



St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo  
Department of Religious Studies

# World Religions and Politics

**RS220 – Fall 2014**

Class Location: STJ 3014

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

Instructor: Nick Shrubsole, Ph.D

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Office Location: STJ 1017

Office Phone: 519-884-8110, x. 28273

E-mail: [nshrubso@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nshrubso@uwaterloo.ca)

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## Course Description

This course examines the intersection of religion and politics from a global perspective. With an historical framework and contemporary focus, we will explore how religions have been influenced by politics, how religions understand and engage with political institutions, and how religions participate and affect both domestic and international politics. Religion and politics have always and continue to be intertwined. We begin with a brief historical review of the relationship between religion and politics. We then turn to case studies of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and the traditions of India. We conclude with a broader look at global issues of international importance including human rights, war, conflict resolution, globalization and development.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Have an understanding of the relationship between religion and politics
- Understand the impact of history and geography in contemporary religious and political landscapes
- Identify ways in which politics are affected by religion
- Identify how world religions are influenced by politics
- Explain how religion and politics are both complementary and conflictual
- Explain the impact of globalization and secularization
- Comprehend the continuing impact of religion in the modern world

## Required Readings

The following textbook is available in the University of Waterloo bookstore. It is also on three-hour in-library reserve at the UW Dana Porter library.

- **Rowe, Paul S. 2012. *Religion and World Politics*. Oxford University Press.**

Additional readings are listed throughout the syllabus. These readings are available via the embedded links or on the course website.

## Further Reading on Religion and Politics

### *World Religions*

Since we will not be discussing the details of world religions in great detail and there is no prerequisite for this course, some students may find it helpful to read up on some of the world religions we are discussing. The recommended book for this is also available on reserve at the UW Dana Porter library:

- Oxtoby, Wilard G. and Alan F. Segal. 2012. *A Concise Introduction to the World Religions*. Oxford University Press.

### *Religion and Politics*

There are several good texts available on the subject of religion and politics that offer different perspectives and approaches to the subject. The most comprehensive is the Routledge Handbook, but all are worth checking out if you are interested in this subject. If you would like advice on further reading specific to particular traditions or regions, speak with the professor.

- Bruce, Steve. 2003. *Politics and Religion*. Polity.
- Fox, Jonathon. 2013. *An Introduction to Religion and Politics: Theory and Practice*. Routledge.
- Haynes, Jeffrey. 2011. *Religion, Politics and International Relations: Selected Essays*. Routledge.
- Haynes, Jeffrey. 2010. *Routledge Handbook on Religion and Politics*. Routledge.
- Norris, Pippa and Ronald Inglehart. 2011. *Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press.

## Evaluation

In-class Quizzes	50%	Sept 30, Oct 14, Oct 28, Nov 11, Nov 27
Reflection Papers	20%	
Newspaper Assignment	20%	
Attendance/Participation	10%	

*In-class Quizzes*      50%    (10% x 5)

Over the course of the semester, students will write five short quizzes. These quizzes are worth 10% each. They will consist of twenty multiple-choice/true or false questions and a brief short answer question. Students will be provided a short list of potential questions prior to the quiz.

These are not pop quizzes. They are normally scheduled on Tuesdays at the beginning of class (4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.), with the exception of the final quiz, which will take place at the end of the final class on the final day.

*Reflection Papers*      20% (10% x 2)

Each student must write a brief response to two (2) weeks' readings. This response should not simply be a summary of the text. You should provide some thought on the subject at hand. What do you learn about the complex relationship between religion and politics in the chapter and supplementary readings? Are you left with any outstanding questions? How does it compare with other readings? More information on this assignment will be provided in the first week of class.

**Deadline:** You must submit your response paper before we begin class on the week we are discussing the chapter. For example, if you are responding to chapter 3, your response paper is due no later than 3:30 p.m. on the Tuesday of the third week (30 minutes before our first class for the week).

**Submission:** All response papers will be submitted online via the course website. All assignments should be in .doc, .docx, or .rtf format. They should be double-spaced with 1" margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. Place your name, student #, course code, professor's name, and date at the top of your assignment.

**Length:** Your response paper should be approximately 1000 words.

**NOTE:** You are responsible for submitting two response papers over the course of the semester. Plan ahead and choose the ones that interest you the most and fit into your schedule best.

*Newspaper Assignments*      20%

**Part 1:** Throughout the semester, you are asked to post a minimum of two (2) newspaper articles related to religion and politics on the course website. In addition to posting the link, you are asked to write a brief 250 word (approximately) commentary on the article. Other than the stipulation that this is not meant to be a 250 word summary, what you say in the commentary is ultimately up to you. Check popular news sites or go to the library website for access to a plethora of newspapers.

Requirements: The posting of the article must occur within 48 hours of the news report's publication.

**Part 2** In addition to posting two articles, you will be required to respond to a minimum of two (2) articles. You should respond both to the commentary and the article itself. While you may choose to engage in a dialogue with someone on the course website, you must engage in two separate dialogues to complete the basic requirements of this course. The length of these responses ought to be concise and well thought out.

Requirements: Graded responses will end after one week of the posting of the news article. For this reason, it is important to check the website regularly for topics that might interest you. It is also important to note the date of the posting.

*Attendance/Participation* 10%

While this course is primarily in a lecture format, there will be times for discussion during class. You are expected to be in class and prepared to talk about the readings. At the beginning of each class, there will be an opportunity to start our online newspaper discussions with an open floor for current events. You should expect to at least tell us a little something about one of your newspaper choices.

## Reading Schedule

This course is organized around the course textbook. We will be discussing one chapter per week. Most weeks will be supplemented with primary source documents from key religious and political actors. Given the frequency of quizzes in this course, it is important to stay up to date on readings and to come to class.

Week 1: **September 9 and 11:** Introduction and Theoretical Overview

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 1*

Week 2: **September 16 and 18:** The Roman Catholic Church

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 2*

John XXIII (1963), *Pacem in Terris* (Class will be divided into four groups for this reading: I. Order Between Men (begins on paragraph 8), II. Order Between Individuals and Public Authorities (begins on paragraph 46), III. Relationship Between States (begins on paragraph 80), and IV. Relationship of Men and of Political Communities with the World Community (begins on paragraph 130), [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_j-xxiii\\_enc\\_11041963\\_pacem\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem_en.html)

Week 3: **September 23 and 25:** Christianity and US Politics

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 3*

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963), *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, [http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Letter\\_Birmingham.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)

Browse the Liberty Counsel Action (Moral Majority) website at <http://libertycounselaction.org/>

Week 4: **September 30 and October 2:** Judaism, Zionism, and Israeli Politics

Quiz #1 Theory and Christianity: Tuesday, September 30 at 4:00 p.m. sharp
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Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 4*

Theodor Herzl (1896), "Introduction" from *Der Judenstaat [The Jewish State]*, [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/25282/25282-h/25282-h.htm#I\\_Introduction](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/25282/25282-h/25282-h.htm#I_Introduction)

In-class film: BBC, *The Birth of Israel* (2008)

Week 5: **October 7 and 9**: Political Islam and the State

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 5*

Syed Qutb, "Introduction" from *Ma'alim fi al-Tariq (Milestones)*, 3–9,  
[http://www.izharudeen.com/uploads/4/1/2/2/4122615/milestones\\_www.izharudeen.com.pdf](http://www.izharudeen.com/uploads/4/1/2/2/4122615/milestones_www.izharudeen.com.pdf)

Khaled Abou El Fadl (2004). *Islam and the Challenge of Democracy* (excerpt from Chapter 1), 3–10 (to "GOVERNMENT AND LAW"),  
<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s7754.pdf>

Recommended: Gardner, B. (2008). *Islam: Empire of Faith*. PBS. Three-part series available at ITMS.

Week 6: **October 14 and 16**: Religion and Politics in India

Quiz #2 Judaism and Islam: Tuesday, October 14 at 4:00 p.m. sharp
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Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 6*

Mahatma Gandhi (1927), "A Candid Critic" from *Young India* 20,  
<http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/profiles/blogs/a-candid-critic-mahatma-gandhi-1#.VAiKxmOikxE>

V.D. Savarkar (1927, 1929), excerpts from *The Gandhian Confusion*, "Gandhiji and these Naïve Hindus," "Which is the Religion of Peace?" and "The Sympathizer of the British" (10–16),  
<http://www.savarkarsmarak.com/activityimages/The%20Gandhian%20Confusion.pdf>

Week 7: **October 21 and 23**: Buddhism and Politics

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 7*

The Dalai Lama (2008). *An Appeal to All Chinese Spiritual Brothers And Sisters*. New York, <http://www.dalailama.com/messages/tibet/appeal-to-all-chinese>

The Dalai Lama (1993). *Buddhism and Democracy*. Washington, D.C.  
<http://www.dalailama.com/messages/buddhism/buddhism-and-democracy>

William Edelglass, (2009), "Thich Naht Hanh's *Interbeing: Fourteen Guidelines for Engaged Buddhism*" from *Buddhist Philosophy: Essential Readings*. Edited by William Edelglass and Jay Garfield. Oxford University Press, Chapter 36. (Link to electronic resource available on course reserves on the UW library website.)

Week 8: **October 28 and 30**: Religion, Democracy, and Human Rights

Quiz #3 Religions of the East: Tuesday, October 28 at 4:00 p.m. sharp

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 8*

United Nations Human Rights Council (December 2013), *Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt*, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/Annual.aspx> (click on the 2014 document)

Week 9: **November 4 and 6**: Religion and War

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 9*

Desmond Tutu (1987), “Freedom Fighters or Terrorists?” from *Theology and Violence*, edited by C. Villa-Vicencio (Eerdmans Publishing), 71–78. (Available on electronic course reserves at the UW library website.)

Abdullah Yusef Azzam (1991 [1987]). “PART ONE: REASONS FOR JIHAD” from *Join the Caravan*, 6–19, [http://archive.org/stream/JoinTheCaravan/JoinTheCaravan\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/JoinTheCaravan/JoinTheCaravan_djvu.txt)

Week 10: **November 11 and 13**: Religion and Conflict Resolution

Quiz #4 War, Democracy and Human Rights: Tuesday, November 11 at 4:00 p.m. sharp

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 10*

Duane K. Friesen, John Langan S.J, and Glenn Stassen, (1998). “Introduction: Just Peacemaking as the New Ethic for Peace and War,” *Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War* ed. Glenn Stassen (Pilgrim Press), 1–37. (Available on electronic course reserves at the UW library website.)

Week 11: **November 18 and 20**: Transnational Religion, Globalization, and Development

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 11*

Peter Beyer (1994). “The Liberation Theological Movement in Latin America” from *Religion and Globalization* (Sage), 135–159. (Available on electronic course reserves at the UW library website.)

Week 12: **November 25 and 27**: Conclusion: Living in a Secular Age?

Quiz #5 CR, Globalization and Development: Thursday, November 27 at 4:45 p.m.

Reading: Rowe, *Chapter 12*

## Course Website Information

Using your WatIAM username and password, you can access the course website at

<http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

LEARN is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to manage course materials (posting of lecture notes etc.), interact with their students (drop boxes for student submissions, on-line quizzes, discussion boards, course e-mail etc.), and provide feedback (grades, assignment comments etc.). The degree to which LEARN is utilized in a particular course is left to the discretion of the instructor; therefore, you may find a large variance in how LEARN is being used from one course to another.

On the RS220 course website, you will be able to:

- Download select lecture slides
- Submit assignments
- Read announcements
- View important dates
- View your grades
- Participate in online newspaper discussions

For further help on LEARN you may visit the help website at

[http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training\\_documentation/student\\_index.html](http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training_documentation/student_index.html)

You may also contact support staff via e-mail at [learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca)

## University Policies and Information

### Correspondence:

Students using email to contact me **must** include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled in the email subject line.

### UW POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS AND MISSED TESTS

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations

([www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf)) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at [uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness](http://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness).
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Policy and UW Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Grievance Officer.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Policy or Grievance Policy if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Appeals Officer.

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**

[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.