

POLITICAL SCIENCE 526
Winter 2011

DRAFT SYLLABUS

The New Religious Politics: Politics and Religion in the Contemporary World

Professor G. Shabad
Office: 2080 Derby Hall
Phone: 292-1047; email shabad.1@osu.edu
Off Hrs.: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the relationship between religion and politics in a variety of countries around the world. Despite the predicted decline of religiosity and the significance of religion in public life, religion appears to play an increasingly important and contentious role in the political life of democratic and non-democratic and advanced and developing countries alike. How might this be explained? Why, for example, is the United States one of the most religious societies in the advanced democratic world and why are religious issues so prominent on the American political agenda? How do religious beliefs and practices affect political behavior in various countries? A second set of questions concerns variation in the nature of “church-state” relations around the world. What accounts for such differences and how do varying church-state relations affect the politicization of religiously-based social divisions? A final set of issues to be addressed focuses on the relationship between democracy and religion, particularly the compatibility or incompatibility of particular religious traditions or of heightened religiosity on the emergence and sustainability of democratic politics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING

You have several responsibilities in the course. You should do a thorough reading of the assigned materials **before** we discuss them in class, be sure to attend class regularly, and be prepared to participate in class discussions. It is also important for you to carry out all assignments for the course appropriately and on time. Most of all, to do well in the course you should think carefully about the issues discussed in the readings and in class sessions, and apply your learning and thinking to class discussions and written assignments.

My main responsibility is to do everything I can to help you to understand, given the limitations of time, the complexity of the relationship between religion and politics. This means that you should let me know any time that you need help, especially if you are having difficulty with course material or an assignment. And you should also let me know when something is not working as well as it should – for instance, if I do not present material clearly in class. You are always welcome to see me during my office hours. If those scheduled hours are not a good time for you, we can arrange another time to meet. You should also feel free to send me an email message at any time if you have a

question (Shabad.1@osu.edu). I check e-mail regularly and typically respond very quickly (except during weekends). **DO NOT USE THE PAGER ON THE CARMEN WEBSITE FOR THIS COURSE. I RARELY LOOK AT IT.** Finally, if for some valid reason beyond your control, you will not be able to take the exams at their scheduled times or turn in the written assignment on its due date, I need to know as soon as possible and together we can try to resolve the matter. If I determine that you have a valid reason (medical problem, family emergency, etc.), make up exams can be arranged and the submission date of written assignments rescheduled.

The overall grade for the course will be determined by the following:

- (a) **Two written assignments.** More will be said about these in class.
 - (1) A report of 4-5 double-spaced pages (longer if you enclose tables) that focuses on a question of your choosing having to do with the relationship between religiosity and/or religious denomination and political opinion or behavior. The report may focus on one country or compare two or more. The report must be based upon your **own** (simple) analyses of survey data (frequencies and cross-tabulations) that can be found on the websites listed below (under required readings). The report will be due on **xxx in class**. It will be worth **25%** of your final grade.
 - (2) An essay of about 4 double-spaced pages that focuses on a controversy over the role of religion in public life: examples might include the controversy over the banning of the head scarf and other religious garb in France, the allowance of wearing the head scarf in Turkey, the building of mosques in cities in the US or Western Europe, etc. The paper must rely on some research based on newspaper or scholarly journal articles, and should describe and evaluate the controversy. The paper will be due on **xxx in class**. It will be worth **15%** of your final grade.
- (b) **Midterm exam (essay format) 30%**
- (c) **Final exam (essay format) 30%**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

DISABILITY

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disabilities Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>.

REQUIRED READINGS

Kenneth D. Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown, Religion and Politics in the United States, 6th ed. (Lanham, MD., Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, 2011).

All other readings and handouts have been prepared as PDF or Word files that you can access via this course's Carmen website, <http://www.Carmen.osu.edu>, where you should sign in using your usual OSU login and password. I may add a few additional materials to the required readings, but will let you know if I've done so both in class and via email. Please contact me immediately if you are unable to access and print from the course website. I **STRONGLY** suggest that you download each reading so that you can highlight important points.

Finally, there are three websites that provide a rich source of reports and survey data on individual-level attitudes toward religion and other topics around the globe (including the United States). One of your two written assignments requires that you make use of the data available on these websites.

The first is the website of the **Association of Religion Data Archives**: <http://www.thearda.com/>

The second is the website of the **Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life**: <http://pewforum.org/>

The third is the website of the **World Values Survey** which includes data from many countries around the world pertaining to religious beliefs, and the relationship between politics and religion, among other topics: <http://www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSAnalyze.jsp>

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

Introduction: Questions to be addressed

PART I Secularization: Theory and Evidence

The Theory of Secularization: Modernization and Religion – having it both ways?

Readings:

[1] Gill, Anthony, “Religion and Comparative Politics,” Annual Review of Political Science (June 2001), 117-38.

[2] Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004) Pp. 7-13.

[3] Religion and Politics in the United States, Pp. 4-8.

Secularization: A Panoramic View of the Evidence

Readings:

[1] Norris and Inglehart, Sacred and Secular, Pp. 58, 60, 72, 90, 91.

PART II Religion and Politics in Advanced Democracies

Outlier among Advanced Democracies? Religion and Politics in the United States

Readings:

[1] Religion and Politics in the United States, Pp. 1-64, 183-205.

[2] John C. Green, “American Faith-based Politics in the Era of George W. Bush,” European Political Science (2009), pp. 316-29.

[3] Corwin Smidt, “Religion and Election Day: Voting Patterns.” Paper prepared for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, 2009.

The Cases that Fit? Religion and Politics in Western Europe

Readings:

[1] Russell Dalton, Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies, 3rd ed. (New York: Chatham House Publishers, 2002). Pp. 154-62.

[2] Jose Casanova, “Religion, European Secular Identities, and European Integration,” in Timothy A. Byrnes and Peter J. Katzenstein, eds., Religion in an Expanding Europe. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Pp. 65-92.

[3] Aristede R. Zolberg and Long Litt Woon, “Why Islam is Like Spanish: Cultural Incorporation In Europe and the United States,” Politics and Society (March 1999), pp. 13-20.

PART III The Politicization of Religious Divisions

Church-State Relations

Readings:

[1] Religion and Politics in the United States, Pp. 65-108.

[2] Ahmet Kuru, "Passive and Assertive Secularism: Historical Conditions, Ideological Struggles, and State Policies toward Religion," World Politics (July 2007), pp. 568-94.

Motive, Means, and Opportunity

Readings:

[1] Kenneth D. Wald, Adam L. Silverman, and Kevin S. Fridy, "Making Sense of Religion in Political Life," Annual Review of Political Science (June 2005), 121-43.

[2] Religion and Politics in the United States, Pp. 109-182, 206-46.

[3] Nikki Keddie, "The New Religious Politics: Where, When, and Why do 'Fundamentalisms' Appear?" Contemporary Studies of Society and History (1998), pp. 696-723.

PART IV Religion and Democracy

How Might Religion and Democracy Can Be Reconciled

Readings:

[1] Alfred Stepan, "Religion, Democracy and the 'Twin Tolerations,'" Journal of Democracy (October 2000), 37-57.

[3] Religion and Politics in the United States, Pp. 348-372.

[4] Stathis Kalyvas, "Commitment Problems in Emerging Democracies: The Case of Religious Parties," Comparative Politics (July 2000), 379-98.

[5] John Anderson, "Catholicism and Democratic Consolidation in Spain and Poland," in John T.S. Madeley and Zsolt Enyedi, eds., Church and State in Contemporary Europe (London: Frank Cass Pub., 2003), Pp. 137-156.

Can Religion and Democracy be Reconciled?

Readings:

[1] Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" Foreign Affairs (Summer 1993), 22-49.

[2] Norris and Inglehart, Sacred and Secular, Pp. 133-156.

[3] Saiful Mujani and R. William Liddle, "Indonesia's Approaching Elections: Politics, Islam, and Public Opinion," Journal of Democracy (January 2004), 109-123.

[4] Alfred Stepan with Graeme B. Robertson, "An 'Arab' More than Muslim' Electoral Gap," Journal of Democracy (July 2003), 30-44.

*****FINAL EXAM*****

