

**Religion in American Politics**  
**POLI 335-01 (CRN 27149)**  
**Spring 2022**  
**MWF 12-12:50**  
**Maybank 115**  
**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.

**Course Prerequisite:** POLI 101 American Government

**Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction**

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

**Technology notice.** The College of Charleston requires each student to have a laptop computer.

Do not attend class on your phone. It is an inadequate platform for the needs of learning environment and lacks the required security.

You will not be admitted to Zoom sessions if your i.d. comes up as a phone number. I will not reply to real-time emails or messages about anything during class.

**OAKS:** OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be posted (ir-)regularly.

**Privacy Notice - Recording of Classes (via ZOOM):**

Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the *student consents to being recorded*. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

**How to Contact Me:**

Speak with me after class

Call: *make an appointment*: Office: none. Home: 843-406-0761. Do not call after 5 p.m.

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

**My office:** JC Long Building, Room 228.

**Office Hours:** Monday 2-3; Wednesday 8:30-9:30, and by appointment.

**The Texts:** Please purchase a **notebook**.

Beydoun, Khaled, *American Islamophobia: Understanding the Roots and Rise of Fear*. University of California Press, 2018.

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

Harvey and Goff, *The Columbia Documentary History of Religion in America Since 1945*, Princeton University Press, 2008.

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

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

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

I will post additional readings on OAKS.

You need to acquire the texts for the course in a timely fashion.

**Class Policies:** 1) Attendance: If you miss 10 classes you will receive a failing grade (WA). 2) Be on time. Lateness is a distraction and *even more so when we're virtual*. 3) Stay Awake. If you are asleep, you are absent. 4) **Turn off or close all of the distractions on your computer!** Commit to just being in class. No one is paying for you to be on Facebook. 5) There are no extensions of due dates. Plan accordingly.

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

2 Exams	20% each
Final Exam	15 %
Debate	15%
Research Paper	15%
Class Participation	15%

**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-	61-66		
F	60 and below				

**Class Participation:**

a) Read to know the topic. b) Express yourself. c) Be prepared to ask and answer questions thoughtfully.

d) Prepare yourself for class – act like you are going to school, because you are: get up; use the facilities; eat, & drink your beverage of choice; get dressed for school; have your book and notebook at hand; sit up!

You will have a better experience if your camera is on & you are not lying in the dark. e) I have to know you are there to receive credit. You *build* a class participation grade by participating.

**Debates:** You must participate in one debate. You must attend all of them.

**The Paper:** A 13-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 some form of internal citations. Cite everything. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. I will post more thorough instructions on OAKS.

Political Science 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.)

Use the Cloud. “My computer died.” is no longer a valid excuse.

Use Spell-Check. There is no reason for typos in your paper.

Read your own work for grammar, clarity, & syntax. Don’t turn in “word salad”.

**You cannot forget when your paper is due. This is the reminder.**

### **Students With Disabilities:**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

## Spring 2022 Religion & Politics Calendar

**M January 10:** Introductions; Syllabus; Introduction to Course; Religion & politics in the US: political, apolitical, moral, social, etc.

**W January 12: American Politics & Religion overview** - read **Morone**, Preface and Introduction.

Historical views of politics and religion: Hebrew prophetic tradition (opposition to corruption, injustice & abuse of power), Samuel, Augustine, Aquinas, and the Enlightenment.

**F January 14:** Read **Corbett**, Chapter 1.

**Discussion** of contemporary religion & politics, here and abroad.

**1st, test yourself here:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/quiz/u-s-religious-knowledge-quiz/>

Then read this: What do Americans know about religion? Read over Executive Summary and FAQs: <https://www.pewforum.org/2019/07/23/what-americans-know-about-religion/>

Decline of U.S. religion, particularly Christianity:  
<https://www.pewforum.org/2019/10/17/in-u-s-decline-of-christianity-continues-at-rapid-pace/>

And read this from the Pew Report: <http://www.pewforum.org/2012/10/09/nones-on-the-rise/> and

<https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/unaffiliated-religious-nones/>

**M January 17: MLK Day. No Class!**

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

**W January 19: Puritans-** read **Morone**, *Hellfire Nation*, chapter 1, pp 29-54.

**F January 21: Establishment in the Colonial Period** - read **Corbett**, Chapter 2,

pp. 23-39, and **Winthrop**, “A Little Speech on Liberty” (OAKS).

**M January 24: American Colonial Religion and the Other:** read **Morone**, chapter 2.

**W January 26: Puritanism and American Political Culture;** read **Morone**, chapter 3.

**F January 28: Founders on Establishment** - read **Corbett**, Chapter 2. pp. 39-64,

James **Madison**, “Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments” (1785): <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-08-02-0163> , and 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)

**M January 31: Debate 1: Is the U.S. a “Christian Nation”?**

**W February 2: Millennialism & American Politics:** reading TBA

**F February 4 Nativism** - Read Corbett, pp. 83-89; Lambert 65-71(OAKS), Morone, 191-215; and selections on OAKS (Beveridge & T. Roosevelt); and “Amalgamation of native Americans and Whigs” at <https://archive.org/details/ASPC0005061000>

### **U.S. Religion on Slavery, Civil War, & Race**

**M February 7: South** - read Morone, 119-182, Corbett pp. 69-72, and George D. **Armstrong**, *The Christian Doctrine of Slavery* (1857) Chapter 5 and Section 20 of Chapter 6 at <https://archive.org/details/christiandoctrin00lcarms>

**W February 9: North** - read Noll, Intro and Chapter 1, and Morone, Chapter 7, and Grimke Sisters: “An appeal to Christian Women of the South” at <http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/abolitn/abesaegat.html>

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>

**F February 11: Women, Temperance, and Prohibition** - read Morone, Chapter 10, Corbett, pp. 72-75, Lyman **Beecher**, “Six Sermons on Intemperance”

<http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/sentimnt/sneslbat.html>

And Mary **Lease**, “Speech to the Women’s Christian Temperance Union” (1890)

<http://www.historyisaweapon.org/defcon1/marlylease2.html>

**M February 14: Catch up & review for exam 1**

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

**W February 16: Gospel of Wealth** - read **Lambert**, Chapter 3 pp. 74-87 (OAKS), and **Carnegie** (Link on OAKS)

**F February 18: Reform Judaism:** read “The Pittsburgh Platform” (link on OAKS)

**M February 21: Exam 1**

**W February 23: Social Gospel** - read Corbett, 75-77, **Lambert**, Chapter 3, pp. 87-103 (OAKS) and **Rauschenbusch** (OAKS)

**F February 25:** The development of 19<sup>th</sup> c **Progressivism** and its agenda: Worker’s rights, Women’s Suffrage, Labor Reform - Read Jane **Addams** and selections from *Rerum Novarum* (link on OAKS)

**M February 28: Debate 2: Is there still religious Nativism in the US?**

### **Constitutional Considerations**

**W March 2: Establishment Clause 1** - read **Corbett**, Chapter 5.

**F March 4: Establishment Clause 2:** *Engel v Vitale* (1962) & other 20<sup>th</sup> Century Supreme Court cases OAKS and Selections from Harvey and Goff, Chapter 5

**M March 7: Spring Break**

**W March 9: Spring Break**

**F March 11: Spring Break**

**M March 14: Free Exercise 1** - read **Corbett**, Chapter 6.

**W March 16: Free Exercise 2** – re-read **Corbett**, Chapter 6

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

**F March 17:** review for Exam 2; **Cold War** - read selections from Harvey and Goff, Chapter 1, Intro, **Ockenga**, **Niebuhr**, **Presbyterian General Assembly**, **Herberg**, **Reagan**

**M March 21: Debate 3: Can I Legally Discriminate Because of my Religious Views?**

**W March 23: Vietnam** – read Abraham **Heschel**, “The Moral Outrage of Vietnam”, 1967p. 267; **Berrigan** at Cornell (1968), p. 101; **Fulbright**, “The Arrogance of Power” (1966), p. 54 (Harvey & Goff); and **ML King**, “Beyond Vietnam” (link on OAKS); listen to **Dylan** links (OAKS).

### **Civil Rights and the 1960s**

**F March 25: Civil Rights 1** - read **Noll**, Chapter 4 and 5, **SNCC** (“Freedom Songs” and “Statement of Purpose”), **King**, and **Committee of Black Churchmen** (Harvey and Goff)

**M March 28: Exam 2**

**W March 30: Civil Rights 2** - read **Malcolm X**, **Chavez**, **Fontanez**, & **Cone** (Harvey & Goff)

### **Moral Majority and the New Right**

**F April 1: Religious Conservatives in the 1960s** - read **Williams**, Chapter 2-4

**M April 4: Debate 4: TBA**

**W April 6: The development of the religious right:** Read **Williams**, Chapters 6 - 7, **Morone**, Chapter 15, and **Reed** (Harvey and Goff)

**F April 8: White Religion and White Politics:** **Corbett**, Chapter 8; **National Power** - read **Williams**, Chapters 9 - 11



**M April 11: Debate 5: Should religion influence US foreign Policy?**

**W April 13: Extremist Religious Right:** Christian Identity, violence; religious Nativism, Trump-worship (the Cyrus Theology): reading TBA

**F April 15: Islamophobia** – read **Beydoun**, chapters 2 & 3.

**M April 18: Paper Due; War on Terror & Islamophobia** - read **Beydoun**, chapters 4 & 5.

**W April 22: Race, Religion & Islamophobia:** read **Beydoun**, chapters 6 & 7

**M April 25: Last Day of Class** – review for Final Exam; **The Religious Left?** - read Lambert, Chapter 8 (OAKS), and listen to **Barber** links on (OAKS).

**Final Exam: Wednesday, April 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Do not schedule any other activity at this time. Not air travel, moving out of the dorm or any other (non-life-threatening) excuse is a valid reason to miss the exam at the scheduled time.**

**Print this.**

**As recent events have shown, this schedule may change! I hope not.**

### **College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

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Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.”