Issues and Policies in American Government (GOV 312L)

"Religion and Politics in the United States"
The University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2013

Instructor: Jerod Patterson Office: MEZ 3.228 Office Hours: 10:30a-12:00p, M&F

Course Description: Throughout American history, religion has proven an influential and often controversial feature of American political life. This course explores the relationship between religion and politics in the United States, focusing especially on the ways in which religion has been a source of political division and unity. Its purpose is to help you better understand the many ways in which religion has and continues to shape political life in the United States. The course will address several relevant topics, including the role of religion in the American founding, separation of church and state, challenges brought about by immigration and America's changing religious profile, the role of religion in social movements such as Civil Rights, religion's influence on controversial policy debates, and more recent issues like the rise of the "Religious Right" and emergence of a "Religious Left" in contemporary politics.

The course is divided into three major sections. The first section, "foundations," provides an introduction and historical context for our study of religion and politics in the United States. The second section, "developments," explores important milestones in the evolving relationship between religion and politics, including the challenges of new science and learning, immigration, and social movements throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The final section, "controversies," directs our attention to some key contemporary debates over religion and politics.

Each class is accompanied by a set of readings. Required readings average about 30 pages per class. Several classes also include recommended readings, most of which are primary sources. These are not required but nonetheless highly commended. In order to participate in class and make the most of this course, you are expected to read prior to attending class. Our course texts are Frank Lambert's Religion in American Politics (2010), Kenneth Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown's Religion and Politics in the United States (2011), and a brief dialogue between James Davison Hunter and Alan Wolfe entitled, Is There a Culture War? (2006). Some readings are drawn from a course packet available at Jenn's Copies. Course assignments consist of two non-cumulative midterm exams, a cumulative final exam, and a short essay. Class attendance is required and periodic attendance checks will contribute to your final grade. More detail on these assignments and the course grading system are presented below.

Prerequisites: "Twenty-four semester hours of college coursework, including Government 310L, and a passing score on the reading section of the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) test (or an appropriate assessment test)."

This course fulfills the second half of the legislative requirement for coursework in government.

Required Readings:

- Frank Lambert. Religion in American Politics: A Short History. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010. (Referenced as "Lambert")
- Kenneth Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown. Religion and Politics in the United States, Sixth Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2011. (Referenced as "Wald")
- James Davison Hunter and Alan Wolfe. Is There a Culture War? A Dialogue on Values and American Public Life. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2006. (Referenced as "Culture War")
- Course packet available from Jenn's Copies, located at 2200 Guadalupe Street. (Abbreviated as "CP")

Assignments and Grading: Your assessment in this course will come in the form of exams, a brief essay, and attendance. The expectations, general format, and other relevant details for these assignments are outlined below. Your final grade will be calculated out of 100 total points. Final grades will be awarded as follows: A=93-100 pts., A-=90-92 pts., B+=87-89 pts., B=83-86 pts., B-=80-82 pts., C+=77-79 pts., C=73-76 pts., C-=70-72, D+=67-69, D=63-66 pts., D-=60-62 pts., F=<60. There will be no curve.

- Two Midterm Exams (25% each)—The midterm exams will cover all material in the preceding section of the course. The exams encompass material from lecture as well as readings, and the exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and brief essay questions. The exams will be taken within the timeframe of a regular class period.
- Final Exam (30%)—The final exam in this course is cumulative but the mixture of content will be weighted toward the final section of the course. The format will resemble the midterm exams.
- Short Essay (10%)—The essay assignment is intended to serve two main purposes. First, you will be given an opportunity to reflect upon and integrate course material across the entire course. Second, you will be given the chance to develop and sharpen your writing skills. Papers will be approximately four double-spaced pages. Assignment details and paper topics will be distributed in advance of the paper's due date.
- Attendance (10%)—Over the course of the semester, six attendance checks will be administered. The timing of these checks will not be announced ahead of time. While six checks will be administered, only five will count toward your grade. Thus, you will be able to miss one attendance check without it negatively affecting your grade. Because of this, there will be no "excused" absences to exempt someone from a missed attendance check. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Honor Code: "The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

Course Schedule: Section One—Foundations

<u>Class Date</u> Week I Jan. 14		Class Topic/Readings Introduction Readings—Course syllabus
	Jan. 16	American Exceptionalism Readings—Wald, pp. 37-51; Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (CP); Williams, "Letter to the Town of Providence on the Limits of Religious Liberty" (CP); Penn, "A Persuasive to Moderation to Church Dissenters in Prudence and Conscience" (CP).
	Jan. 18	American Exceptionalism Recommended Readings—"The Examination of Mrs. Anne Hutchinson" (CP)
Week 2	Jan. 21 Jan. 23	No class American Exceptionalism Readings—No new readings
	Jan. 25	The American Founding Readings—Lambert, Ch. I
Week 3	Jan. 28	The American Founding Readings—Jefferson, "A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom" (CP); Holmes, "A Layperson's Guide to Distinguishing a Deist from an Orthodox Christian" from The Faiths of our Founding Fathers (CP).
	Jan. 30	Religion in the 19 th Century Readings—Lambert, Ch. 2
	Feb. I	Religion in the 19 th Century/The Civil War Readings—Gaustad and Schmidt, pp.184-202 from <i>The Religious History of America</i> (CP)
Week 4	Feb. 4	The Civil War Readings—Armstrong, excerpt from The Christian Doctrine of Slavery (CP); Beecher, "Essay on Slavery and Abolitionism" (CP). Recommended Readings—Douglas, excerpts from The Frederick Douglas Papers (CP); Truth, excerpt from Narrative of Sojourner Truth (CP); Lovejoy, excerpt from Memoir of the Rev. Elijah Lovejoy (CP).
	Feb. 6	The Civil War Readings—No new readings
	Feb. 8	The Social Gospel Readings—Lambert, Ch. 3 Recommended Readings—Conwell, "Acres of Diamonds" (CP); Rauschenbusch, excerpts from A Theology for the Social Gospel (CP).
Week 5	Feb. 11	New Science and Learning Readings—Lambert, Ch. 4

Recommended Readings—Fosdick, "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" (CP); Machen, "Christianity and Culture" (CP).

Feb. 13 New Science and Learning

Readings—Patterson, "Evolution Controversy" (CP)

Recommended Readings—Mencken, excerpts from *The Baltimore Evening Sun* reports on "The Monkey Trial" (CP)

Feb. 15 Midterm Exam #1

Section Two—Developments

Week 6 Feb. 18 Catholics in American Politics

Readings—Wald. Ch. 9

Recommended Readings—"Archbishop John Hughes Condemns the Public School Society of New York and New York Politicians" (CP); "The Launching of the American Protestant Association Against Catholics" (CP); "Archbishop Hughes Explains American Liberty to Rome" (CP); "Statement by Catholic Theologians" and "Dissent In and For the Church" (CP); Schlafly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?" (CP); Bernardin, "A Consistent Ethic of Life" (CP).

Feb. 20 Jews in American Politics

Recommended Readings—Wise, excerpts from *Reminiscences by Isaac M.* Wise (CP); "The Pittsburgh Platform" (CP).

Feb. 22 Protestant Change

Readings—Lambert, Ch. 5

Recommended Readings—Niebuhr R., excerpt from *The Irony of American History*; Niebuhr H.R., excerpt from *The Meaning of Revelation*.

Week 7 Feb. 25 Civil Rights

Readings—Lambert, Ch. 6

Feb. 27 Civil Rights

Readings—King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (CP)

Recommended Readings—Cone, excerpt from A Theology of Black Liberation (CP)

Mar. I Civil Rights

Readings—No new readings

Week 8 Mar. 4 The Restructuring of American Religion

Readings—Wuthnow, excerpts from The Restructuring of American Religion (CP)

Mar. 6 The Religious Right

Readings-Lambert, Ch. 7; Wald Ch. 8.

Mar. 8 The Religious Right

Recommended Readings—Gaustad, "Religion and the Public Order," excerpts from Ronald Reagan, Mario Cuomo, and Jesse Jackson (CP)

Week 9	Mar. 11	Spring Break (Mar. 11-15)		
Week 10	Mar. 18	The Religious Left Readings—Lambert, Ch. 8 Recommended Reading—Olson, "Whither the Religious Left? Religiopolitical Progressivism in Twenty-First-Century America" (CP)		
	Mar. 20	Pluralism Readings—Wald, Ch. 10-11		
	Mar. 22	Midterm Exam #2		
Section Three—Controversies				
Week II	Mar. 25	Church and State Readings—Wald, Ch. 4		
	Mar. 27	Church and State		
	Mar. 29	Readings—No new readings Church and State Readings—No new readings		
Week I2	Apr. I	Civil Religion Readings—Wald, pp. 52-62; Patterson, "Civil Religion" (CP); Bellah, "Civil Religion in America" (CP); Guinness, excerpts from The American Hour: A Time of Reckoning and the Once and Future Role of Faith (CP).		
	Apr. 3	Civil Religion Readings—No new readings		
	Apr. 5	Religion in American Elections Readings—Fowler et al., pp. 77-114 from Religion and Politics in America, Fourth Edition (CP)		
Week 13	Apr. 8	Religion in American Elections Readings—Kennedy, "Address to Southern Baptist Leaders" (CP); Romney, "Faith in America" (CP); Obama, "A More Perfect Union" (CP).		
	Apr. 10	Public Opinion Readings—Wald, Ch. 7		
	Apr. 12	To Be Announced		
Week 14	Apr. 15	Public Opinion		
	Apr. 17	Readings—No new readings The Culture War: Arguments For		
	Apr. 19	Readings—Culture War, pp., 1-40 The Culture War: Arguments Against Readings—Culture War, pp. 41-73		
Week 15	Apr. 22	The Culture War: Who's Right? Readings—Culture War, pp. 74-108		

Apr. 24 Religion: Public or Private?

Readings—Wald, Ch. 12

Apr. 26 Religion: Public or Private?

Readings—No new readings

Recommended Readings—Bellah et al., excerpt from Habits of the Heart

(CP); Stout, excerpt from Democracy and Tradition (CP).

Week 16 Apr. 29 Religion: Public or Private?

Readings—To be announced

May I "Of God and Caesar," episode six of the Frontline series God in America.

Readings—No new readings

May 3 Course review

Readings—No new readings

Short Essay Due

Final Exam: Thursday, May 9, 2:00p-5:00p, location TBA

Class Policies: By taking this class, you agree to these policies.

- Late Assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted. The only exception to this policy is if you can provide <u>written documentation</u> of an illness or emergency.
- Make-up Exams: In order to take a make-up exam, you need to provide written documentation of an illness or emergency, or otherwise clear your conflict with the instructor at least one week in advance. If you miss an exam and are unable to satisfy these criteria, you will not be eligible for a make-up exam. There are no exceptions to this rule. In the event that your case is approved for a make-up exam, you will be given one opportunity to take the make-up exam.
- Re-taking an Exam: There will be no retakes on exams.
- Missed Classes: If you miss a class, you are expected to obtain notes from a classmate.
- Computers and Cell Phones: Laptop computers are allowed for use during the lecture
 portion of class, but you are expected to stay off of the Internet. If I find that you are on
 the Internet during lecture, you will lose your laptop privileges for the duration of the
 course. Laptops should not be used during the discussion portion of a class. As a
 courtesy to your fellow students, please turn your cell phones to silent during class and
 refrain from texting.
- Students with Disabilities: Students who require special provisions for exams or class because of a disability should notify the professor before the need arises. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.
- Accommodations for religious holidays: By UT-Austin policy, you must notify the
 instructor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of
 a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a
 project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to
 complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.
- Class announcements: Important announcements will be made in class and/or via the

class email list. It is the responsibility of students to make sure that the University knows their correct email address. The best way to stay up to date on class news is to attend on a regular basis.

- Blackboard: The Blackboard class email list can only be used for academic purposes. Do not use it for any commercial or business purposes.
- Extra Credit: There is no "extra credit" in this class. Your grade will only consist of your performance on the items listed under "Course Grade." However, the instructor does reserve the right to offer extra credit.
- Incompletes: Grades of "Incomplete" are not assigned except in the case of major, documented medical emergencies.
- Grades: Any complaints about grades must be initiated by your written or emailed explanation of why the decisions behind the assignment of your grade should be revisited. Complaints will be handled by the teaching assistant (if applicable) first and the instructor only to appeal his or her decision. You will have one week after an exam or paper has been handed back to submit this written explanation. After that period, all grades will be considered final and any discussion that we might have will be restricted to how you can do better on the next exam or paper.
- Syllabus change: This syllabus is subject to change or adjustment by the instructor. Consistent class attendance is the best way to ensure that no important announcements are missed.

Scholastic Dishonesty: "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act." Section 11-802 (b), *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities*. If you have any questions about what constitutes scholastic dishonesty, see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint student.php.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services website.

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found online at: http://www.utexas.edu/emergency.