

POS 330 Religion and International Affairs
Wednesday 4:30-7:00, Walton 1
Spring 2004, Eastern University
Department of History and Political Science

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Office: IGE - The Gate House
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2, Thursday 2-3

Course Description

This course will focus on relationships between religion and public life internationally, that is, at the comparative and international level of analysis. We begin “at home,” with an examination of relationships between religion and U.S. foreign policy, with a particular focus on international religious freedom. We then turn to a discussion of missions and evangelicalism in international affairs. The focus then shifts to church-state relationships, examining the U.S. model and those of other countries. This is followed by a survey of religion and politics in a variety of regional cases around the world. Throughout, we will discuss the varied roles of religion in politics, religious nationalism, religious establishment, the roles of religion in creating and resolving conflict, and the relevance of religion to theories of “American exceptionalism”.

Course Texts and Readings

Leading news media on international affairs (e.g. *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*)

* Elliott Abrams, ed., *The Influence of Faith: Religious Groups and U.S. Foreign Policy* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001).

* Stephen V. Monsma and J. Christopher Soper, *The Challenge of Pluralism: Church and State in Five Democracies* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1997).

* N.J. Demerath III, *Crossing the Gods: World Religions and Worldly Politics* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2001).

Dennis R. Hoover and Samuel H. Reimer, “The Things That Make for a Peaceable Kingdom: An Overview of Christianity and Cooperativeness Across the Continental Divide,” draft chapter for forthcoming *Cooperative Christianity in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Mark Noll et al. – free from instructor.

Mark Silk, ed., *Religion on the International News Agenda* (Hartford, CT: Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, 2000). – free from instructor.

Mark Silk, Rosalind Hackett, and Dennis R. Hoover, eds., *Religious Persecution as a U.S. Policy Issue* (Hartford, CT: Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, 2000). –free from instructor.

“First Freedoms: An Interview with Tom Farr,” IGE web magazine, May 17, 2003,
<http://www.globalengagement.org/issues/2003/10/farr.htm>.

Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations? *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993 v72 n3 pp. 22-28. online via EBSCO Host.

Philip Jenkins, “The Next Christianity,” *The Atlantic Monthly*, October 2002. online via EBSCO Host.

Tim Shah, “Evangelical Politics in the Third World: What’s Next for the ‘Next Christendom’?,” *The Brandywine Review of Faith & International Affairs*, Vol. 1, No. 2. – free from instructor.

“God and American Diplomacy.” *Economist*, 2/8/2003, Vol. 366 Issue 8310, p33, 1p, 1c. – online via EBSCO Host.

* Available in the book store.

Class participation: Plan to attend each class having read and analyzed the readings (your reaction papers will help you in this endeavour). Participation and attendance will account for 15% of your grade. Attendance is required and will be taken in each class. Over one absence will result in the lowering of your final letter grade for the course. Your participation in this course is valued and is important. The quality of the course is in large part dependent upon your efforts in discussion.

Weekly reaction papers: You will be required to write a number of short (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font) reaction papers based on weekly readings. In these papers, you should outline the main points of the readings for the week, highlight any areas of interest or confusion, and raise questions or comments for the class discussion. The papers are due at the beginning of class that week. You are required to submit a total of 6 papers during weeks 2-13. Your work will be evaluated based on evidence of a good understanding of the assigned readings, ability to critically analyze the material, clarity, coherence, organization, grammar, spelling, and citations. I will not accept late assignments. Submit your papers in person in class. If you are ill, I will accept them by e-mail if they are submitted *before* the starting time for the class.

Presentations: You will be divided into groups of 2-3 and will give presentations of 20-30 minutes, followed by class discussion. The presentation must be an analysis of a particular recent event or development important in the relationship between religion and international affairs. Your analysis must be at the comparative and/or international level of analysis. The presentation must either focus on a country (or countries) other than the U.S. or on U.S. foreign policy. A proposal with outline and initial bibliography is due **February 18**. A separate handout with additional guidelines will be disseminated later in the semester.

Exams: There will be two major examinations in this course, a midterm and a final. Both exams will be composed primarily of identifications and essay questions. Each will cover the readings, class lectures and discussions. The final exam may include material from the first half of the semester, but will strongly favor the second half.

Evaluation:

Class participation:	15%
Reaction papers:	20%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	25%
Presentation:	20%

Grading: This course follows a relatively standard grading scale:

A+	(98-100%)	C+	(77-79%)
A	(93-97%)	C	(73-76%)
A-	(90-92%)	C-	(70-72%)
B+	(87-89%)	D+	(67-69%)
B	(83-86%)	D	(63-66%)
B-	(80-82%)	D-	(60-62%)

If you have any documented special educational needs, you are encouraged to use the counselling and tutoring services (<http://www.eastern.edu/campus/studev/index.html>) of the Cushing Center for Counseling and Academic Support to prepare a written request for the accommodations you need in this course. To receive accommodations in this course, the professor must receive a written request from CCAS at the beginning of the course, or as soon as the disability is diagnosed.

*****A note on academic honesty:** The policies of Eastern University concerning academic honesty apply in this course, as in all courses in the Department of History and Political Science. Students should take the time to familiarize themselves with these policies, contained in the student handbook. **If you are uncertain**

about any element, or if you are unsure how it may apply in particular instances, especially while writing the paper, please talk to me.

Weekly Schedule

<p>January 14 Introduction: Religion, American “Exceptionalism,” and U.S. Foreign Policy Abrams, <i>The Influence of Faith</i>, pp. vii – 23. Economist, “God and American Diplomacy”</p> <p>January 21 Christian Missions, Evangelicalism, and International Affairs Abrams, <i>The Influence of Faith</i>, 153-174 Jenkins, “The Next Christianity” Shah, “Evangelical Politics in the Third World” Hoover and Reimer, “The Things That Make for a Peaceable Kingdom”</p> <p>January 28 International Religious Freedom Abrams, <i>The Influence of Faith</i>, 33-94 Silk, Hackett, and Hoover, <i>Religious Persecution as a U.S. Policy Issue</i>, pp. 1-17 and 45-59. “First Freedoms” interview with Tom Farr - http://www.globalengagement.org/issues/2003/10/farr.htm Jeremy Gunn, “The United States and the Promotion of the Freedom of Religion and Belief” (pdf)</p> <p>February 4 Religion and International Nonprofit Organizations Abrams, <i>The Influence of Faith</i>, 175-225</p> <p>February 11 Church-State Relations: Separationism and Principled Pluralism Monsma and Soper, <i>Challenge of Pluralism</i>, ix-86.</p> <p>February 18 Church-State Relations: European Establishment Models Monsma and Soper, <i>Challenge of Pluralism</i>, 121-223.</p> <p>February 25 Exam</p>	<p>March 3 Spring Break</p> <p>March 10 Latin America Silk 120-139 (Levine) Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 13-35</p> <p>March 17 Europe Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 36-60 Silk, <i>Religion on the International News Agenda</i>, 39-59</p> <p>March 24 Islamic Societies Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 61-92 Silk, <i>Religion on the International News Agenda</i>, 60-100</p> <p>March 31 Middle East Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 92-107 Other readings tba</p> <p>April 7 Asia Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 128-157 Abrams, <i>The Influence of Faith</i>, 95-112 Silk, <i>Religion on the International News Agenda</i>, 19-38</p> <p>April 14 Conflict, Violence Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” Abrams, <i>The Influence of Faith</i>, 113-140 Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 161-183</p> <p>April 21 American Exceptionalism Demerath, <i>Crossing the Gods</i>, 184-246</p>
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