

INR 5990: International Politics and Religion

Spring 2018 (12860/13155)

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TR 4:00-5:15, 79/174

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Course Objectives

“Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by the rulers as useful.”
–Seneca

In around 1520, conquistador Berman Diaz del Castillo witnessed an Aztec human sacrifice. Spaniards could scarcely believe the brutal practice, though their own society had only recently terminated a centuries-long cleansing campaign against Muslims and, for a time, Jews. Those Muslim kingdoms traced their lineage to a massive and martial Arab expansion under Islam’s early banner. That conquest also crashed against the Byzantine Empire, a devoutly Christian and resolutely brutal state, and a remnant of the once pagan Roman Empire. Romans themselves fused superstition and religion with practical politics, just as had the Greeks, Persians, Hittites, Assyrians, Hebrews, Egyptians, Akkadians, and Sumerians. In every civilization, international politics and religion are deeply intertwined. Scholars now believe that the Aztecs demanded human tributes from vassal peoples in a way that fostered mutual kidnapping and distrust rather than collaboration and revolt. The modern state has sought to break this linkage with religion, or at least moderate its ill effects and protect its benefits.

This graduate seminar will evaluate this effort and the ways that state policies, global movements, and international orders are shaped by religion. We will first address the formation of modern states and their relationship with religion before turning to religious radicalism and extremism. The course finishes with the specific relationship of religious movements and beliefs and foreign policy. Throughout, the course treats religion as a social science variable, but it also evaluates political theology on its own terms. Students will be responsible for evaluating and presenting course readings as well as developing and writing a research paper.

- KEEP THIS SYLLABUS -
you may need it for MA comps

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will seek to diagnose the causes and effects of religious movements and beliefs on political outcomes.
- Students designate a viable research topic and will assemble relevant secondary and primary literature to analyze their research question.
- Students will test a causal or theoretical claim based upon course materials and independent research.
- Students will identify and assess materials related to central course topics and orally present their conclusions to the class.

Topics

- How to define and identify "religion" as a variable or causal factor in political phenomena.
- The historical and current relationship between the modern state and religious institutions, practices, and beliefs.
- International phenomena driven or affected by religious actors and beliefs.

Course Materials

- Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (2017) *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion* Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0691176222
- Andrew Phillips (2011) *War, Religion and Empire: The Transformation of International Orders* Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0521122092
- Jessica Stern (2004) *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill* Harper. ISBN: 978-0060505332
- Monica Duffy Toft et al. (2011) *God's Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics* New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0393069266
- Assortment of articles made available in PDF format on eLearning>Content.

Recommended

- Peter Herriot (2009) *Religious Fundamentalism: Global, Local and Personal* Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415422093

Course Requirements

The final grade is based upon participation (25%), Readings Summary (15%), Briefing (20%) and Research Project (40%).

Participation This grad course is a round-table approach to class time. In order to participate in the discussion, you will be responsible for each week's readings. In other words, I do little lecturing: class time relies on student participation.

Readings Summary On assigned days, you will be responsible for a 1-2 page summary or outline of a given reading. (Be sure to include the full citation at the top.) You will post this to a discussion forum in eLearning for you classmates to access. The goals for this work are (1) make sure our extensive readings are covered; (2) a brief reference for your classmates; and (3) collective class notes that you can save for reference on your comps.

- I will assign your readings within the first week.
- Standard format
 - o Citation
 - o 1-2 sentence summary
 - o Text of summary. Can be divided into bullet points, but use full sentences. Remember: this needs to be useful for your colleagues.
 - o Be sure to include some or all of ...
 - Theory/thesis and relation to other works (as mentioned in the article are as have appeared in the course)
 - Method
 - Evidence
 - Findings
 - Possible critiques

Briefing Identify and evaluate a current, international religious movement, organization, ideology/theology, that is having or is attempting to have some impact on international politics.

Aim for 5-8 minutes. Your target may be large and prominent or relatively limited. Your goal is twofold:

- 1) Efficiently describe the beliefs, agendas, activities, effects, and other facts of the case. Your audience is us, an uninformed but (usually) intelligent crowd.
- 2) Evaluate. You may apply any framework or theory that you believe is relevant, but you need to use some kind of mechanism beyond “critical thinking” to assess the who, what, or why or your target. This will be preliminary social science: not a thorough case study, but for systematic and focused than your own informed opinion.

I will collect your preference for the presentation date the first week of class.

Research Project You are to write a research paper of 15-30 pages. Formatting and other details appear at the end of the syllabus.

This paper should include at least two things:

- A literature review showing how your project fits within our course material as well as other relevant approaches.
- A case analysis. This should focus on one of the following: an institution or organization, comparative political theology or ideology, an international movement or mobilization, an international system norm or practice, a foreign policy decision. (Other topics are possible, but see me to discuss.) Whatever you choose must cross borders and involve religious belief, practice, membership, identity, or similar religious influence.

Letter Grades

95% or better	A	87% to 89%	B+	77% to 79%	C+	63% to 69%	D
90% to 94%	A-	83% to 86%	B	73% to 76%	C	60% to 62%	D-
		80% to 82%	B-	70% to 72%	C-	59% or less	F

GRADING In general, I consider how well you followed directions and focused tightly on your given topic; your mastery (i.e. correct understanding and general use) of the readings and other course material; your argument’s clarity, consistency and accuracy; overall structure and logic; overall clarity and grammar. See also “Shively Grading Rubric” in eLearning for more detail.

Academic Conduct

PLAGIARISM and **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** involve adding others’ words to your text as if they were your own and will not be tolerated. For University policies on plagiarism and other misconduct, see the Student Code of Conduct: <http://uwf.edu/osrr/documents/BOTApprovedStudentCodeofConduct-2010edition.pdf>.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register

with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at <http://uwf.edu/sdrc/internal/>, which requires documented needs of the individual. For information, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

Course Schedule

*Readings not in assigned texts will appear in eLearning > Course Materials>Content

*Some dates and assignments may be changed. I will announce these by email and in class.

Week 1	<u>Introduction</u>
Jan 9	- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad letter to George W. Bush
	- al-Anani, "The ISIS-ification of Islamist Politics"
Jan 11	- Haynes, "Introduction to International Relations and Religion"
	- Esposito, Fasching, and Lewis, "Religion and Globalization," selection
Week 2	<u>The Field</u>
Jan 16	- Shah and Philpott, "The Fall and Rise of Religion in International Relations"
Jan 18	- Canetti, et al., "Religiosity, Resource Loss, and Support for Political Violence"
Week 3	<u>International Systems</u>
Jan 23	- Phillips, ch 1-3
Jan 25	- Phillips, ch 4-5
Week 4	
Jan 30	- Phillips, ch 6-8
Feb 1	- Phillips, ch 9-10
Week 5	<u>The Secularization Thesis</u>
Feb 6	- Micklethwait and Wooldridge, <i>God is Back</i> Introduction
	- Norris and Inglehart, <i>Sacred and Secular</i> ch 1
Feb 8	- Norris and Inglehart, <i>Sacred and Secular</i> ch 4 and 6
Week 6	<u>States, Institutions, & Organizations</u>
Feb 13	- Woodberry, "The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy"
Feb 15	- Inglehart and Baker, "Modernization, Cultural Change & the Persistence of Traditional Values"
Week 7	
Feb 20	- Toft, Philpott, Shaw ch 1-2
Feb 22	- Toft, Philpott, Shaw ch 3-4
Week 8	
Feb 27	- Toft, Philpott, Shaw ch 5-6
Mar 1	- Toft, Philpott, Shaw ch 7-8
Week 9	<u>Movements & Individuals</u>
Mar 6	- Herriot, <i>Religious Fundamentalism</i> , ch 1 and 3
Mar 8	- Herriot, selections: al-Qaeda; Gush Amunim; Neturei Karta
Mar 13, 15	SPRING BREAK
Week 10	
Mar 20	- Stern, ch 1-3
Mar 22	- Stern, ch 4-5

Week 11	
Mar 27	- Stern, ch 6-8
Mar 29	- Stern, ch 9-10
Week 12	
Apr 3	- Gerges, <i>The Far Enemy</i> , ch 3-4
Apr 5	- Hegghammer, <i>The Rise of Muslim Foreign Fighters</i>
Week 13	<u>Implications and Priorities</u>
Apr 10	- Sampson, "Quaker Conciliation During the Nigerian Civil War"
Apr 12	- Bar, "God, Nations, and Deterrence"
Week 14	
Apr 17	- Wuthnow and Offutt, "Transnational Religious Connections"
Apr 19	- Hurd, ch 1-3
Week 15	
Apr 24	- Hurd, ch 4-6
Apr 26	
Week 16	MAY 2: FINAL PROJECTS DUE to eLearning Dropbox by 11:59 PM

Final Project Instructions

Treat your final project as a professional paper or publication similar to what we have been reading all semester. Papers must be 15-30 pages, but I will be focusing more on quality than page length.

NOTE: If you plan to complete your comprehensive exam this semester, see me. Your paper needs to be done three weeks early. This allows time to review the grade and clear you to proceed to the comps.

Grading standards are detailed in the document “Shively Paper Grading Rubric” on eLearning.

Assignment

You are to write a research paper of 15-30 pages.

This paper should include at least two things:

- A literature review showing how your project fits within our course material as well as other relevant approaches.
- A case analysis. This should focus on one of the following: an institution or organization, comparative political theology or ideology, an international movement or mobilization, an international system norm or practice, a foreign policy decision. (Other topics are possible, but see me to discuss.) Whatever you choose must cross borders and involve religious belief, practice, membership, identity, or similar religious influence.
 - As much as possible, rely on primary sources: this includes statements of individuals involved, data related to activities or outcomes, religious texts, interviews and direct accounts, etc.

Other Requirements:

- 1) Sources: Legitimate sources include scholarly works, government documents, official statements or testimonies, reports from credible think tanks or NGOs, or journalism. You might start reading for your research with sources like Wikipedia, but do not quote or cite them. Feel free to contact me at any time regarding sources.

No minimum number of sources is required, but for this kind of project, a good works cited is always longer than one page.

- 2) Formatting: 12-point Times New Roman OR 11-point Calibri font. 1 inch margins. You may choose your **citation style** (such as APA or Chicago), but you must use that style consistently throughout. To cite a document retrieved online, use a standard format, DO NOT simply copy and paste the browser link.

Late papers will lose 5 points immediately and 5 more for each subsequent 24 hours.