INTS 334: RELIGION & POLITICS
(Rhodes College, Spring 2019, 4 credits)

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Class Schedule
Tuesday & Thursday
12:30-1:45PM

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
1:45-3:15PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Contemporary world politics is increasingly de-secularizing: individuals are engaging in acts of terror in the name of religion, religious political parties are rising to power in places as different as in Morocco, India, and Israel, Evangelical Protestantism is challenging the dominance of the Catholic Church in Latin America and Africa, and demands for religious rights, such as calls for the introduction of religious laws, test liberal democracies that aim the protection of all minority rights, including women, LGBTQ, and religious minority rights. This course will address such de-secularization of world politics by asking why religion is on the rise in a secular world, how we can explain similarities and differences between religious movements, and how liberal democratic states can cope with the emergence of fundamentalism. Thus, the aim of this course will be to understand the multiplicity of religious politics and their influence through theoretical and empirical discussions. Within this framework, this course will not only address the diversity of religious politics ranging from non-violent human rights groups to religious terrorism but also their role in socio-political institutions and globalization. These theoretical discussions will also be coupled with case studies from across the non-Western world, ranging from Iran to China, Argentina to Malaysia, and Turkey to India. To this end, this course is organized around four levels of analysis:

1-Religion & Politics at the Individual-Level
The first part of this course questions why, when and how religion is becoming a political identity. It asks why individuals mobilize around religion, and why some individuals choose to join radical organizations in the name of religion. It covers theories from political and social psychology.

2-Religion & Politics at the Group/Societal-Level
The second part of this course questions how religious organizations, such as religious political parties and religious social movements, impact politics. It asks how and why religious organizations emerge, how they evolve over time, and in what ways they influence secular democratic politics. It covers theories from sociology and organizational economy.

3-Religion & Politics at the State-Level
The third part of this course questions how the state interacts with religion. It asks how secularism, democracy, and religious demands can be reconciled, and what constitutes and leads to religious violence. It covers theories from comparative politics.

4-Religion & Politics at the International-Level:
The fourth part of this course questions how the rise of religious politics alters international relations. It asks how the role of religion in global politics, such as at the evolution of transnational religious movements and diffusion/spread of new religions, affects international relations. In this, it re-examines mainstream international relations theories, which often do not take religion into account.
COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
As a result of taking this course, you will be able to:
• Analyze the role of religion in politics at four different levels of analysis
• Evaluate the role of religion in politics through interdisciplinary theories
• Critically engage in theoretical debates on religious violence, secularism, democratization, and globalization
• Examine similar developments across different contexts and variation within the same context
• Compare and contrast religion and politics across different contexts as well as with your own cultural perspectives
• Gain factual knowledge on religious politics across the globe
• Debate and engage in dialogue respectfully
• Relate what you have learned to your own political environment

REQUIRED TEXTS
• All readings are either available online on Moodle (moodle.rhodes.edu) or are available via the links listed in the syllabus. Please read the readings in the order listed in the syllabus prior to the lectures.

COURSE POLICIES
Honor Code: It is understood that the students will observe the honor code of Rhodes College. All papers and exams should be your own work. Any evidence of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade and notification of college officials. Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s information or ideas without proper citation. If you wonder if something should be cited, it probably should. This applies to materials read even if you do not use them directly in the paper. We also highly encourage you to check the Writing Center’s page to learn more about plagiarism: https://www.rhodes.edu/content/plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, you can also talk to me directly.

Diversity and Collegiality: This course draws students from a variety of widely diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Because a key to optimal learning and successful teaching is to hear, analyze, and draw from a diversity of views, the instructors expect collegial and respectful dialogue across disciplinary, cultural, and personal boundaries.

Disabilities: Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. To do so as effectively as possible, students who need special accommodations should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services at x3885 as soon as possible.

Counseling: If you would like to receive individualized support with time management, test anxiety, stress, and general learning skills, please consult the Student Counseling Center at x3128.

Laptops and cell phones: Students who use laptops in class must do so exclusively for the purpose of note taking. Surfing the web, emailing, instant messaging, or playing computer games in class conveys disrespect to your fellow students as well as the instructor, and can be disruptive for the entire class. Please turn off your cell phones before the class begins or put them in silent mode. Texting is not acceptable while class is in progress.
**Attendance:** Sessions incorporate frequent informal writing and discussions related to formal course assignments. Due to the interactive and participatory nature of this course, attendance at each class session is required. We expect students to arrive on time and attend the full class period. Students with extracurricular activities (athletics, mock trial, religious observances etc.) that will require them to miss one or more classes during the semester should talk to me in advance of their anticipated absence. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire lecture notes and handouts from your classmates.

**Writing Center:** We highly encourage you to visit the Writing Center before you turn in your written assignments. This will improve your writing skills. The Writing Center can be reached at: [http://www.rhodes.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.rhodes.edu/writingcenter/)

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

1) **Participation & In-Class Debates**
The course will mostly have a seminar-style format. This means that you must come to class prepared to discuss and analyze the readings, to make connections to prior class sessions (and your existing knowledge on the topic), and to share the findings of your own research. The success of the course depends on your willingness to contribute to class discussions. Hence, the participation grade for the course is not a given but is earned, and is composed of three components: (1) regular attendance, (2) keeping up with the readings, and most importantly (3) ACTIVE participation throughout lectures. *Every Friday, I will send out weekly discussion questions to guide your reading.*

We will also have a number of days dedicated to in-class debates. Prior to these in-class debates, you will receive discussion questions and you will come prepared to discuss them in class.

*More than three unexcused absences will result in a zero (0) for participation grade, so will the use of laptops for anything other than taking notes and the use of mobile phones.*

**What leads to a higher participation grade?**
- Contributing to class discussions without dominating it or disrespecting fellow classmates
- Asking questions about the material being discussed
- Contributing to small group activities rather than silently sitting and listening to others’ discussion
- Paying attention to the lecture and its contents rather than daydreaming or taking notes without thinking about its contents
- Also note that you can always email me the news, movies, etc. to share with the class.

2) **Pop-Quizzes**
There will be **12 UNANNOUNCED** pop-quizzes throughout the semester on the DAY’S READING material. I will drop your lowest 2 scores. Each quiz will be %1 of your total grade. What this means is: cumulatively they will have a **big** impact on your grade. **Thus, do the readings!** *If you miss a pop-quiz due to a medical emergency or school-related extracurricular activity, please talk to me for an alternative assignment.*
3) **Take-Home Exams**
There will be two take-home exams. In each exam, students will answer two long essay questions about materials covered in class. Both exams will be open-book. The answers will approximately be 3-4 pages for each question (Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1” margins). Details on this assignment will be distributed on **FEBRUARY 5**. The due dates are:

- The first take home exam will be distributed on **FEBRUARY 14** and collected on **FEBRUARY 19**.
- The second take home exam will be distributed on **APRIL 11** and collected on **APRIL 16**.
- No late take-homes will be accepted.

4) **Research Paper**: Students will write a research paper on a topic related to religion and politics. The idea behind this assignment is to develop a paper idea slowly into a longer research paper through extensive feedback and editing. Details on this assignment will be distributed on **JANUARY 29**. We also will have an in-class exercise on this research paper on **FEBRUARY 7**.

There will be two assignments linked to this paper:
1. First Draft, 5 pages (Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1” margins), due: **FEBRUARY 28**
2. Final Draft, 12 pages (Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1” margins), due: **APRIL 25**

5) **Community Outreach**
Students will visit a religious organization in Memphis other than their own and/or the one they grew up in. They will (i) observe religious ceremonies, (ii) learn about the religious organization's history and activities in Memphis, and (iii) talk to members about their future plans and current challenges for their religious organizations. There will be two components/due dates for this assignment:

i) Proposals due on **JANUARY 31**: Students will submit a proposal on which religious organization they have chosen and why this organization interests them. This proposal will also contain proof of initial contact with the religious organization, such as an email exchange with the organization allowing student visit and/or a permission form from the religious organization.

ii) Observations due on **MARCH 19**: Students will discuss what they have learned from their experiences in a 5-page reflection (Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1” margins). The observations will discuss the history, services, plans, and challenges of the religious organizations.

You can find a list of religious organizations in Memphis you can visit on Moodle. You can also choose a religious organization not on the list after consulting with me. If you have no access to transportation, please let me know. **Please be respectful when contacting and visiting religious organizations.** Although the proposal does not carry any grade, if you fail to submit it, I will not accept the observations. More details on this assignment will be distributed on **JANUARY 17**.
6) **Public Opinion Surveys/Group Presentations**
Students will form 4 groups and conduct interviews on (i) how the public views de-secularization in the world, and (ii) how much the public knows about other religions. They will conduct interviews with a number of different groups, such as people from different age groups, religious groups, education levels, etc. and compare/contrast their views. The final product will be presented in class and as a summary paper (5 pages) on the day of the presentation. One presentation and summary paper per group. There will be 2 presentations each day and they will last for **35 minutes** each. Details on this assignment will be distributed on **FEBRUARY 12**. Here is the schedule for this assignment:
- **FEBRUARY 21**: Sign-up for groups and presentation dates
- **FEBRUARY 26**: Email me your group topics
- **MARCH 28 & APRIL 2**: Group presentations

**THE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT ARE INDICATED WITHIN THE COURSE SCHEDULE AND AT THE END OF THE SYLLABUS.**

**ALL HANDOUTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON MOODLE AFTER THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.**

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Activities</th>
<th>Weight of Each Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; In-Class Debates</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pop-Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-Home Exams</td>
<td>30% (15% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Opinion Surveys/Group Presentations</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper, First Draft</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper, Final Draft</td>
<td>16%</td>
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**Late Work:**
- I will not accept any late work for take-homes and public opinion surveys/group presentations.
- Late work for the research papers will be downgraded by **a grade for each day late**. For example, a B+ paper will be downgraded to a B after 1 day late, to a B- after 2 days late, etc.
  - Unless there is a medical emergency.
- Late papers will not be accepted after a week late and will automatically be considered a zero. Do not email your work, I need hard-copies.

**Incompletes**: A grade of "I" ("Incomplete") will be given only under special circumstances following discussion with the instructor.
Grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>59 &amp; below</td>
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COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- It is very likely that during the semester all students will discover perspectives with which they agree or disagree. To facilitate such discoveries, the course requires that abrasive attitudes toward others be left at the doorway.
- I will be happy to discuss individual student progress at any time.
- This syllabus is subject to change. Please check your emails regularly for announcements.

COURSE CALENDAR

JANUARY 10, THURSDAY: Introduction and the Global Landscape of Religion and Politics
First class. Introduction to course materials.

PART 1: RELIGION & POLITICS AT THE INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL:
WHY, WHEN AND HOW IS RELIGION BECOMING A POLITICAL IDENTITY?

JANUARY 15, TUESDAY: Why, When and How Is Religion Becoming a Political Identity?
Theoretical Debates on Religion, Politics and the Individual


JANUARY 17, THURSDAY: Why, When, and How Do Individuals Radicalize in the Name of Religion-1? Theoretical Debates for Radicalization from Social Psychology
4. Info on Community Outreach Project will be distributed.

JANUARY 22, TUESDAY: Why, When, and How Do Individuals Radicalize in the Name of Religion-2? Case Study: ISIS Recruits

PART 2: RELIGION & POLITICS AT THE GROUP/SOCIETAL-LEVEL: HOW DO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IMPACT POLITICS?

JANUARY 24, THURSDAY: Why/How Do Religious Organizations Emerge-1? Social Movement Theory

3. Info on Research Papers will be distributed.
**JANUARY 31, THURSDAY:** How Do Religious Organizations Evolve-1? Theories from Religious Economy

**DUE: COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROPOSALS**

**FEBRUARY 5, TUESDAY:** How Do Religious Organizations Evolve-2? Case Study: The Catholic Church and Protestantism in Latin America

**3. Info on Take Home Exams will be distributed.**

**FEBRUARY 7, THURSDAY:** How Do Religious Organizations and Politics Impact Each Other-1? The Inclusion-Moderation Literature

**3. Due: Bring in 3 possible research paper topics for an in-class exercise.**

**FEBRUARY 12, TUESDAY:** How Do Religious Organizations and Politics Impact Each Other-2? Case Study: The Rise of Islamic Political Parties in Turkey

**4. Info on Public Opinion Surveys/Group Presentations will be distributed.**
**5. Discussion Questions will be distributed.**

**FEBRUARY 14, THURSDAY:** Discussing Parts 1 & 2
- There are no readings assigned for today. BUT: Come in ready to discuss the questions in the handout.
- Review for Take Home #1.
- **TAKE HOME #1 WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.**
PART 3: RELIGION & POLITICS AT THE STATE-LEVEL:
HOW DOES THE STATE INTERACT WITH RELIGION?

FEBRUARY 19, TUESDAY: Can Secularism, Democracy and Religious Demands Be Reconciled-1? Debating Secularism
3. DUE: TAKE HOME #1

FEBRUARY 21, THURSDAY: Can Secularism, Democracy and Religious Demands Be Reconciled-2? Case Study: Indonesia
4. SIGN-UP FOR GROUP PRESENTATIONS.

FEBRUARY 26, TUESDAY: Can Secularism, Democracy and Religious Demands Be Reconciled-3? Religion and Minority Rights, Case Study: Malaysia
3. Read about “Muslim Arbitration Tribunal” at: http://www.law.cf.ac.uk/clr/networks/Muslim%20Arbitration%20Tribunal.pdf
4. Group Discussion on Presentations
5. EMAIL ME YOUR GROUP PRESENTATION TOPIC

3. Check the following findings from Pew Research on “The Gender Gap in Religion Around the World:”
4. DUE: RESEARCH PAPER, FIRST DRAFT

MARCH 5 & 7: SPRING BREAK
MARCH 12, TUESDAY: Can Secularism, Democracy and Religious Demands Be Reconciled-5? Traditional Values and LGBTQ Rights. Case Study: LGBTQ Rights in Russia
3. Suggestions for the Community Outreach Assignment will be discussed.

MARCH 14, THURSDAY: What is Religious Oppression-1? The Ban of Religious Activism. Case Study: China’s Official Atheism

4. DUE: COMMUNITY OUTREACH PAPER

MARCH 21, THURSDAY: What is Religious Oppression-3? Religious Conflicts. Case Study: India
3. Discussion Questions will be distributed.

MARCH 26, TUESDAY: Discussing Part 3 + Presentation Exercise
• There are no readings assigned for today. BUT: Come in ready to discuss the questions in the handout.
• We will talk about your presentations.

MARCH 28, THURSDAY: PRESENTATIONS-1

APRIL 2, TUESDAY: PRESENTATIONS-2
PART 4: RELIGION & POLITICS AT THE INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL:
HOW DOES THE RISE OF RELIGIOUS POLITICS AFFECT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

APRIL 4, THURSDAY: How Does Religion Affect International Relations-1? Religion and International Relations Theories
3. Suggestions for the Research Paper will be discussed.

APRIL 9, TUESDAY: How Does Religion Affect International Relations-2? Religion & Foreign Policy

APRIL 11, THURSDAY: How Does Religion Affect International Relations-3? Religion & Diffusion of Ideas, Case Study: The Influence of the Catholic Church in Non-Western Contexts
3. Review for Take-Home #2
4. Take Home #2 will be distributed.

3. DUE: Take Home #2.
4. Discussion Questions will be distributed.

APRIL 18: EASTER BREAK

APRIL 23, TUESDAY: Discussing Part 4 + Last Class: Debating Religion & Politics
• There are no readings assigned for today.
• BUT: Come in ready to discuss the questions in the handout.

APRIL 25, THURSDAY: NO CLASS BUT FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 2PM AT MY OFFICE (BUCKMAN 120)
# ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach Proposal</td>
<td>January 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper, Topics</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home #1</td>
<td>• Distributed on February 14</td>
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<td>• Collected on February 19</td>
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<td>Public Opinion (Group Presentations) Sign-Up</td>
<td>February 21</td>
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<td>Public Opinion (Group Presentations) Email Topic</td>
<td>February 26</td>
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<td>Research Paper, First Draft</td>
<td>February 28</td>
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<td>Community Outreach Paper</td>
<td>March 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Opinion (Group) Presentations</td>
<td>March 28 + April 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home #2</td>
<td>• Distributed on April 11</td>
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<td>• Collected on April 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper, Final Draft</td>
<td>April 25</td>
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