

PSC 314: Religion & Politics in the US

Friday, 8:30a – 11:15A in BEH 223 (3 credits).

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Office WRI 208

Office Hours: 11:30a to 1pm Friday or by appointment

Course Statement:

This course is intended to provide critical analyses of the legal, institutional, and behavioral aspects of religious politics in the United States. The purpose of this course is not to support any particular policy perspective on any of these issues, but to understand the diverse positions on these policy areas, to identify assumptions underlying different positions, and to assess the effects of public debate on these issues on democratic governance and civility.

This class strongly supports the University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs) ***

This course supports the following UULOs:

- 1) Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning - Integrate basic principles of the social sciences and develop skills and a desire for lifelong learning.
- 2) Inquiry and Critical Thinking - Be able to identify problems, articulate questions, and use various forms of research and reasoning to guide the collection, analysis, and use of information related to those problems
- 3) Communication - Communicate effectively in written and verbal modes
Citizenship and Ethics - Participate knowledgeably and actively in the public life of our communities and make informed, responsible, and ethical decisions in one's personal and professional lives.
- 4) Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness – Develop knowledge of multicultural societies and an awareness of one's place in and effect on them
- 5) Citizenship and Ethics - Participate knowledgeably and actively in the public life of our communities and make informed, responsible, and ethical decisions in one's personal and professional lives.

*** assume that each lesson meets every one of these goals and outcomes listed above***

Text:

Jelen, Ted G. 2010, *To Serve God and Mammon*, 2nd edition, Georgetown University Press: Washington DC. **Referred to as “SGM” in schedule.**

Wald, Kenneth D and Allison Calhoun-Brown. 2018. *Religion and Politics in the United States* 8th edition. Rowman & Littlefield: Boulder. **Referred to as “RPUS” in schedule.**

Additional readings will be posted to CANVAS and emailed out throughout the semester

Requirements:

A. Tardiness: I loathe tardiness. Constant tardiness will not be tolerated. It is disrespectful to your fellow students, and much more importantly, it is disrespectful to me. **Continued tardiness will result in a lowering of your grade.** I reserve the right to restrict access to the class if tardiness by any student(s) becomes an issue. If you have extenuating circumstances that will cause you to be consistently tardy, please contact me at the beginning of the semester about the situation. I am willing to make allowances for valid reasons.

B. Examinations: There will be two examinations this semester. Two class exams, a midterm and final, covering the information between each testing period. The test will not be comprehensive. The midterm is 20% of your final grade, the final is 25% of your final grade for a total of 45% for both test. **A class period will be devoted to the midterm test. On the day of the test there will be no meeting for class.**

If you chose you may use that period to complete your exam, but you can take the test at any time in multiday window. The final will be open all week during finals week.

C. Biography Paper: You will submit two biography paper of a religious/political figure in the history of the US. You will choose a person from the list provided. The biography papers will be from 1000 to 1300 words each. More information on the biography paper will be provided in a separate file in the Canvas page of course. Each paper is worth 15% of your final grade for a total of 30% of final grade for both papers.

D. Library Assignment: You will have a library assignment which is to be completed at the library. Information on this assignment will be posted in a separate file in Canvas. This assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. You will be given a class period to complete this assignment.

E. Reading Pop Quizzes: There will be 8 reading pop quizzes throughout the semester to measure your understanding and comprehension of the reading material. I will only count 5 of the quizzes for grades and will drop the lowest 3 scores. The reading pop quizzes will be worth 10% of your final grade with each of the 5 quizzes counted being worth 2% of your final grade. They will be 4 questions a piece. Two of the questions will be basic knowledge, 1 questions will be based on a detailed reading of the text, and 1 question will require analytical reasoning (putting 2 and 2 together to come up with 4, even though 4 is not clearly written in the text).

F. Communications: Email communications must be via RebelMail and CANVAS. Do not send an email via Google, Yahoo, or other commercial providers. For all communications send me an email via RebelMail or CANVAS, or come see me directly. I will not answer emails sent in any medium other than RebelMail. I have no dedicated phone line so use email for all communication. Please avail yourself of my office hours. I am here to help you and teach you. I am thrilled by visits from students (honestly) who are seeking to learn and understand. My email address is jonathan.bradley@unlv.edu

G. Grading:

40 points possible for biography papers (20% points each),

20 points possible for midterm,

25 points possible for final,

5 points possible library assignment,

10 points possible for reading quizzes.

100% - 93% = A, 92.9%-90% = A-, 89.9%-87% = B+, 86.9%-83%= B, 82.9%-80%=B-, 79.9%-77% = C+, 76.9%-72% = C, 71.9% -70% = C-, 69% - 60% = D below 60% = F

H. Check your Grades: Your grades will be posted on the class CANVAS site after each exam and homework. If you have a question about your exam, or if the grade is entered incorrectly in CANVAS, you must contact me within 72 hours after the posting of the grade to rectify the issue. You must check your grades at the very least once a week. For the final exam, this time period is 48 hours. After these 48 hours, your final grade as shown in CANVAS will be submitted formally to the university's grading system. Final grades will not be curved. Final grades will be figured by hand because CANVAS' mathematic calculations have proven to be less than reliable.

For the weekend following finals a final letter grade will be posted for you to review. You will have that weekend to review and contest your grade. Contesting does not mean begging for a better grade. If you want a better grade work harder throughout the semester. If there is a mistake in the calculation, or there was a grading error, then you need to contact me before the grade is made official the following Monday at 5pm.

I. Classroom Behavior: Every student is entitled to a distraction-free classroom. Students may not behave in any manner that interferes with the learning of another student or my teaching. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1) You must arrive and be prepared to begin class on time. **I loathe tardiness.** Let me say that again "I loathe tardiness." If late arrivals become a problem, the doors will be locked once class has started. If you have a valid reason to be tardy please inform me at the beginning of the semester. Don't be continually tardy and then try to explain to me at the end of the semester about the reasons. I am willing to be lenient

on limited tardiness if there are extenuating circumstances and I am made aware of them before they happen.

2) **Cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight.** Texting, accessing the internet, or reading email during class is absolutely prohibited and will result in your being asked to leave the classroom. Continual cell phone use during the class will result in a lowering of your class participation grade. I have no tolerance for cell phones in class. We have survived in various forms of society for 8,000 years without cell phones. You can survive for a few hours without yours. I don't even want to see them out. If they are out I will assume you are using it and I will ask you to put it away. Unless you are a brain surgeon on call or in possession of the nuclear launch codes there is absolutely no reason you need to be talking or texting on your cell phone in our class.

3) Lap tops and tablets are allowed in class **ONLY** to take notes. You are not to access the internet (unless I request you to do so), check email or perform any other function on your computer that is not class related. I reserve the right to discontinue the use of all or individual electronic devices in class if they disrupt the learning environment.

4) No "side-bar" conversations or passing notes. Ignoring this rule will result in your being asked to leave the classroom. I do not tolerate students who are disruptive or inconsiderate of other students.

5) Do not do another class' homework in this class. I can't believe I have to say this, but I had a student who didn't understand why and was upset when I told the student to stop. Because I say so that's why.

6) Recording devices are allowed in class to record the lecture, but each recording must be converted into an mp3 or some easily playable file and emailed to me before the next class.

7) No food or beverages (except water in a sealable container) are allowed in the classroom.

8) Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Schedule of classes:

- I. Jan 25:
 - a. Intro, Syllabus; What is Religion? What is Politics
 - b. Reading: No reading
- II. Feb 1:
 - a. Lecture 1: A Foundation in Political Science, and the Constitution
 - b. Reading: SGM Chapter 1; RPUS Chapter 1;
 - c. Federalist 10 (in CANVAS)
 - d. Laborde, Cecile. 2011. "Political Liberalism and Religion..." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 21:1:67-86 (in CANVAS)
- III. Feb 8:
 - a. Lecture 2: Why is the U.S. so religious...or is it?
 - b. Reading: RPUS Chapter 2
 - i. WIKIPEDIA'S "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism"
 1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Protestant_Ethic_and_the_Spirit_of_Capitalism
 - ii. WIKIPEDIA'S "Theory of religious economy."
 1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_religious_economy
- IV. Feb 15:
 - a. Lecture 3: History of Religion and Politics in the U.S.
 - b. Reading: SGM Chapter 2; RPUS Chapter 3
- V. Feb 22:
 - a. Lecture 4: Modern History of Religion and Politics in the U.S.
 - b. Reading: RPUS Chapter 4

- VI. Mar 1:
 - a. Lecture 5: Religion, American Culture and Political Culture
 - b. Reading: RPUS Chapter 4 & 12
 - c. First biography paper due.
- VII. Mar 8:
 - a. Lecture 6: The Public Role of Religion
 - b. Reading: SGM Chapter 3; RPUS Chapter 7
- VIII. MARCH 10-15th MIDTERM (NO CLASS ON MARCH 15)
 - a. **MIDTERM Day: This exam will be conducted on Canvas. You will need to use a computer with a working internet connection. The exam will become available from Sunday March 10th at the end of class on March 15th. You will have 75 minutes to take the exam. The exam is open book and open notes. The exam will consist of T/F, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer. Questions will be randomized and different for each test. DO NOT WORK TOGETHER. DO NOT PUT THE EXAM OFF TILL LAST MINUTE.**
- IX. Mar 29:
 - a. Lecture 7: Religion and Political Action
 - b. Reading: RPUS 5 & 6
- X. Apr 5:
 - a. Lecture 8: Religion and Courts mostly
 - b. Reading: SGM 3 & Appendix.
 - i. Bill of Rights Institute “Religious Liberty: Landmark Court Cases.”
 1. <https://billofrightsinitiative.org/cases/>
- XI. Apr 12:
 - a. Lecture 9: The Religious Left and Minority Rights
 - b. Reading: RPUS 10 & 11
- XII. Apr 19:
 - a. Library Assignment: No Class
 - i. See Canvas for information
- XIII. Apr 26:
 - a. Lecture 10: The Religious Right
 - b. Reading: SGM 4; RPUG 8
- XIV. May 3:
 - a. Lecture 11: The End of White, Christian America
 - b. Reading:
 - i. Lecture taken from Jones, Robert P. 2017. *The End of White Christian America* Simon & Schuster Paperbacks: New York.
 - c. Second biography paper due
- XV. May 10: Study Week.
 - a. Lecture 12: The Future of Religion and Politics in America...and the World.
 - b. Reading: SGM Chapter 5
- XVI. Dec 10 Finals Week
 - a. **FINAL: This final will be conducted on Canvas. You will need to use a computer with a working internet connection. The exam will become available early Sunday morning the 12th of May at Midnight (00:01) and will**

be open till the end of the day (11:59pm/23:59) the following Friday the 17th of May. You will have 120 minutes to take the exam. The exam is open book and open notes. The exam will consist of T/F, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer. Questions will be randomized and different for each test. DO NOT WORK TOGETHER. DO NOT PUT THE EXAM OFF TILL LAST MINUTE.

Minutia:

Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the

student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within CANVAS is acceptable.

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Any other class specific information—(e.g., absences, make-up exams, status reporting, extra credit policies, plagiarism/cheating consequences, policy on electronic devices, specialized department or college tutoring programs, bringing children to class, policy on recording classroom lectures, etc.)