

Politics and Religion

Objective:

- 1) Introduce students to how religion and politics are related in the United States
- 2) Examine how social scientists understand and study this relationship
- 3) Familiarize students with online research tools

Activity:

Explore the [political leanings](#) of various religious traditions and congregations in the United States using the congregational QuickStats tool

Using the QuickStats tool on The ARDA, examine individual-level attitudes toward various religion and politics issues under the [Classic Topics](#) tab (ex: [religion's influence on politics](#), [should political leaders rely on religion?](#), [should religious leaders influence politicians?](#)) and the patterns associated with these responses.

As a class, complete the [Politics in the Pulpit](#) religion quiz in the [Religion Quizzes](#) section under Learning Activities in [Teaching Tools](#) on The ARDA

Assessment:

Drawing upon what they now know, direct students to read one of the [Ahead of the Trend](#) articles or another current article that discusses the connection between religion and politics. ([Archived articles](#) for Ahead of the Trend on religion and politics)

Direct students to complete the [Religion in Public Schools](#) learning module in [Teaching Tools](#) on The ARDA (module explores the opinions of the public concerning the place of religion in public schools)

Direct students to complete the [Religion and Politics](#) learning module in [Teaching Tools](#) on The ARDA (module explores the relationship between religion and various important political attitudes)

Suggested reading:

Putnam, Robert D. and David E. Campbell. 2010. *American Grace*. Simon and Schuster. Ch. 11

