

**The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective (4460F/9736A)  
2013**

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**Office Hours:**  
**Thursdays 1pm-3pm**

**Course Objective**

This course studies the relationship between religion and politics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. More specifically, the course is designed to help students identify and analyze congruencies, tensions and contradictions between ideas of God and principles of political authority in these three religious traditions.

**Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites**

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.  
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

**Student Assessment**

The overall grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Participation.....	20%
Essay.....	40%
Book review (s).....	20%
Take home exam.....	20%

**Participation**

Students in this course will be expected to master the assigned readings and to actively participate in the discussions that will take place every week. Moreover, students will be required to post a critical assessment of the assigned readings on the *Religion and Politics Bulletin Board* that has been created for this purpose. Critical assessments must be posted each week by Monday at noon.

One or two students will formally introduce the assigned readings each week having read the other students' critical comments on the bulletin board. To visit the *Religion and Politics Bulletin Board* on the web, go to:

<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/religionandpoliticsuwo>

### **Note**

This course has been designed to critically examine the interaction between religion and politics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Some aspects of the theological foundations of these religions will be analyzed from a social science perspective. If you are uncomfortable having your own religious views examined in an academic setting, you may want to reconsider taking this course.

### **Essay**

A research essay (12-15) double-spaced page will be due on November 16, 2013 **IN CLASS**. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor in class.

### **Book Review (s):**

Undergraduate students will review one of the following books. Graduate students will review two.

Mark Lilla, The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West. New York: Random House, 2008.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, Sovereignty, God, State and Self. New York: Basic Books, 2008.

A. P. Martinich, The Two Gods of Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes on Religion and Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Tariq Ramadan, Islam, the West and the Challenges of Modernity. Markfield, Leicester: The Islamic Foundation, 2001.

Bassam Tibi, Islam between Culture and Politics. London: Palgrave, 2001.

Noah Feldman, The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Michael Walzwe: In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible. Yale: Yale University Press, 2012.

Steven T. Katz, The Impact of the Holocaust in Jewish Theology. New York: New York University Press, 2007

David Novak, Covenantal Rights: A Study in Jewish Political Theory. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.

The first review (undergraduate and graduate students) is due on October 21, 2009 **IN CLASS**. Book reviews should not exceed 8 double-spaced pages. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor in class. The second book review (for graduate students only) is due on December 16, 2009.

### **Take-home Examination**

This is an essay-type examination consisting of two questions which require answers of two or three pages each.

Handed out: November 16, 2013

Turned in: December 23, 2013

**Note:** A penalty of 5% per day (including week-ends and holidays) will be imposed on any written assignment that is not handed in on time, **IN CLASS**.

### **Books Recommended for Purchase:**

John Corrigan, Frederick M. Denny, Carlos M.N. Eire, Martin S. Jaffee, Jews Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2012.

Michael Jon Kessler, ed., Political Theology for a Plural Age. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Paul S. Rowe, Religion and Global Politics. Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 2012.

### **Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## Reading Program

### PART I: INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION

September 9: Introduction

September 16: Political Theology or Theologies of the Political?

György Geréby, "Political Theology versus Theological Politics: Erik Peterson and Carl Schmitt." New German Critique, Volume 35, Number 3, 2008, 7-33.

Aaron W. Hughes, Abrahamic Religions: On the Uses and Abuses of History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-33.

Kessler, 1 and 12.

September 23: Who is/Should be in Charge? Providentialism and Political Authority in Abrahamic Religions

McCann, Hugh J., "Divine Providence", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2012 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2012/entries/providence-divine/>.

David B. Burrell, Towards a Jewish-Christian-Muslim Theology. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 63-85.

William A. Galston, "Religious Violence or Religious Pluralism: The Essential Choice." In John M. Owen and J. Judd Owen, Religion, the Enlightenment and the New Global Order. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010, 37-56.

### PART II: IDEAS OF GOD AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY

September 30: Providentialism and Political Authority in Christianity (I)

Corrigan et al., chapters 2, 5 and 8.  
Charles Taylor, A Secular Age. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007, 221-269.

October 7: Providentialism and Political Authority in Christianity (II)

Corrigan et al., chapters 14 and 20.  
Rowe, chapters 2 and 3.

October 21: Religion and Politics in the Christian World: Separation or Integration?

Mark Lilla, The Stilborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West. New York: Random House, 2008, 3-106.

Kessler, chapter 2.

October 28: Providentialism and Political Authority in Judaism (I)

Corrigan, chapters 1, 4 and 7.

Michael Walzer, In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 199-212.

Kessler, chapter 3.

November 2: Providentialism and Political Authority in Judaism (II)

Corrigan, chapters 13 and 19.

Rowe, chapter 4.

David Novak, "The Enlightenment Project, Spinoza, and the Jews." In John M. Owen and J. Judd Owen, Religion, the Enlightenment and the New Global Order. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010, 109-139.

November 9: Religion and Politics in Israel: Separation or Integration?

Michael Walzer, Menachem Lorberbaum and Noam J. Zohar, eds., Yair Lorberbaum, co-editor, The Jewish Political Tradition: Authority. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000, 463-524.

November 16: Providentialism and Political Authority in Islam (I)

Corrigan et al., Chapters 3, 6, and 9.

Fathi Osman, "Shura and Democracy." In John J. Donohue and John L. Esposito, Islam in Transition: Muslim Perspectives. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, 288-295.

Murad Hofmann, "Democracy and Shuracracy." In Donohue and Esposito, 296-306.

Abdulaziz Sachedina, "Why Democracy, and Why Now." In Donohue and Esposito, 307-310.

Abdolkarim Soroush "Tolerance and Governance: A Discourse on Religion and Democracy." In Donohue and Esposito, 311-318.

Abib Ullah Jan, "Neither Required nor an Issue." In Donohue and Esposito 319-330.

Ali A. Mazrui, "Human History as Divine Revelation: A Dialogue." In Donohue and Esposito 507-512.

November 23: Providentialism and Political Authority in Islam (II)

Corrigan, chapters 15 and 21.

Rowe, chapter 5.

Kessler, chapter 5.

November 30: Religion and Politics in Islam: Separation or Integration?

Tariq Ramadan, Islam, the West and the Challenges of Modernity. Markfield, Leicester: The Islamic Foundation, 2001, 11-134.

### **PART III: GOD AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD**

December 2: Religion and Politics in the XXI Century: The Search for a Multi-Faith Political Theology

Rowe, chapters 11 and 12.

Kessler, chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.



**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

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<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.