East Studies*, Summer 2005.\*
- Vice President Mike Pence, Address to CUFI Washington Summit, 2017.\*

#### *Additional Material:*

- Frontline Documentary: *Israel's Next War?* Available on-line at:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/israel/view/>
- Clive Jones, "Ideo-Theology and the Jewish State: From Conflict to Conciliation," *British Journal of Middle East Studies*, May 1999.\*
- Ehud Sprinzak, "Extremism and Violence in Israel: The Crisis of Messianic Politics," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, January 1998.\*

### **Week 9: Religious Politics in the US (March 5, 7)**

#### Class 1: The Tradition

- Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America," *Daedalus*, Fall 2005 (Reprint of original 1967 article).\*
- Scott Hibbard, "Religion, Tolerance and American Theocratic Politics: Lessons for the Modern Era," in Tabachnik et. al., *Challenging Theocracy: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics* (2018).\*
- Michael Gerson, "The Last Temptation," *The Atlantic*, April 2018.\*

#### Class 2: Islamophobia in the Post-9/11 America

- Juan Cole, "Islamophobia as a Social Problem," MESA Presidential Address, 2006.\*
- Aurelien Breeden, "Book by Slain Editor of Charlie Hebdo Argues Islam is Not Exempt from Ridicule," *New York Times*, April 16, 2015.\*
- Anne Barnard and Alan Feuer, "Outraged and Outrageous: Pam Geller," *New York Times*,

October 8, 2010.\*

-Duss, Taeb, Gude and Sofer, *Fear Inc. 2.0.: The Islamophobia Network's Efforts to Manufacture Hate in America*, Center for Am Progress, February 2015 (pp. 1-35 only).

*Additional Material:*

-Barak Obama, 2006 Speech on Faith and Values.\*

-Robert Putnam and David Campbell, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* (Simon and Schuster, 2010).

-Hunter, James Davison, *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America* (New York: Basic Books, 1991), Chapter 4.\*

-Louise Cainkar, "No Longer Invisible: Arab and Muslim Exclusion after September 11," *Middle East Report*, Fall 2002.\*

## **Week 10: Religion and Peacebuilding (March 12, 14)**

### Classes 1: Religious Peacebuilding

-Atalia Omer, "Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding," in Appleby, Omer and Little, *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (2015).

-John Paul Lederach, "Spirituality and Religious Peacebuilding," in Appleby, Omer and Little, *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (2015).

-Tim Sisk, *Between Terror and Tolerance: Religion, Conflict and Peacemaking, A Policy Summary*, University of Denver, 2011.\*

### Class 2: Bridging Divides

-Martin Luther King, "The World House," Lecture delivered at the University of Oslo, December 11, 1964.\*

-Watch seminar: "Cultivating Community Across Divides in the US: Relationship Building as Spiritual Practice," Harvard Divinity School, November 10, 2016. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXFZH-4IAPs&feature=youtu.be>

*Additional Material:*

-Susan Hayward, "Women, Religion and Peacebuilding," in Appleby, Omer and Little, *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (2015).

-The *Role of Religion in Conflict and Peacemaking*, The British Academy, 2015.\*

-Peter Ochs, "The Possibilities and Limits of Inter-Religious Dialogue," in Appleby, Omer and Little, *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (2015)

Last Day of classes March 15.

Final Exam: Thursday, March 21, 11:30 am – 1:45 pm

Research Papers are due March 24, 2019, at 5:00 pm.