

POS 314: Religion and the Political Process

Summer II, 2008.

Contact Information:

Use Webcampus mail.

Required Texts:

Kenneth D. Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown, *Religion and Politics in the United States* (5th Edition)

Clyde Wilcox and Carin Larson, *Onward Christian Soldiers: The Religious Right in American Politics* (3rd Edition).

Objective:

This course is intended to provide the advanced student with an overview of the interactions between religion and politics in contemporary American politics. Cultural, legal, institutional, and behavioral perspectives will be considered.

Technology:

View the lectures online from within the course on the dates specified below. The links to the videos are located in the Media Library tool. You must have RealPlayer on your computer to view the video lectures. You may download this free program from <http://www.real.com/>

Grading:

There will be an essay final exam, distributed on July 8, at 8:00 am PDT, and due on July 11:00 at 5:00 pm, PDT. The final exam counts for 75% of the student's final grade. 25% of the student's final grade will be based on active and thoughtful participation in scheduled online discussions. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to viewing the lectures, to view the lectures on or before the scheduled viewing dates, and to participate in on-line discussions within 48 hours of the scheduled lecture viewing.

Class Participation Policies:

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to the exam schedule will be granted only in cases of documented medical or bereavement considerations.

Course schedule:

I. Introduction to Political Religion

View Lecture 1: June 9

Read: Wald and Calhoun-Brown, 1-2; Wilcox and Larson, 1.

II. Religion and the American Political Culture

View Lecture II: June 11

View Lecture III: June 13

View Lecture IV: June 16.

Read: Wald and Calhoun-Brown, 3, Wilcox and Larson, pp. 29-47.

III. Church-State Relations

View Lecture V: June 18

View Lecture VI: June 20

Read: Wald and Calhoun-Brown, 4, Wilcox and Larson, pp. 15-18.

IV. Religion and American Political Behavior

View: Lecture VII: June 23

View: Lecture VIII: June 25

View: Lecture IX: June 27

Read: Wald and Calhoun-Brown, 6-11; Wilcox and Larson, pp. 47-67

V. Religion and Public Policy

View: Lecture X: June 30

View: Lecture XI: July 1

Read: Wald and Calhoun-Brown, 5-6; Wilcox and Larson, 3

VI. Religion and American Democracy

View Lecture XII: July 3

View: Lecture XIII: July 7

Read: Wald and Calhoun-Brown, 12; Wilcox and Larson, 4-5.

Final Exam: Distributed July 8, 8:00 am PDT; Due July 11, 5:00 pm PDT