

RELIGION AND POLITICS

Government 2270

Fall 2018

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Office Hours:
MTW 4:30-5:30
or by appt.

This course examines the relationship between religion and politics—the so-called theological-political problem—primarily in modern Europe and America. The first half of the course focuses on the tension between and eventual separation of church and state in early modern Europe and America. The second half considers the implications and complications of this historic separation, looking at recent Supreme Court cases as well as contemporary discussions of the relationship between religion and politics. Authors include Locke, Jefferson, Madison, Tocqueville, and a variety of contemporary writers.

Books (available for purchase at <https://bowdoin.ecampus.com/>)

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*. Edited by James Tully. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*. Edited by J. P. Mayer. New York: Harper Collins, 1966.

Hugh Heclo, *Christianity and American Democracy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.

Pierre Manent, *Beyond Radical Secularism: How France and the Christian West Should Respond to the Islamic Challenge*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2016.

Requirements

1. Regular and active class participation (10% of grade). More than five unexcused absences will result in failure of the class.
2. Three analytic papers, approximately 6-8 pages in length, based on assigned reading (65%). All papers must be completed in order to pass the course.
3. Comprehensive final exam (25%)

Reading Assignments

Sept. 3	Mark Lilla, <i>The Stillborn God</i> , Intro. and chaps. 1-2 (Blackboard)
Sept. 5	<i>Letter Concerning Toleration</i> , pp. 21-38
Sept 10	pp. 38-58
Sept. 12	Selections from <i>Locke on Toleration</i> (Blackboard)
Sept. 17	Selections from Jefferson (Blackboard)
Sept. 19	Selections from Madison (Blackboard)
Sept. 24	Selections from Washington (Blackboard); Vincent Muñoz, “The Original Meaning of the Establishment Clause” (Blackboard)
Sept. 26	Rousseau, “On Civil Religion” (Blackboard)
Oct. 1	<i>Democracy in America</i> , pp. 9-21, 31-47
Oct. 3	pp. 287-308, 429-36, 442-52
Oct. 8	Fall Break
Oct. 10	pp. 503-49, 690-95, 702-5
Oct. 15	Everson v. Board of Education; Engel v. Vitale (Blackboard)
Oct. 17	Lemon v. Kurtzman; Lynch v. Donnelly (Blackboard)
Oct. 22	Wallace v. Jaffree; Lee v. Weisman (Blackboard)
Oct. 24	Wisconsin v. Yoder; Employment Division v. Smith (Blackboard)
Oct. 29	John Rawls “Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical” (Blackboard)
Oct. 31	Rawls, “The Idea of Public Reason Revisited” (Blackboard)
Nov. 5	Stanley Fish, <i>The Trouble With Principle</i> , chaps. 8-9 (Blackboard)

Reading Assignments (cont.)

Nov. 7	Stephen Macedo, <i>Diversity and Distrust</i> , chaps. 6-7 (Blackboard)
Nov. 12	chaps. 8-9 (Blackboard)
Nov. 14	<i>Christianity and American Democracy</i> , pp. 1-79
Nov. 19	pp. 79-144
Nov. 21	Thanksgiving
Nov. 26	pp. 185-240
Nov. 28	Manent, "The Theological-Political Vector" (Blackboard); <i>Beyond Radical Secularism</i> , pp. 1-34
Dec. 3	pp. 35-87
Dec. 5	pp. 88-115

Writing Assignments and Exams

Sept. 28	Paper on Locke and Founders due
Oct. 26	Paper on Rousseau, Tocqueville and Supreme Court
Nov. 20	Paper on Rawls, Fish, and Macedo due
Dec. 15	Final exam