



**ST. JEROME'S**  
**UNIVERSITY**



**UNIVERSITY OF**  
**WATERLOO**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**Department of Religious Studies**

Religion and Politics  
RS 220 / PSCI 253  
Winter 2024

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor:

Office:

Phone: Mondays 5:00 – 6:00 pm; Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 am

Office Hours:

Email:

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Religion continues to influence politics around the world as seen in the return of religious nationalism, religious opposition to globalization, populism and religion, and grassroots political movements for social change. Considering both historical and contemporary cases, students critically analyze how religion shapes – and is shaped by – politics (Calendar Description).

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, students should be able to

- identify and critically examine the various roles religion may play in the “public sphere,” in civil society, domestic politics, and international affairs;
- recognize and explain the complex relationship between religious communities and political institutions;
- understand and explain the evolving relationship between religion and politics in light of contemporary challenges facing liberal-democratic politics; and
- identify and critically examine the diversity of religious traditions, religious organizations, and religious actors that may affect domestic and international politics.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

There is no single required text. All readings for the course are available electronically. Many readings are accessible by the link provided in this syllabus. Some readings are available through the University of Waterloo Library e-collection. The remaining readings are available through the course LEARN website. If you have a problem accessing a reading, please contact the instructors immediately.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Participation:** As this course is highly dialogical, students should come to class prepared to engage in an informed discussion of the class topic. This means readings should be completed by the date on the course schedule. The instructors may assign discussion/reading questions (e.g., one-page responses). These assigned questions will contribute to your participation mark. Participations also means that students are expected to participate in the class by asking probing questions, helping with the facilitation of discussions (e.g., if the discussion is waning, you have a responsibility to ask a probing question—it’s not just the responsibility of the instructors to facilitate a discussion), and actively contributing to class discussions. Your instructor values the learning that occurs when there is an active, unscripted exchange of ideas and information in the classroom.

**Discussion #1:** This discussion focuses on the topic “The Politics of Rights and Religious Freedom.” Students will be asked to respond briefly to a series of questions that will become the bases for a seminar discussion on January 29, 2024. The written response should be no more than 500 words. It is due January 29, 2024, by 5:00 pm.

**Midterm Exam:** This in-class, written exam takes place on February 12, 2024. It covers course material through February 5, 2024. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and a short essay. Further details will be available at least one week prior to the exam.

**Discussion #2:** This discussion focuses on the topic “The Canadian TRC and Religion.” Students will be asked to respond briefly to a series of questions that will become the bases for a discussion on March 25, 2024. The written response should be no more than 500 words. It is due March 25, 2023, by 5:00 pm.

**Final Exam:** This comprehensive written exam consists multiple choice questions, a series of short-answer questions, and at least one essay question. The exam will be two hours in length. The date of the final will be announced by the Registrar later in the term.

## EVALUATION

Class Participation	15%
Discussion Prep (2 x 10%)	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Course Content	Readings / Assignments
1	Jan. 8	<p><b>INTRODUCTION:</b></p> <p>Discussion of syllabus</p> <p>What do we know about religion and politics?</p>	No readings
2	Jan. 15	<p><b>I. Modernity, Secularization, and the Perseverance of Religion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “World Religions” as a Political Category: An Introduction to Religious Studies</li> <li>• Religion, Modernity, and Secularization</li> </ul>	<p>Ronald F. Inglehardt, “Giving Up on God: The Global Decline of Religion,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 99 (Sept./Oct. 2020)</p> <p>Scott Kline, “Telling Religion to ‘Shut Up,’” in <i>Faith and Politics Matters</i>, ed. John Milloy (Ottawa: Novalis, 2015), 90-103.</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> Scott Kline, “The Study of Religion,” <i>World Religions—Canadian Perspectives, Eastern Traditions</i>, ed. Doris Jakobsh (Nelson, 2012), 1-29.</p>
3	Jan. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion and the Emergence of the “Public Sphere”</li> <li>• The End of History and the Clash of Civilizations</li> </ul>	<p>Jürgen Habermas, “Religion in the Public Sphere,” 14:1 (2006): 1-25.</p> <p>Hans Küng, Mark Juergensmeyer, and Wade Clark Roof, “<a href="#">Religion, Globalization, and the Public Sphere</a>,” Orfela Center, UCSB (2011) video</p> <p>Samuel Huntington, “<a href="#">The Clash of Civilizations?</a>” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 72:3 (1992): 22-49.</p> <p>Jeffrey Haynes, “The Clash of Civilizations and the Relations between the West and the Muslim World,” <i>Review of Faith and International Affairs</i> 17 (2019): 1-10.</p>
4	Jan. 29	<p><b>II. Religion, Human Rights, and the “International Community”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion, the UN, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">The Universal Declaration of Human Rights</a> (1948)</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. “<a href="#">Letter from a Birmingham Jail</a>” (1964)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion #1: "The Politics of Rights and Religious Freedom"</li> </ul>	<p>Louis Henken, "Rights, Religions, and Human Rights," <i>The Journal of Religious Ethics</i> 26:2 (1998): 229-39.</p> <p>Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, "<a href="#">Beyond Belief: The Politics of Religious Freedom</a>," Humanities Festival, University of Chicago (2017) video</p>
5	Feb. 5	<p><b>III. Religion and Nationalism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the connection between religion and nationalism?</li> <li>Hindu and Islamist Nationalist Movements in India and Pakistan</li> </ul> <p>Guest Speaker: Dr. Amar Amarasingam</p>	<p>A. Amarasingam S. Umar, and S. Desai, "'Fight, Die, and If Required Kill': Hindu Nationalism, Misinformation, and Islamophobia in India," <i>Religions</i> 13:5 (2022): 380.</p> <p>NOTE: This class will be held remotely. Details will be forthcoming.</p>
6	Feb. 12	Midterm Exam	Prepare for exam
	Feb. 19-23	Reading Week	No Readings
7	Feb. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationalist Movements in Muslim-Majority Countries: The Case of Iran</li> <li>Zionism, Palestine, and Israel</li> <li>The Israel-Hamas Conflict and Christian Apocalypticism the US</li> </ul>	<p>Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, "The United States and Iran," <i>The Politics of Secularism in International Relations</i> (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2008), 102-115.</p> <p>Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, "Religion and Nationalism in the Jewish and Zionist Context," in ed. Nadim N. Rouhana and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, <i>When Politics Are Sacralized</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2021), 33-53.</p> <p>Ali Banuazizi, "The Crossing Paths of Religion and Nationalism in Contemporary Iran," <i>When Politics Are Sacralized</i>, 247-72.</p> <p>Khaled Hroub, "Palestinian Nationalism, Religious (Un)Claims, and the Struggle against Zionism," in <i>When Politics Are Sacralized</i>, 365-86.</p> <p>Dhalia Sheindlin, "Israel's Hard-Right Turn: How Far Will Netanyahu Go?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Nov. 11, 2022)</p> <p>Thomas Lecaque, "<a href="#">Israel-Hamas Is Not a Religious War—And It Is Not Your Rapture</a>," <i>Religion Dispatches</i> (Oct. 18, 2023)</p>

8	March 6	<p><b>IV. Religion and the Politics of Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rise of Resistance Movements and the Great Transformation in 20<sup>th</sup> c.</li> <li>• From the Moral Majority to the Culture Wars in US and Canadian Politics</li> </ul>	<p>Benito Mussolini, "<a href="#">The Doctrine of Fascism</a>" (1932)</p> <p>Gregory Baum, "Polanyi's Theory of the Double Movement," <i>Karl Polanyi on Ethics and Economics</i> (Montreal: McGill-Queen's Press, 1996), 3-19.</p> <p>Giorgia Meloni, "<a href="#">Common Sense Speech, World Congress of Families, 2019</a>" video</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> Scott Kline, "The Culture War Gone Global: 'Family Values' and the Shape of US Foreign Policy 18:4 (2004).</p>
9	March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion and Gender Politics in the West</li> <li>• Identity Politics through Misinformation, Disinformation, and Conspiracy</li> </ul> <p>Guest speaker: Dr. Carmen Celestini</p>	<p>Carmen Celestini and Randi R. Warne, "From the Cave of Adullam a King Shall Rise: Covid, Conspiracy Theories, Christian Nationalism, and Populism in Canada," <i>Journal of the Council for Research on Religion</i> 3:2 (2022): 40-58.</p> <p>Tina Fetner and Carrie B. Sanders, "The Pro-Family Movement in Canada and the United States," in <i>Faith, Politics, and Sexual Diversity in Canada and the United States</i>, ed. David M. Rayside, and Clyde Wilcox (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011), 89-100.</p> <p>Amararnath Amarasingam and Carmen Celstini, "<a href="#">A Roundup of Conspiracies and Bad Ideas That Caught on or Gained Momentum in 2023</a>," <i>Religion Dispatches</i> (Dec. 21, 2023).</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> <a href="#">Canada First is Inevitable: Analyzing Youth-Oriented Far-Right Propaganda on TikTok</a></p>
10	March 18	<p><b>V. Religion, Conflict Resolution, and Reconciliation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ambivalence of Religion</li> <li>• Religion and Conflict Resolution: The Case of South Africa's TRC</li> </ul>	<p>R. Scott Appleby, "<a href="#">The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion as a Source of Violent and Non-Violent Militance</a>," Cole Lectures, Vanderbilt University (2011) video.</p> <p>Megan Shore and Scott Kline, "The Ambiguous Role of Religion in the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission" <i>Journal of Peace and Change</i> 13 (2006): 309-332.</p>

11	March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion “The Canadian TRC and Religion”</li> </ul> <p><b>VI. Religion, International Relations, and the Use of Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Role of Religion in International Relations</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">94 Calls to Action</a></p> <p>Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, “International Politics after Secularism,” <i>Review of International Studies</i> 38:5 (2012): 943-61.</p>
12	April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion and The Responsibility to Protect</li> </ul> <p><b>VII. Summary</b></p>	<p>Drew Christiansen, “<a href="#">We Have a Moral Duty to Protect Ukrainian Civilians—But That Doesn’t Mean Going to War with Russia</a>,” <i>America</i> (March 3, 2022).</p> <p>“<a href="#">Religious Dimensions of the War against Ukraine</a>,” Centre for Christian Engagement, St. Mark’s College/UBC, video (March 22, 2022)</p> <p>Scott Kline, “The Attack on Ukraine and the Responsibility to Protect,” <i>Critical Theology</i> (2022): 6-13.</p>
12+	TBD	Final Exam	

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Discussion #1:	January 29, 2024
Midterm Exam:	February 12, 2024
Discussion #2:	March 25, 2024
Final Exam:	To Be Determined

### POLICY ON LATE AND UNCOMPLETED WORK

Written assignments are due at prescribed times (see above). For each day an assignment is late (excluding weekends), there will be a 5% reduction to your mark for that assignment, up to a maximum of 25%. No assignment will be accepted after a calendar week, and a mark of 0 will be recorded. Assignments will, however, be accepted without penalty if the late work was due to a university-recognized reason (e.g., sickness, religious holiday). In case your work is late due to a university-recognized reason, please contact the instructor regarding reasonable submission dates.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to be in class and participating. Your instructors value the active, unscripted exchange of ideas and information within the classroom. If you are unable to come to class due to university-recognized reasons (e.g., sickness, religious holiday), please inform the instructor(s) immediately and/or use the University's illness declaration process. Prolonged absences will adversely affect your success in this course. It is important to maintain good communication with the instructors if class attendance becomes a challenge.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The use of computers or devices to take notes *is allowed* in this class. You may, also, access internet sources during class for clarification or other course-content purposes. *Please do not* use the internet during class for to engage non-course related social media, chatting, or other non-course related purposes. During class discussions, electronic devices will be discouraged so that you can concentrate on participating in the conversation/discussion. Please do not abuse this policy.

## GENERAL NOTE REGARDING WRITTEN WORK

All writing assignments should be organized, well-written, and reasonably free from grammatical errors. If you need assistance, please contact one or both instructors.

## ALTERNATIVE COURSE DELIVERY POLICY

It may become necessary during the term to adopt an alternative course delivery. This will mean adopting remote learning. Consequently, the class has been set up to accommodate synchronous remote learning. In other words, you would "attend" class virtually, from 6:30 pm – 9:20 pm, and follow the reading and course schedule above. All assignments and evaluation values would remain the same. Also, there will be at least one class that will meet remotely. For this class, we will use Zoom or Teams—details will be circulated later in the term.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/> for more information.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances.](#) When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/> for more information. 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome’s University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

**Note for students with Disabilities:** [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

All of us need a support system. The SJU faculty and staff encourage students to seek out mental health support if needed.

On Campus:

- [SJU Wellness Services](#)
- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 x32655
- **MATES:** one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7:

- **Good2Talk:** Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- **Here 24/7:** Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247



- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](#).

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

## **TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*This course, when meeting in person, takes place on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. St. Jerome's University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.*