

**Religion in American Politics**  
**POLI 335-01 (CRN 23582)**  
**Spring 2017**  
**MWF 1-1:50, Maybank 316**  
**Instructor: David Hinton**

**Course Objective/Overview:** This course is an overview of the interplay between politics and religion in the United States. We will address the Constitutional issues, the relationship between religious and political institutions, and the dominant historical and current issues addressed by religious political movements. Religious groups, motivations and justifications have had a profound influence on policies, elections, conflicts, and political culture. Political institutions rely on major religious groups for electoral support. We will examine the mutual support systems which operate to promote both religious and secular agendas. Many of the religious and political divisions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century created the context for contemporary religious and political divisions. And, we will look at religious/political extremism, the willingness to use violence to achieve social or policy goals. The course is structured in a way that connects historical debates over the religion and government to contemporary political policies and debates.

**How to Contact Me:**

Speak with me after class

Call: *make an appointment*: Office: 953-4936. Home: 406-0761. Do not call after 5 p.m.

E-mail: [hintond@cofc.edu](mailto:hintond@cofc.edu) Make the subject **Faketh**

My office is at 26 Coming St., Room 301 Hours: Monday 2-3, Wednesday 2-3, and by appointment.

**The Texts:** Corbett, Corbett-Hemeyer, and Wilson, eds., *Politics and Religion in United States*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Routledge Press, 2014.

Morone, *Hellfire Nation*, Yale: Yale University Press, 2003.

Noll, *God and Race in American Politics*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Williams, *God's Own Party*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

The bulk of the reading for the course is from the assigned texts. I will post additional readings on OAKS. You should also follow current events relevant to the course (for example, new abortion laws, bathroom bills, or Supreme Court decisions) through a reputable media source.

**Class Policies:** 1 Attendance: If you miss 10 Classes you will receive a failing grade (WA) for the course; 2 Be on time. 3 If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) Turn off audible electronic devices. Do not talk on the telephone or "text" in class. It is unacceptable. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Feel free to ask me why. Please plan accordingly.

**Your Grade:** There will be 2 exams and a final exam, a debate, 3 debate papers, and a research paper.

2 Exams	15% each
Final Exam	15%
Debate	15%
Research Paper	15%
Class Participation	10%
Debate Papers	5% each

Grading Scale:

A 94-100 A- 91-93  
B+ 88-90 B 84-87 B- 81-83  
C+ 77-80 C 73-76 C- 69-72  
D+ 66-68 D- 61-65  
F 60 and below

**Class Participation:** 1 Do the required reading. 2 Inquire. 3 Express yourself. 4 Be prepared to answer questions. 5 Stay current. 6 Experience awake-ness.

**Debates:** You must participate in one debate. You must attend all of them. You also need to take a position in a brief paper for 3 of the 5 debates (and *must* do one for one of the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 debates).

**The Paper:** A 10-page paper is required for this course. The paper should be a presentation of a contemporary issue regarding Religion and U.S. politics. Your work must be your own based on a minimum of 10 journal articles and books. Your paper must have a works cited page and internal citations. Cite everything. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. I will post more thorough instructions on OAKS.

Political Science Department Citation: <http://polisci.cofc.edu/documents/12policitationguide.pdf>

If you give me half a paper, I will give you half a grade. You need to meet the minimum requirements of the assignment (page length, number and quality of sources, etc.) to receive a passing grade. Please use the Writing Lab as a resource to improve your research and writing skills.

## Spring 2017 Religion & Politics Calendar

**W January 11:** Introductions; Syllabus; Introduction to Course; Religion & politics: political, apolitical, Hebrew prophetic tradition (opposition to injustice & abuse of power)

**F January 13:** What do Americans know about religion? Read over Executive Summary and FAQs: <http://www.pewforum.org/2010/09/28/u-s-religious-knowledge-survey-who-knows-what-about-religion/> . There is a link to the quiz. Take it.  
Read Corbett, Chapter 1 and <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/11/03/u-s-public-becoming-less-religious/> .

**M January 16: MLK Day**

**Early America: City on a Hill/New Jerusalem**

**W: January 18:** Puritans and Establishment in the Colonial Period: read Morone, *Hellfire Nation*, Chapter 1, and Corbett, Chapter 2, pages 23-39.

**F January 20:** Puritans and the Other: read Morone Chapter 2.

**M January 23:** Founding of the United States: read Corbett, Chapter 2, pp. 39-63, and Morone Chapter 3.

**W January 25:** Religious Liberty in the United States; and Freemasons versus Christians in New England: read James Madison, “Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments” (1785) <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-08-02-0163>  
Thomas Jefferson, “Virginia Act for Establishing Religious Freedom” (1786)  
[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/A\\_Bill\\_for\\_Establishing\\_Religious\\_Freedom\\_1779](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/A_Bill_for_Establishing_Religious_Freedom_1779)

**F January 27:** 2nd Great Awakening: Temperance & Social Reform; Read Corbett Chapter 3, 64-74, and Lyman Beecher, “Six Sermons on Intemperance”  
<http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/sentimnt/sneslbat.html>

**M January 30: Debate 1: A Christian Nation? Reading TBA**

**W February 1:** Temperance, Race & Class: read Morone, chapter 10

Nativism: Read Corbett, pp. 83-89, Lambert 65-71(OAKS), and “Amalgamation of native Americans and Whigs” at <https://archive.org/details/ASPC0005061000>

**Slavery & Civil War**

**F February 3: the South:** read Morone, Chapter 6, Corbett, pp. 64-72, George D. Armstrong, *The Christian Doctrine of Slavery* (1857) Chapter 5 and Section 20 of Chapter 6 at <https://archive.org/details/christiandoctrin00lcarms> , and Grimke Sisters: “An appeal to Christian Women of the South” at <http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/abolitn/abesaegat.html>

**M February 6:** North: Read Noll, Intro and Chapter 1, and Morone, Chapter 7

Take a look at: Abraham Lincoln, “Second Inaugural Address” (1865)

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/lincoln2.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lincoln2.asp) ;

and “Battle Hymn of the Republic” <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/on-the-homefront/culture/music/the-battle-hymn-of-the-republic/the-battle-hymn-of-the.html>

**W February 8:** I’m sure we’ll need to catch up.

**F February 10:** Exam 1 review

### **Social gospel v Gospel of Wealth/Progressivism**

**M February 13:** Gospel of Wealth: read Lambert, Chapter 3 pp. 74-87 (OAKS), and Carnegie (Link on OAKS)

**W February 15: Exam 1 due in class;** Social Gospel: read Corbett, 75-77, Lambert, Chapter 3, pp. 87-103 (OAKS) and Rauschenbusch (OAKS)

**F February 17:** The development of 19<sup>th</sup> c. Religious Progressivism: Reform Judaism, *Rerum Novarum*: read Morone, chapter 12.

Worker’s rights, Women’s Suffrage, Labor Reform: Read Jane Addams (OAKS)

**M February 20: Debate 2:** Role of Religion in Public Policy; readings TBA

### **Constitutional Considerations**

**W February 22:** Establishment Clause; Read Corbett, Chapter 5

**F February 24:** *Engel v Vitale* (1962) & other 20<sup>th</sup> Century Supreme Court cases OAKS and Selections from Harvey and Goff, Chapter 5

**M February 27:** Pacifism, Militarism: War & Morality in the 20<sup>th</sup> C.

Read Reinhold Niebuhr, “The Innocent Nation in an Innocent World” (Goff)

Muste, “War is the Enemy”, and Stephen Wise “I Am an American” (1942) (OAKS and links)

**W March 1:** Secularism: Faith and Science: Lambert, chapter 4 (OAKS), and William Jennings Bryan, “Mr. Bryan’s Last Speech” (1925) (OAKS)

### **Constitution II: Free Exercise**

**F March 3:** Free Exercise Clause; Read Corbett, Chapter 6

**M – F March 6-10: Spring Break**

**M March 13:** Abolition, Religion, and Political Division in the United States: Read Noll, chapters 2 & 3.

**W March 15:** Free Exercise II-- contemporary cases: RFRA & same-sex marriage, Obamacare & Birth Control, Native American values. Read Deloria, from “*God is Red*” (OAKS)

**F March 17:** Review for Exam 2; Finish free exercise.

**M March 20: Debate 3:** Can I Discriminate Because of my Religious Opinions? Reading TBA

### **Cold War/Holy War**

**W March 22:** 1950s-“God on Our Side”: read Williams, Chapter 1, and Reagan (OAKS)

**F March 24: Exam 2 due in class.** Viet Nam: read Morone, Chapter 14, Heschel, and Fulbright (OAKS); and listen to Dylan links.

### **Civil Rights**

**M March 27:** Civil Rights: read Noll, Chapter 4, and Lambert, chapter 6 (OAKS).

**W March 29:** Black Jesus, Black Dignity: Read Malcolm X, SNCC (“Freedom Songs” and “Statement of Purpose”), King, and Committee of Black Churchmen (Harvey and Goff) & Cone (OAKS)

**F March 31:** Black Church Now: Read Corbett, Chapter 9

### **The New Right and the creation of the Moral Majority**

**M April 3:** The development of the Religious Right; read Williams chapters 3-5, Noll, Chapter 5, and Corbett, pp. 109-117

**W April 5:** Conservative Political Morality: read Morone Chapter 15.

**F April 7:** Religious Right and Political Power: read Williams, chapters 10 and 11.

**M April 10: Debate 4:** Are Religious Voters Victims of the Parties? Reading TBA

### **US Religion & Politics Now**

**W April 12: Paper Due;** White Religion and White Politics: Corbett, Chapter 8; Noll 156-175

**F April 14:** The Religious Left: read Lambert, Chapter 8 (OAKS); The Quiet Quaker Fight for Peace and Justice

**M April 17:** Nones: read the Pew Report: <http://www.pewforum.org/2012/10/09/nones-on-the->

[rise/](#) and <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/04/02/not-all-nonbelievers-call-themselves-atheists/>

**W April 19:** The Environment, the Pope, and Capitalism; read *Laudato Si* :  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

**F April 21:** Religion in the 2016 election: readings TBA

**M April 24: Debate 5:** Role of religion in U.S. public life; Read Corbett, Chapters 11 and 12

**W April 26: Last Day of Class;** Review for Final

**Final Exam: Friday, May 5, 12-3 p.m.**

This schedule will certainly change.