

POLITICAL SCIENCE 280  
RELIGION AND POLITICS  
SYLLABUS

Dr. Walter Brown-Foster  
Central Connecticut State University  
Phone: (860) 832-2961  
E-mail: brownw@ccsu.edu  
Office: Room 015-016 Diloreto, Hall, Department of Political Science

This is not a course on comparative religion. It is a course that surveys and compares the role of religion in global politics, international relations, and domestic policy. It is clear that religion has and continues to play a major role in the politics of nation-states and the development of the international system. While the world seemed primarily focused on the recent role of political Islam, this course recognizes the role of the major religions (defined as those faiths with a “world-wide” presence) in the shaping of politics in the domestic contexts of nations and world politics.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND READINGS

You will find the following books in the campus area bookstores.

- N.J. Demerath III. *Crossing the Gods: World Religions and Worldly Politics*. 2001.
- Jacob Neuse, *God's Rule*
- Kenneth Wald, *Religion and Politics in the United States*, 3rd Edition, CQ Press, 1997
- Jelen Ted, G. and Clyde Wilcox (eds). *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective: The One, the Few, and the Many*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Rudolph, Susanne H. and James Piscatori (eds). *Transnational Religion and Fading States*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1997 (recommended)
- Jeffrey Haynes. *Religion in Global Politics*. 1998.

I have also placed a number of books and readings on reserve. You are also encouraged to use interlibrary loan to access other books listed but not in the Library.

- Jeffrey Haynes, *Religion, Globalization and Culture in the Third World*. 1999. (Readings from this second Haynes volume are on reserve).
- Leroy Rouner, editor *Human Rights and the World's Religions*, 1988.
- Peter Beyer, *Religion and Globalization (readings to be assigned)*
- Peter L. Berger, editor. *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*. 1999.
- Mario Apostolov. *Religious Minorities, Nation States and Security*.
- Michael Candalaria. *Popular Religion and Liberation*.
- Thomas Bloom. *The Saffron Wave: Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in India*

- Stephen Carter. *Culture of Disbelief and Dissent of the Governed*.
- James Cone. *Black Theology and Black Power*.
- Paulo Freire. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*.
- Jeffrey Haynes. *Readings from Religion, Globalization and Political Culture in the Third World*.
- Bernard Lewis. *Islam and the West and What went Wrong?* (a 2001 publication)
- George Moyser. *Politics and Religion in the Modern World*.
- John Pottenger. *The Political Theory of Liberation Theology*.
- Emile Sahliyah. *Religious Resurgence and Politics in the Contemporary World*.
- Ira Sharkansky. *Rituals of Conflict: Religion, Politics and Public Policy in Israel*.
- William Swatos. *Religious Politics in Global and Comparative Perspective*
- Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
- Cornel West. *Prophetic Fragments: Illuminations of the Crisis of American Political Culture*
- Michael Zweig. *Religion and Economic Justice*.

Course Requirements: To earn a final grade in this course all of the following work must be completed:

Midterm	30%
Research Paper	50%
Class led discussion	20%

Book Review: You are to write a 3-5page critical review of any book you read for this class on a relevant topic, apart from the required textbooks. For discussion of the critical book review follow the link.

Research Paper: You must research a relevant issue and/or topic of you choice. In depth discussion of what research papers entail will be found by following the links on my main homepage. For those of you who need some sense of paper length the paper may be between 15-25 pages.

Class led discussion: Groups of you will be responsible for leading the class in the discussion of selected topics and readings. Each member of the group must contribute to leading the class discussion.

#### SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

(Start counting from the first week of classes for the semester. The count does not include the week of Spring Break)

##### Week One: Introduction

- Neuse, Introduction; Jelen and Wilcox, Introduction
- Haynes, Chapter 1
- Haynes, Chapter 1-2 on reserve.
- Berger, Chapter 1.
- Overview of major world religions.

Week Two-Three: Hinduism and Sikhism and India

Haynes, Chapter 9; Jelen and Wilcox, ch. 11  
Demerath, Chapter 4

Week Four-Five: Buddhism and politics in Asia

Haynes, Chapter 10; Jelen and Wilcox, ch. 12; Neuse, chs. 9-10;  
Rudolph and Piscatori, ch.6; Demerath, Chapter 5  
Berger, Chapter 6  
Rouner, Chapters 8-9

Week Six: Africa, the origins of the Abrahamic religions, religious pluralism

Online material

Videos by Mazrui and Cain Hope Felder in class or on reserve.  
Haynes, Chapter 6; Rudolph and Piscatori, ch. 2  
Haynes, Renaissance of political religion in the Third World. . on reserve.  
Rijk Van Dijk, Pentecostalism, Gerontocratic Rule and Democratization in  
Malawi. on reserve.

Week Seven-Eight: Political Islam and the transnational Islamic world. Take home mid-term week.

Haynes, Chapters 7-8  
Rudolph and Piscaatori, chs 1 and 8; Neuse, ch. 6-7  
Demerath, Chapter 3  
Rouner, Part II; Berger, Chapter 7  
Political Islam and the West  
Neuse, ch. 6-7  
Esposito, on reserve  
Sahliyah, Chapters 14-17, on reserve  
You will also benefit from the works of Bernard Lewis, especially his book, The  
History of the Middle East, and his latest, What went Wrong?

Week Nine: Judaism and Politics

Haynes, Chapter 7; Neuse ch.1; Jelen and Wilcox ch. 5  
Rouner, Chapter 1  
Berger, Chapter 4

Week Ten-Eleven: Western Europe

Jelen and Wilcox, ch.3 and 8; Neuse, ch 2,3, 4, 5  
Haynes, Chapter 4  
Demerath, Chapter 2  
For a good introduction to religion and development in the West, see Max Weber,  
The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, on reserve.  
Berger, Chapter 5

Rouner, Chapter 2  
 Schotten, Chapter 1  
 Religion and the fall of communism, Eastern Europe  
 Jelen and Wilcox, ch.2; Rudolph and Piscatori, ch. 4  
 Haynes, Chapter 5.  
 Rouner, Chapter 3  
 Demerath, Chapter 2.

Week Twelve (12): Latin America  
 Haynes, Chapter 3  
 Demerath, Chapter 1  
 Liberation Theology, See readings in books by Freire, Candalara and Potternger,  
 on reserve.  
 Sahliyah, Chapters 8 and 12 on reserve

Week Thirteen-Fourteen: United States: From the foundation to present  
 Wald, entire book  
 Haynes, Chapter 2  
 Berger, Chapter 3  
 Carter, Culture of disbelief and Dissent of the Governed, on reserve.  
 Sahliyah, Chapters 5-6, on reserve. Schotten, Chapters 2-3  
 African American church and Liberation Theology, see Cone, Black Theology  
 and Black Power, on reserve. Also refer to the writings of Cornell West, Howard  
 Thurman and Martin Martin who has written extensively on Christian  
 Fundamentalism in the U.S.

Week Fifteen:

Online: M.L. King, Letter from a Birmingham Jail.  
 On reserve: Select readings from Schotten, Religion, public policy, and  
 Socioeconomic Change. Include Religion and the politics of economic  
 development, readings from Sahliyah, Chapter 1 Zwiag, "Economics and  
 Liberation Theology" found in Religion and Economic Justice, on reserve.  
 Religion and the State: The challenges of Secularization  
 Demerath, Chapters 6-8  
 Haynes, conclusion, on reserve

Religion and globalization  
 Jelen and Wilcox, ch 14; Neuse, conclusion  
 Haynes, "Religion and International Society" on reserve  
 Rouner, Part IV; Beyers--entire book  
 Wrap-up and Review