

University of Waterloo
Department of department name
RS241Sex, Politics, and Religion in the US and Canada
Winter 2024
10:00 am – 11:20 am RCH 301

Instructor and T.A. Information

Office Hours: By Appointment

Extra information on contacting the instructor.

Course Description

What are the three topics that should not be talked about in polite company? Sex, politics, and religion. Breaking the taboo, this course examines religious practices and conflicts around sexuality and sexual behaviour in the United States and Canada, and how they have manifested in political contests and public policy. (Official Description).

This course this term may/will focus primary on issues that have arisen since the beginning of the 20th century: e.g., women's voting rights, polygamy, the legalization of the pill, abortion (including Roe v. Wade, R. v. Morgentaler), equal rights and the equal rights amendment, pornography, the culture wars, same-sex marriage, and sex-related procedures and healthcare (including birth control, sterilization, transitioning, and body shaping).

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

demonstrate an historical understanding of issues related to sex, politics, and religion in the US and Canada;

understand the various roles religious and political leaders and institutions play in public debates regarding sex and sexuality;

facilitate discussions related to sex, politics, and religion in the US and Canada; and

engage in a critical discussion with their peers on topics related to sex, politics, and religion.

Required Text

There is no required text. All readings (and videos) will be available through the LEARN site, the University of Waterloo e-library, or through the internet.

Course Requirements and Assessment

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. 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 instructor to facilitate a discussion), and actively contributing to seminar discussions.

Critical Response Paper: This paper is on the topic of birth control, women’s rights, and religious freedom. It will focus on a set of questions that will encourage you to draw on course materials and recent examples in the United States and Canada. It will be no more than 500 words in length. Further details will be forthcoming. The paper is due Tuesday, February 9, 2023.

Research Paper Proposal: This proposal has two components. The first is a 200-word written proposal, with a minimum of five (5) key sources. The second is a 10-minute meeting with the instructor to discuss the topic of your research paper. You should complete this work by February 17, 2023

Research Paper Summary: This assignment requires you to draft a 500-word summary of your research paper, which also includes an “adequate” bibliography. This summary should be submitted by Friday, March 10, 2023. You will then meet with the instructor (via Teams) to discuss the development of your research during the week of March 14, 2023.

Research Paper Presentation: Students will present their research paper to the class. The presentation should normally be approximately 15 minutes, with 10 minutes of Q&A. The objective here is to receive feedback from your peers in a manner typical of an academic conference or a thesis presentation. Students may ask the class to review materials (e.g., articles, historical videos) to prepare for the presentation. We will reserve the weeks of March 28 and April 4, 2023, to ensure adequate time for presentations.

Research Paper: This research paper, on a topic developed in conversation with the instructor (see the Proposal requirement above), will focus on a topic related to sex, politics, and religion in the US and Canada. It should be between 8 to 12 pages in length (no more than 3,500 words). Due April 15, 2023.

EVALUATION

Participation	20%	
Critical Response Paper	15%	
Research Paper Proposal	5%	
Research Paper Summary	15%	
Research Paper Presentation		15%
Research Paper	<u>30%</u>	
Total	100%	

Week	Dates	Course Content	Readings / Assignments
1	January 9 January 11	INTRODUCTION: Syllabus and Course Introduction History of Activism	No readings No readings
2	January 16 January 18	Sex, Politics, and Religion in the Modern World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A New World: Modernity and Secularization Birth Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sexual Revolution and the Pill 	Watson, Brenda. "Democracy, religion and secularism: Reflections on the public role of religion in a modern society." <i>Journal of Beliefs & Values</i> 32.2 (2011): 173-183. PBS American Experience, " The Pill " (video, 2003) Alvare, Helen M. "A perfect storm: Religion, sex and administrative law." <i>John's L. Rev.</i> 92 (2018): 697. Amy Sohn, " The Moral Crusader behind Some of our Most Draconian, Patriarchal Laws ," <i>Washington Post</i> (Dec. 21, 2021)
3	January 23 January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sexual Revolution: The Cold War, and the 1960's III. Abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion in the US: <i>Roe v Wade</i> (1973) and its consequences 	Gore, Dayo F., 'Gender, Civil Rights, and the US Global Cold War', in Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, and Lisa G. Materson (eds), <i>The Oxford Handbook of American Women's and Gender History</i> , Oxford Handbooks (2018; online edn, Oxford Academic, 10 Sept. 2018), https://doi-org.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190222628.013.14 . Available on UW library website Guest Speaker: Dr. Scott Kline PBS Frontline, " How Roe v Wade Came Under Attack Before " (video, 2022) Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (1992) (Summary)
4	January 30 February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion in Canada: The Morgentaler Affair and <i>R. v. Morgentaler</i> (1988) IV. The Culture Wars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritualism 	Democracy on Trial: The Morgentaler Affair NFB Docudrama (video, 1984) Prothero, Stephen. "From spiritualism to theosophy: "Uplifting" a democratic tradition." <i>Religion and American Culture</i> 3.2 (1993): 197-216.

5	February 6 February 8	Influencers - Online and offline A history <i>Critical Response Paper Due</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trad Wives and Christian Domestic Discipline 	Reading TBD
6	February 13 February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moral Majority and the Rise of the Christian Right • Family Values, the Reagan Revolution, and the Mulroney Government <i>Research Paper Proposals</i>	<p><i>Shauna L. Shames, Didi Kuo, and Katherine Levine, "Culture War? A Closer Look at the Role of Religion, Denomination, and Religiosity in US Public Opinion on Multiple Sexualities," in Faith, Politics, and Sexuality Diversity in the US and Canada Available on the UW library website</i></p> <p>Guest lecturer: Dr. Scott Kline</p> <p>Pat Buchanan, "1992 Republican Convention Address"</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. Available on UW library website.</p> <p>Meet with instructor prior to February 15.</p>
Feb 17 - 25	Reading Week	Have an amazing week!	
7	February 27 February 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop Culture, Television, and women • Christian Nationalism/Nationalism and gender 	<p>Clips in class from TV shows</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Dr. Scott Kline Perry, Samuel L., et al. "Fill the Earth and Subdue It: Christian Nationalism, Ethno-Religious Threat, and Nationalist Pronatalism." <i>Sociological Forum</i>. Vol. 37. No. 4. 2022.</p>
8	March 5 March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginity – National Security and Christian Nationalism • Islam, the Veil, and Western ideas 	<p>Guest Speaker: Dr. Jaime Hough</p> <p>Reading TBD</p>

			Feminist, Anti-orientalist Émigré. "SEDEF ARAT-KOC." <i>Emigré Feminism: Transnational Perspectives</i> (1999): 173.
9	March 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porn Online—The Politics of Porn and Conspiracy Theories 	Jerry Falwell vs. Larry Flynt Debate (1997) RESOURCE: Hustler Magazine v. Falwell (1987) Pontifical Council for Social Communications, " Pornography and Violence in the Communications Media " (1989) Additional porn/conspiracy theories online readings TBD
	March 14	Expanding LGBTQ+ Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same-Sex Marriage in Canada and the US <p><i>NOTE: Research Paper Summaries Due March 17.</i></p>	Pew Research, " Religious Unaffiliated People More Likely than Those with a Religion to Lean Left Accept Homosexuality " Jonathan Malloy, "Canadian Evangelicals and Same-Sex Marriage" 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. Available on UW library website. https://www.queerevents.ca/queer-history/rights-freedoms
10	March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper Summary Meetings 	Meet online with instructor
	March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper Summary Meetings 	Meet online with instructor
11	March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral Panics: Groomers, Drag Queens, and Law 	Jessica Johnston, " Religious Nationalism Holds Sway as Virginia Revokes the Rights of Trans Students ," <i>Religion & Politics</i> (Oct. 26, 2022) Celestini, C and Amarnath Amarasingam, "Groomer Moral Panic A Decades Old "Crisis" in Education" Pre-publication
	March 28	Student Presentations	
12	April 2	Student Presentations	
	April 4	Student Presentations	
		Research Paper	Due April 12th

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.

There are no ‘extra assignments’ that may be done as a substitute for a poor performance on an assignment or assignments not completed.

In Class and on Discussion Boards

The topics of sex, religion, and politics can be difficult. People vary in sensibility, and some may feel uncomfortable with certain topics. Course materials have been carefully chosen, and the instructor will mention any material she feels might be triggering.

Student views on many of the topics we will discuss will be diverse. Differences of opinion may be expected to vary as it does among scholars. Discussion will be focused on understanding the various materials and the issues they raise. Students are expected to treat each other with respect.

Course Policies:

- In the Classroom – This is an introductory undergraduate seminar, meaning the course is not dependent on lectures only, but on your participation. For this class to succeed, all students must participate fully and collaborate with each other enthusiastically and respectfully. Participation and attendance are mandatory in this course. You must attend all classes to earn full marks for attendance. If you are ill or have a family or personal emergency you must provide documentation. Each unexplained absence will result in points being deducted from the attendance grade. To gain full marks for participation you will need to participate fully in class activities.
- Attendance – Your presence in class is mandatory. You should be aware that the best way to do well in this course is to attend every class, prepared, and attentive. Inevitably, at the end of the semester, students who missed classes do poorly, while students who show up consistently do well. We cover a lot of material, we do a lot of exercises, in class and for that reason it is critical that you attend in order to do well. Attendance also means refraining from playing with your cell phone, reading the newspaper, surfing the internet, using other electronic devices or doing other coursework while in the classroom. If I need to speak with you about using devices for non-course-related activities if may affect your participation grade.
- Please bring laptops, pen, and paper to class.
- Use MLA format for written work: Times New Roman 12 pt, 1 inch margins, number your pages.

- Assignments are to be placed in the drop boxes on LEARN. PLEASE, make certain your assignment is done and submitted before the box closes. **No assignments will be accepted after the drop box closes.** Students should ensure they have sufficient time as clocks vary in time and the drop box cut off time may not correspond to your clock. Further, students should be aware that all submissions to any drop box are time-stamped. Thus, depositing it in the incorrect drop box by 'mistake' will not help if the time-stamp is after the time due.

Students who require an extension must speak to the instructor **before** an assignment is due and provide a rationale for the extension. The instructor reserves the right to grant or not grant the extension. Should a student miss an assignment, a medical note or verifiable information must be provided.

Academic Integrity: I expect that the work you complete for this course will be your own. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any written assignment that borrows from other sources without giving proper credit or that is plagiarized in whole or in part from another source (including other student's work) is grounds for an "F" on the assignment.

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as writing, presentation, and research. Therefore, the use of Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of [Policy 71](#) (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage ([ICAI](#), n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence>

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- [Student Success Office](#) for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- [Writing and Communication Centre](#) for assignments with writing or presentations
- [AccessAbility Services](#) for documented accommodations
- [Library](#) for research-based assignments

ALTERNATIVE COURSE DELIVERY POLICY

Since Canada is still experiencing the effects of the COVID pandemic, it may become necessary during the term to adopt an alternative course delivery. In essence, 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 10:00 am – 11:20 am, and follow the reading and course schedule above. All assignments and evaluation values would remain the same.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [Office of Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check [the Office of 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 professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

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 [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities

[AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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.

Turnitin.com

Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for written permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. It is also forbidden to share the material listed above from a previous iteration of a course with a student presently enrolled in the course, unless you have the instructor's written permission to do so. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Pronouns and chosen or preferred first name

Students can verify their chosen or preferred first name and pronouns by logging into [WatIAM](#). Your chosen or preferred first name and pronouns listed in WatIAM will be used across campus (e.g., in LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents, such as [such as??? diplomas, transcripts?]. For more details, visit [Updating Personal 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.