



## CIEE Paris, France

<b>Course title:</b>	Politics of Religion
<b>Course code:</b>	(GI) RELI 2001 PAFR / (GI) POLI 2001 PAFR
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Arizona State University Global Flex - Course + Internship, Arizona State University Global Flex - 3 Credit, Arizona State University Global Flex - 6 Course Credits, Paris Open Campus Block
<b>Open Campus Track:</b>	International Relations and Political Science
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. semester credits:</b>	3.00
<b>Contact hours:</b>	45.00
<b>Term:</b>	Spring Block III 2023

### Course Description

This course examines the relationship between church, religion and state, evaluating a comprehensive range of thematic approaches in the politics of religion. Where evidence, both current and historical, suggests a relationship between religion and morality, this course will review how religious morality informs the politics of the state, and how some societies are moving towards popular and populist notions of civic morality. Through the contrast between civic and religious morality, students will explore case studies in different countries on issues such as homosexuality, contraceptives, abortion, legitimate and illegitimate violence, the role of women in society, and the significance of rational thought in the sciences.

### Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Critically evaluate readings from the course
- Develop and deliver complex arguments on highly sensitive issues
- Articulate the distinction between morality and religion
- Improve academic writing and presentation skills
- Enhance intercultural awareness and communication competencies

### Methods of Instruction

Among other techniques, the methodology used throughout this course will include: teacher presentations with student-teacher dialogue and discussion; active discussion in which students will be expected to prepare presentations to argue a specific case and defend it to an opponent and the class. Students will also attend site visits, special events, and guest lectures. They are expected to take copious notes of readings, lectures and out-of-class activities to be potentially used for course submissions. Rules for citation and referencing apply.

### Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Case Studies Debate	10%
2.	Presentation	20%
3.	Midterm Exam	25%
4.	Final Paper	25%
5.	Participation	20%
	TOTAL	100%

### Course Requirements

#### **Case Studies Debate**

Each student is required to participate in a prepared debate on the role of politics in religion, based on selected case studies. The debate will be in groups with each assigned a given topic. Grading will be based on knowledge and preparation demonstrated in the in-class debate.

#### **Presentation**

Students will be required to deliver a presentation during the course. Each presentation should be about 10 minutes (excluding opponent and class discussion) and it should show a good understanding of a selected topic and the ability to put it in perspective. The topic should be presented in a concise yet comprehensive manner.

### **Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice and short answer / paragraph questions to measure the students' progress halfway through the course.

### **Final Paper**

A 2000-word discussion paper will be required. This paper will cover a specific topic and needs to show a solid understanding of and reflection on the topic assigned. The topic cannot be the same as the presentation topic.

### **Participation**

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

### **Attendance**

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

***N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.***

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### **Week 1**

Class: 1.0 Introduction: Religion in Our Societies

This module of the course introduces students to the role of religions as social systems which structure societies. Attention will be paid to how religion intersects with political, social and cultural contexts in both Western and non-Western societies, and the impact of religion as a social system on everyday life. Guest speaker: Dan-Erik Andersson, Researcher at the Department of Human Rights, Lund University.

Reading:

Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 1-14.

Debate questions will be assigned

**Week 2**

Class: 2.0 Religion, Empires, and Colonialism

This module of the course examines the role of the Christian churches during the development of European empires in the American, Asian, and African continents. The module will explore the Crusades, and the fermenting of a violent relationship between faiths in the Middle East, whilst also exploring how religious obligation was used as the justification of colonization in the Americas and Africa.

Reading:

Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 15-40.

Carson, P. "An imperial dilemma: The propagation of Christianity in early colonial India".

Chevedden, Paul E. "The Islamic view and the Christian view of the Crusades: A new synthesis."

Porter, A. "Religion and Empire: British Expansion in the Long Nineteenth Century, 1780–1914".

Optional:

Jotischky, Andrew. *Crusading and the Crusader States*.

Class: 3.0 Migration and Faith

This module explores the history of migration based upon religious conflict, social subjugation, and pilgrimage. Examples for analysis will be historical and current, and present examples from throughout the world focusing on the impact on communities and economies at the departure and arrival stages of religious migration.

Reading:

Levitt, Peggy. "Redefining the Boundaries of Belonging: The Institutional Character of Transnational Religious Life."

Stamatov, P. "Activist Religion, Empire, and the Emergence of Modern Long-Distance Advocacy Networks."

Yang, F. & Ebaugh, H.R. "Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications" Site Visit: Islamisk-Kristent Studiecenter, København, Denmark

Optional:

Garnett, Jane and Alana Harris, eds. *Rescripting religion in the city: Migration and religious identity in the modern metropolis*.

Class: 4.0 Debates

Students participate in the group debates in this class.

### **Week 3**

Class: 5.0 Religion and the Nation-state

In this module students will explore the relationship between religion and the nation-state through a historical examination of the connections between church and state in Europe and beyond.

Reading:

Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 41-93.

Furseth Inger. "Secularization, Deprivatization, or Religious Complexity?"

Ibenwa, C.N. *Religion and Nation Building: A Critical Analysis*

Class: 6.0 Religion, Ritual, and Society

Following from the previous module, this module deconstructs ritual in contemporary societies, with particular emphasis on religious-inferred rituals surrounding public commemorations, and the operating religious-inspired rituals of modern governments and parliaments. Site Visit: The Danish Humanist Society (Humanistisk Samfund).

Reading:

Kühle Lene et al. "Religion and State: Complexity in Change."

Montserrat, Guibernau. *Belonging: Solidarity and Division in Modern Societies*, pp. 92-116.

Turner, V. *The Forest of Symbols*, Cornell University Press (selected readings)

Optional:

Gordon-Lennox, Jeltje et al. "Case Study: A Nordic Rite of Passage Comes of Age", pp. 87-103.

Class: 7.0 Midterm Exam

### **Week 4**

Class: 8.0 Religious Politics

In this module students will examine case studies from throughout the world, wherein political systems engage in support or opposition (or a blend of both) with religious dogma. Students will also examine case studies where the private lives of politicians impacted how the public viewed the moral standing of the public representative, and consider what impact religious dogma had in these circumstances. Site Visit: Visit to local organization

Reading:

Tessler, M. "Islam and Democracy in the Middle East: The Impact of Religious Orientations on Attitudes toward Democracy in Four Arab Countries"

Class: 9.0 Religion and Representation

In this module students will discuss the representation of religions in the public sphere. Representation analyses will evaluate concurrently the level and impact of the political representation of religions, both predominant and minority religions, in society whilst also examining the public representation of religions in the mediascape and social media.

Reading:

Arnal, William and Russell T. McCutcheon. *The Sacred is the Profane: The Political Nature of "Religion"*, pp. 57-72 and 134-171.

Herbert, David. *Religion and Civil Society: Rethinking Public Religion in the Contemporary World*.

Optional:

Campbell, Heidi, editor. Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds, pp. 223-269.

Knott, Kim, et al., editors. Media Portrayals of Religion and the Secular Sacred: Representation and Change, pp. 15-100.

Class: 10.0 Presentations

## **Week 5**

Class: 11.0 Religion and Public Morality

This module examines case studies of key debates surrounding a number of sensitive issues in contemporary society, including abortion rights, contraceptives, and state-sanctioned executions.

Reading:

Evans, Michael S. and John H. Evans. "Arguing Against Darwinism: Religion, Science and Public Morality."

Optional:

Engeli, Isabelle, et al., editors. Morality Politics in Western Europe: Parties, Agendas and Policy Choices.

Studlar, Donley T. and Gordon J. Burns. "Toward the permissive society? Morality policy agendas and policy directions in Western Democracies".

Class: 12.0 Religion and Violence

This module explores historical and contemporary examples wherein violence was legitimized through the invocation of religious dogma.

Reading:

Bruce, S. Politics and Religion, pp. 127-160.

Maguire, D. (ed.) Sacred Rights

Optional:

Reader, Ian. "Religion and Violence." Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations.

Film:

"Jihad: A Story of the Others"

## **Week 6**

Class: 13.0 Religion and Gender

This module evaluates how religious dogma influences and informs public and political discourses throughout the world in relation to the role of women.

Reading:

Woodhead, Linda. "Religion and Gender." <https://www.religionandgender.org/>

Optional:

Marler, Penny Long. "Religious Change in the West: Watch the Women."

Class: 14.0 Religion and Sex

This module evaluates how religious dogma influences and informs public and political discourses throughout the world in relation to homosexuality, civil liberties and marriage equality.

## Reading:

Bruce, S. Politics and Religion, pp. 161-204.

Johnston, C. "Ireland becomes first country to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote – as it happened", The Guardian

## Final Discussion Paper Due

### Course Materials

#### Readings

Bruce, Steven. Politics and Religion. 2003. Polity Press, 2008. [primary text]

Arnal, William and Russell T. McCutcheon. The Sacred is the Profane: The Political Nature of "Religion". Oxford University Press, 2013.

Bäckström, Anders and Grace Davie, editors. Welfare and Religion in the 21st Century Europe: Volume 1 Configuring the Connections. Routledge, 2010.

Campbell, Heidi, editor. Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds. Routledge, 2013.

Carson, Penelope. "An imperial dilemma: The propagation of Christianity in early colonial India." The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, vol. 18, no. 2, 1990, pp. 169-190.

Chevedden, Paul E. "The Islamic view and the Christian view of the Crusades: A new synthesis." History, vol. 93, no. 310, 2008, pp. 181-200.

Engeli, Isabelle, et al., editors. Morality Politics in Western Europe: Parties, Agendas and Policy Choices. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Evans, Michael S. and John H. Evans. "Arguing Against Darwinism: Religion, Science and Public Morality." The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion, edited by Brian S. Turner, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2010, pp. 286-308.

Furseth Inger. "Secularization, Deprivatization, or Religious Complexity?" Religious Complexity in the Public Sphere. Palgrave Studies in Religion, Politics, and Policy, edited by Inger Furseth, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 291-312.

Garnett, Jane and Alana Harris, editors. Rescripting religion in the city: Migration and religious identity in the modern metropolis. Ashgate, 2013.

Gordon-Lennox, Jeltje et al. "Case Study: A Nordic Rite of Passage Comes of Age." Emerging Rituals in Secular Societies: A Transdisciplinary Conversation, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2017, pp. 87-103.

Herbert, David. Religion and Civil Society: Rethinking Public Religion in the Contemporary World. 2003. Routledge, 2016.

Ibenwa, C.N. "Religion And Nation Building: A Critical Analysis", International Journal of African Society Cultures and Traditions, vol.1, no.2, 2014, pp.1-12.

Iversen, Hans Raun. "Secular religion and religious secularism: A profile of the religious development in Denmark since 1968." Nordic journal of religion and society, no. 19, vol. 2, 2006, pp. 75-92.

Jotischky, Andrew. Crusading and the Crusader States. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2017.

Knott, Kim, et al., eds. Media Portrayals of Religion and the Secular Sacred: Representation and Change. Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2013.

Kühle Lene, et al. "Religion and State: Complexity in Change." Religious Complexity in the Public Sphere. Palgrave Studies in Religion, Politics, and Policy, edited by Inger Furseth, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 81-135.

Levitt, Peggy. "Redefining the Boundaries of Belonging: The Institutional Character of Transnational Religious Life." Sociology of Religion, vol. 65, no. 1, 2004, pp. 1-18.

Maguire, Daneil, editor. Sacred Rights, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Marler, Penny Long. "Religious Change in the West: Watch the Women." Women and Religion in the West: Challenging Secularization, edited by Kristin Aune, Sonya Sharma and Giselle Vincett, Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2016, pp. 23-56.

Montserrat, Guibernau. *Belonging: Solidarity and Division in Modern Societies*. Polity Press, 2013.

Porter, Andrew. "Religion and Empire: British Expansion in the Long Nineteenth Century, 1780–1914." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, vol. 20, no. 3, 1992, pp. 370-390.

Reader, Ian. "Religion and Violence." *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations*. 3rd ed., edited by Linda Woodhead et al., Routledge, 2016, pp. 473-492.

Stamatov, Peter. "Activist Religion, Empire, and the Emergence of Modern Long-Distance Advocacy Networks." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 75, no. 4, 2010, pp. 607-628.

Studlar, Donley T. and Gordon J. Burns. "Toward the permissive society? Morality policy agendas and policy directions in Western Democracies". *Policy Sciences*, vol. 48, no. 3, 2015, pp. 273-291.

Tessler, Mark. "Islam and Democracy in the Middle East: The Impact of Religious Orientations on Attitudes toward Democracy in Four Arab Countries." *Comparative Politics*, vol. 34, no.3, 2002, pp. 337-354.

Turner, Vicor. *The Forest of Symbols*, Cornell University Press, 1967.

Vejrup, Marie and Lene Kühle. "Religion and State in Denmark: Exception Among Exceptions?" *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society*, vol. 24, no. 2, 2011, pp. 173-188.

Yang, Fenggang and Ebaugh, Helen Rose. "Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and their Global Implications", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 66, no. 2, 2001, pp. 269-288. Woodhead, Linda. "Religion and Gender." *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations*. 3rd ed., edited by Linda Woodhead et al., Routledge, 2016, pp. 493-510.

<https://www.religionandgender.org/>

Johnston, C. (2015) "Ireland becomes first country to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote - as it happened", *The Guardian*, May 24, 2015, available at:  
<http://www.theguardian.com/global/live/2015/may/23/counting-underway-for-irelandsreferendum-on-marriage-equality>