

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Curriculum Proposal Form #3

New Course

Effective Term: 2141 (Spring 2014)

Subject Area - Course Number: Political Science 422 **Cross-listing:** n/a
(See Note #1 below)

Course Title: (Limited to 65 characters) Religion and American Politics

25-Character Abbreviation: Religion and Politics

Sponsor(s): Christopher Chapp

Department(s): Political Science

College(s): Letters and Sciences

Consultation took place: NA Yes (list departments and attach consultation sheet)
Departments: Philosophy and Religious Studies

Programs Affected: Political Science

Is paperwork complete for those programs? (Use "Form 2" for Catalog & Academic Report updates)

NA Yes will be at future meeting

Prerequisites: Three units of Political Science

Grade Basis: Conventional Letter S/NC or Pass/Fail

Course will be offered: Part of Load Above Load
 On Campus Off Campus - Location

College: Letters and Sciences **Dept/Area(s):** Political Science

Instructor: Chapp

Note: If the course is dual-listed, instructor must be a member of Grad Faculty.

Check if the Course is to Meet Any of the Following:

Technological Literacy Requirement Writing Requirement
 Diversity General Education Option: Select one:

Note: For the Gen Ed option, the proposal should address how this course relates to specific core courses, meets the goals of General Education in providing breadth, and incorporates scholarship in the appropriate field relating to women and gender.

Credit/Contact Hours: (per semester)

Total lab hours: n/a Total lecture hours: 48
Number of credits: 3 Total contact hours: 48

Can course be taken more than once for credit? (Repeatability)

No Yes If "Yes", answer the following questions:

No of times in major: No of credits in major:
No of times in degree: No of credits in degree:

Proposal Information: ([Procedures for form #3](#))

Course justification:

While the U.S. legal system enshrines a “separation of church and state,” there is no such separation of religious and political life. Religion touches nearly every aspect of U.S. politics, and American politics has far-reaching implications for the religious practices of many Americans. This course surveys these interconnections, with an eye toward assessing the role of religion in American political culture. Religion and U.S. politics is also equipped to help students hone skills consistent with department goals and LEAP learning outcomes. Given the regularity with which religion and politics interact in the public sphere, this course will encourage students to think critically about citizenship and the role of religion in public life. The course will serve as a jumping off point for discussions of pluralism, diversity, and social movements. We will examine the role of religion in areas ranging from interest groups and lobbying to elections to civil society, thus connecting to other parts of the political science major. And, the course will encourage students to think critically by approaching religion and politics from numerous theoretic vantages, including legal, historical, social-psychological, economic, and normative.

Relationship to program assessment objectives:

Students in “Religion and U.S. Politics” will learn to critically assess American politics and public policies. Given the reach of religion into numerous aspects of American politics and government, students will gain expertise on the U.S. Constitution, political behavior and public opinion, political parties, elections, and lobbying and interest groups. Students will learn about American religious diversity and pluralism. Students will write a term paper analyzing how one specific religious organization, denomination, or interest group has influenced public policy, requiring students to hone their analytical thinking and written communication skills. This course is self-consciously aligned with several LEAP goals, including knowledge of human cultures and personal and social responsibility. Moreover, the course engages interdisciplinary perspectives, including theology, the sociology of religion, and political science. Thus, the course will encourage integrative learning and synthesis.

Budgetary impact:

This course will have a minimal budgetary impact, as it will be a part of the professor’s normal rotation.

Course description: (50 word limit)

This course provides an overview of how religion influences American politics, and how the U.S. political process shapes the practice of religion in America. Students will learn about American religious history, religious pluralism, religious political behavior, religious interest groups and social movements, and religion and the U.S. constitution.

If dual listed, list graduate level requirements for the following:

Not applicable.

Bibliography:

- Bacevich, Andrew J. and Elizabeth H. Prodrromou. 2004. God Is Not Neutral: Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy after 9/11. *Orbis* 48 (1):43-54
- Bellah, Robert N. 1967. "Civil Religion in America." *Daedalus* 96: 1–21.
- Brewer, Mark D., Rogan Kersh, and R. Eric Petersen. 2003. "Assessing Conventional Wisdom about Religion and Politics: A Preliminary View from the Pews." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 41: 125—136.
- Campbell, David E., John C. Green, and Geoffrey C. Layman. 2011. "The Party Faithful: Partisan Images Candidate Religion, and the Electoral Impact of Party Identification." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(1): 42–58.
- Chapp, Christopher B. 2012. *Religious Rhetoric and American Politics: The Endurance of Civil Religion in Electoral Campaigns*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Djupe, Paul A., and Christopher P. Gilbert. 2003. *The Prophetic Pulpit: Clergy, Churches, and Communities in American Politics*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Domke, David, and Kevin Coe. 2010. *The God Strategy: How Religion Became a Political Weapon in America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Evans, John H., and Lisa M. Nunn. 2005. "The Deeper Culture Wars Questions." *Forum* 3(2).
- Feldman, Noah. 2005. *Divided by God*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. 2005. *The Churching of America: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.
- Fowler, Robert Booth, Allen D. Hertzke, Laura R. Olson, and Kevin R. Den Dulk. 2010. *Religion and Politics in America: Faith, Culture, and Strategic Choices (4th ed.)*. Boulder, CO: Westview.
- Froese, Paul, and Christopher Bader. 2010. *America's Four Gods: What We Say about God, and What That Says about Us*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hunter, James David. 1991. *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America*. New York: Basic Books.
- Kohut, Andrew, John C. Green, Scott Keeter, and Robert C. Toth. 2000. *The Diminishing Divide: Religion's Changing Role in American Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.
- Lambert, Frank. 2008. *Religion in American Politics: A Short History*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.
- Layman, Geoffery C. 2001. *The Great Divide*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Layman, Geoffrey C., and John C. Green. 2005. "Wars and Rumors of Wars: The Contexts of Cultural Conflict in American Political Behaviour." *British Journal of Political Science* 36: 61–89.

Leege, David C., Kenneth D. Wald, Brian S. Krueger, and Paul D. Mueller. 2002. *The Politics of Cultural Differences: Social Change and Voter Mobilization Strategies in the Post-New Deal Period*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Manza, Jeff, and Clem Brooks. 1999. *Social Cleavages and Political Change: Voter Alignments and U.S. Party Coalitions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Murphy, Andrew R. 2009. *Prodigal Nation: Moral Decline and Divine Punishment from New England to 9/11*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Noll, Mark A. 2006. *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press

Olson, Laura R., and John C. Green. 2006. "The Religion Gap." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39: 455–59.

Olson, Laura R. and Adam L. Warber. 2008. "Belonging, Behaving, and Believing: Assessing the Role of Religion on Presidential Approval." *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2): 192-204.

Prothero, Stephen R. 2007. *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*. New York: Harper Collins.

Putnam, Robert D. and David E. Campbell. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon and Shuster.

Rowe, Paul S. 2012. *Religion and Global Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smidt, Corwin E., Lyman A. Kellstedt, and James L. Guth (Eds.). 2009. *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smith, Christian R. 1998. *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wald, Kenneth, and Allison Calhoun-Brown. 2006. *Religion and Politics in the United States*. 5th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Wilcox, Clyde and Carin Robinson. 2010. *Onward Christian Soldiers? The Religious Right in American Politics*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Wolfe, Alan. 1998. *One Nation after All*. New York: Viking.

Course Objectives and tentative course syllabus with [mandatory information](#) (paste syllabus below):
Students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and legal context of religion and politics through class discussion, a class presentation, and an exam.
2. Demonstrate a comprehension of the role religion plays in influencing mass opinion and the policy-making process in the United States through class discussion, a research paper, and an exam.
3. Develop a greater understanding of diversity and multiculturalism by exploring the political claims made by varied religious traditions through class discussion and a research paper.
4. Analyze different theories of religion and public life by applying key concepts and ideas to current debates and controversies in class discussion, and in a research paper.
5. Develop writing proficiency and research skills by producing a critical research paper.

Political Science 422
Professor Chris Chapp
chappc@uww.edu

Office: 5122 Laurentide
Phone: x1676
Email: chappc@uww.edu
Office hours:

Overview:

While the U.S. legal system enshrines a “separation of church and state,” there is no such separation of religious and political life. Religion touches nearly every aspect of U.S. politics, and American politics has far-reaching implications for the religious practices of many Americans. This course surveys these interconnections, with an eye toward assessing the role of religion in American political culture. We will examine American religious history, religious pluralism, religious political behavior, religious interest groups and social movements, religion and the U.S. constitution, and religion and public policy. It is often remarked that one should not discuss religion and politics in polite company. In this course, we will ignore this advice, choosing instead to have an informed and thoughtful discussion about the challenges and opportunities of religion in American society.

Readings and assignments	
Section 1: Overview of religion and U.S. politics	
TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS
WEEK 1.1 Major themes in religion and U.S. Politics	
WEEK 1.2 A history of religion and U.S. politics I	Putnam and Campbell, chapters 1 --2 Winthrop, <i>A Model of Christian Charity</i> Fowler et al., ch. 1
WEEK 2.1 A history of religion and U.S. politics II: Understanding why churches succeed and fail	Putnam and Campbell, chapters 3 -- 4 Selections, Finke and Stark
WEEK 2.2 Religious diversity in the U.S. I: An overview of major religious	Fowler et al., ch. 2 Putnam and Campbell, chapter 5

traditions in the U.S.	
WEEK 3.1 Religious diversity in the U.S. II: Evangelicalism, orthodoxy, atheism, spirituality, and minor religious traditions	Fowler et al., ch. 3
WEEK 3.2 Religion and the Constitution I: Free exercise clause	Fowler et al., ch. 9, pp. 246-255 Jefferson's Danbury Baptist letter Selections from Feldman, <i>Divided by God</i>
WEEK 4.1 Religion and the Constitution I: Establishment clause	Remainder of Fowler et al., ch. 9 Selections from Feldman, <i>Divided by God</i>
WEEK 4.2	Presentations: Understanding religious traditions in the US
Section 2: Religion and politics in the mass public	
WEEK 5.1 Religion and American public opinion I: Religion and political socialization	Selection from Pearson-Merkowitz and Gimpel 2009
WEEK 5.2 Religion and American public opinion II: Connecting religion to politics	Putnam and Campbell, chapter 11 Olson and Warber 2008
WEEK 6.1 Religion and US voting behavior	Fowler et al., ch. 4
WEEK 6.2 Religion and politics for minority groups	Fowler et al., ch. 10 Putnam and Campbell, chapters 7, 9
WEEK 7.1 Gender, religion, and politics	Fowler et al., ch. 11 Putnam and Campbell, chapter 8
WEEK 7.2	Midterm exam
Section 3: Religion, political elites, and the policy making process	
WEEK 8.1 Religion and civil society	Fowler et al., ch. 7
WEEK 8.2 The politics of religious social movements: A case study of the Christian Right	Putnam and Campbell, chapter 6 Lambert, ch. 7
WEEK 9.1 Politics from the pulpit	Putnam and Campbell, chapter 12
WEEK 9.2 Religious interest groups I	Fowler et al., ch. 5
WEEK 10.1 Religious interest groups II	Selection from Sharlet 2008 2012 Pew Report on Religious Advocacy (selections)

WEEK 10.2 Religion and political elites	Fowler et al., ch. 6
WEEK 11.1 Religion and political elites II	Layman, ch. 3
Section 4: Current controversies in religion and US politics	
WEEK 11.2 Religion and US foreign policy	Bacevich and Prodromou 2003 Selection from Rowe
WEEK 12.1 Abortion, same-sex marriage, and the culture war thesis I	Selection from Hunter 1991 and Wolfe 1998 Buchanan's 1992 "Culture Wars" speech
WEEK 12.2 Abortion, same-sex marriage, and the culture war thesis II	Layman and Green 2006 Hillygus and Shields 2009
WEEK 13.1 The religious left and the religious right	Lambert ch. 8 William Jennings Bryan's (1896) "Cross of Gold speech"
WEEK 13.2 The secularization thesis, spiritual but not religious, and the rise of the "nones"	Fowler et al., ch. 12
WEEK 14.1 The secularization thesis, spiritual but not religious, and the rise of the "nones"	2012 Pew Report: "'Nones' on the Rise"
WEEK 14.2 American civil religion	Selections from Murphy 2009 Bellah 1967
WEEK 15.1 American civil religion	Selections from Chapp 2012
WEEK 15.2 Review	
Final Exam	

Texts:

Two texts are required for this course:

Fowler, Robert Booth, Allen D. Hertzke, Laura R. Olson, and Kevin R. Den Dulk. 2010. *Religion and Politics in America: Faith, Culture, and Strategic Choices (4th ed.)*. Boulder, CO: Westview.

Putnam, Robert D. and David E. Campbell. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon and Shuster.

In addition, required readings will be available for download on D2L.

Assignments:	Points possible:
American religious traditions presentation	15
Term paper	30
Midterm exam	25
Final exam	25
Leading class discussion	5
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	100

Grading scale:

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

Expectations:

Students are expected to take the final at the scheduled date and time, turn in all writing assignments at the start of class on the day due, keep up with all scheduled reading, and attend every lecture. Exceptions are only made for health- and family-related emergencies. All written assignments must be typed, and are to be turned in as a paper copy, not emailed. Class attendance is mandatory. If you do happen to miss a class, you are responsible for any material you missed. If you have special needs regarding testing or writing assignments, please see me immediately to make appropriate arrangements. You are encouraged to stop by my office with any questions or concerns.

Deadlines:

The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time. If some sort of serious time conflict exists (like conflict with another exam, not like having to work), you must approach me at least one week prior to the scheduled exam time to make other arrangements. If no prior arrangements are made, the exam will be counted as a "0." In general, I am not flexible about paper deadlines. Late papers will not be accepted. My suggestion is to look over the entire syllabus now, and if you foresee time conflicts (like a lot of papers due at the same time) plan accordingly. The only exceptions to this policy are, of course, health and family-related emergencies.

Final exam:

You are expected to attend every class session, and keep up with assigned reading. The final will be drawn from both reading and lecture material. You are responsible for all of the reading material, even if it is not discussed in class, and all lecture material, even if it is not discussed in the book.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Don't do this. All acts of cheating and academic dishonesty will be handled in strict accordance with UW-Whitewater policy. In short, I always expect you do your own work, and I always expect you cite your sources. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating. For guidelines on cheating and plagiarism, see http://www.uww.edu/icit/olr/stu/researchwriting/olr_asset_layout_6_19519_20839.html

UWW policies:

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Academic Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events (for details, please refer to the Schedule of Classes, the “Rights and Responsibilities” section of the undergraduate catalog; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the graduate catalog; and the “Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures (UWS Chapter 14); and the “Student Non-academic Disciplinary Procedures” (UWS Chapter 17).

“The UW System standard for work required per credit is that students are expected to invest at least 3 hours of combined in-class and out-of-class work per week for each academic unit (credit) of coursework; thus a 3-credit course will typically require a minimum of 9 hours of work per week (144 hours/semester).”