

# PLS 3863 - Spring 2015

## Special Topics: Religion and Politics

### 3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Burge  
Office: Coleman Hall 2020  
E-mail: [rpburge@eiu.edu](mailto:rpburge@eiu.edu)

Class: MWF 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm in Coleman 2140  
Office Hours: MWF 12:00pm - 2:00pm  
and by appointment

#### **Textbooks**

*Religion and Politics in the United States, Sixth Edition* by Wald and Calhoun-Brown. ISBN: 9781442201521

#### **About this Course**

The purpose of this course will be to examine two of the most contentious subjects in public discourse: religion and politics. This course will be grounded in the theoretical and empirical literature conducted by social scientists. The course will provide a broad overview of some of the highlights of decades of study in the field. Topics covered include the impact of religion on the founding of the United States, the way the judicial branch has dealt with the First Amendment's discussion of religion, the political behavior of religion individuals in the United States, as well as a discussion of the future of religion and American politics.

#### **Course Outline and Grades**

The grading breakdown for this course is as follows, I reserve the right to change the grading scheme.

- Three exams (20% each)
- Semester project (30%)
- Participation (10%)

#### **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIUs Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

#### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities- If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

#### **Student Success Center**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/success](http://www.eiu.edu/success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

## **Examination Policy**

All examinations must be taken at their scheduled time. Exams will not be given “early” for travel convenience - NO EXCEPTIONS. Make-up exams will be granted at the instructor’s discretion for exceptional circumstances only (e.g., severe illness, family emergency or family death). You must contact me before the next class period following the exam and produce documentation (e.g., a doctor’s excuse, obituary, etc.) of this event. No make-up examination will be given without meeting the above conditions. Study guides will be posted on the class web page prior to each exam to help prepare students.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week 1**

*January 12:* Pass out the syllabus/introduce the course

*January 14:* Read Putnam and Campbell, Chapter 1 and Djupe and Gilbert, Chapter 1

*January 16:* Read Putnam and Campbell, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

### **Week 2**

*January 19:* No Class - MLK Day

*January 21:* Federalist No. 10 and Selected Readings from de Tocqueville

*January 23:* Reading from Macedo, Diversity and Distrust. Reading from Fish, The Trouble with Principle. Reading from Rorty, Religion as Conversation Stopper

### **Week 3**

*January 26:* Measuring Evangelicalism: Consequences of Different Operationalization Strategies by Hackett and Lindsay

*January 28:* A Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments and An Act Establishing Religious Freedom by T. Jefferson, and Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptists

*January 30:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 3

### **Week 4**

*February 2:* Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

*February 4:* Everson v. Board of Education, McCollum v. Board of Education, Abington Township v. Schempp

*February 6:* Grand Rapids School District v. Ball, Larkin v. Grendel’s Den, Zobrest v. Catalina

### **Week 5**

*February 9:* Lamb’s Chapel v. Moriches Union, Rosenberger v. Univ. of Virginia, Zelman v. Simmons-Harris

*February 11:* Christian Legal Society v. Martinez, Van Orden v. Perry, McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky, Locke v. Davey

*February 13:* No Class - Lincoln’s Birthday

### **Week 6**

*February 16:* Engel v. Vitale, Lee v. Weisman, Reynolds v. United States

*February 18:* Wisconsin v. Yoder, Employment Division of Oregon v. Smith, Church of Lukumi Babalu v. Hialeah

*February 20:* EXAM 1

### **Week 7**

*February 23:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 5

*February 25:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 6

*February 27:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 7

### **Week 8**

*March 2:* Churches as Political Communities by Wald et al. and Alternative Contexts of Political Behavior by Huckfeldt et al.

*March 4:* Fiorina, Myth of a Culture War?

*March 6:* The Case for God, Unknowing by Karen Armstrong

### **Week 9**

*March 9:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 8

*March 11:* Watch “God In America: Of God and Caesar”, in class

*March 13:* Religion and Political Tolerance in the United States: A Review and Evaluation by Eisenstein

### **Break Week**

No Class - Spring Break

### **Week 10**

*March 23:* Tolerant (In)Civility: A Longitudinal Analysis of White Conservative Protestants’ Willingness to Grant Civil Liberties by Reimer and Fair and Balanced: Threat Perceptions of Homosexuals Among Evangelical Protestants by Djupe and Webb.

*March 25:* Political Tolerance and God’s Wrath in the United States by Froese et al. and Using Matching to Investigate the Relationship between Religion and Tolerance by Burge

*March 27:* EXAM 2

### **Week 11**

*March 30:* A Primer on the Middle East Conflict

*April 1:* Religion and Foreign Policy Attitudes: The Case of Christian Zionism by Guth et al. and Christian Fundamentalists and Public Opinion toward the Middle East: Israel’s New Best Friends? by Mayer

*April 3:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 9, pages 239-259 and Pope John Paul II and Catholic Opinion Toward the Death Penalty and Abortion by Mulligan

### **Week 12**

*April 6:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 9, pages 259-266 and American Mainline Protestantism and Deliberation about Homosexuality by Olson et al.

*April 8:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 9, pages 266-273 and The Puzzling Politics of American Jewry by Wald

*April 10:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 10, pages 277-286 and Black-White Differences in Attitudes Toward Homosexuality and Gay Rights by Lewis

### **Week 13**

*April 13:* “Watch God In America: The Soul of a Nation”, in class

*April 15:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 10, pages 286-291 and Can Obama Win the Latino Protestant Vote?

*April 17:* No Class - MPSA Conference

### **Week 14**

*April 20:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 10, pages 291-299 and The Politics of Muslims by Djupe and Green

*April 22:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 10, pages 299-304 and Dry Kindling: A Political Profile of American Mormons by Campbell and Monson

*April 24:* Wald and Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 12

**Week 15**

*April 27:* Watch “Jesus Camp” in class

*April 29:* Watch “Jesus Camp” in class, continued

*May 1:* PAPERS DUE BY 2PM

*May 7:* FINAL EXAM at 8 AM