

POLITICAL SCIENCE 30028: RELIGION IN AMERICAN POLITICS
University of Notre Dame, Fall 2011

Instructor: Professor David Campbell

Office: 422 Decio Phone: 631-7809 E-mail: Campbell.91@nd.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30 to 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, or by appointment

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 AM, 131 DeBartolo Hall

Teaching Assistant: Greg Shufeldt gshufeld@nd.edu

How can America be religiously devout, religiously diverse, and religiously tolerant? When we look at other nations, or even this nation at other periods in history, religious differences have led to discord and even bloodshed. And yet the United States has a remarkably high level of religious tolerance. Indeed, this tolerance is even more remarkable in light of the divisive role religion plays in our politics. This course will examine the ways in which religion is interwoven into American politics. Then it will turn to trying to solve the puzzle of America's religious pluralism—if religion is so politically divisive, why are Americans so accepting of (most) religions other than their own? What explains the exceptions?

Requirements

1. Come to class

The best reason to attend each and every class is that the quality of our collective learning experience rests on the willingness of everyone to be engaged in rigorous discussion. If that is not enough of an incentive, be warned that the exams will not only cover material from the assigned reading, but also from the lectures. As yet another incentive, attendance will be taken periodically. Plus, on some days there will be treats.

While I do not take attendance in every class, I do reserve the right to do attendance checks periodically throughout the semester.

In short, come to class. Every time.

(If you really, really have to miss class, be sure to tell me or your TA ahead of time. Good reasons to miss class include a subpoena, jury duty, surgery, birth of a baby, an *American Idol* callback—you know, important things).

2. Do the reading

Coming to class is necessary but not sufficient to succeed in this course. The assigned readings raise provocative questions, which we will discuss in class. The discussion will be really lame, however, if you have not done the reading.

In short, do the reading. All of it. Every time.

3. Do your own work

As members of the academic community, we each have a responsibility to uphold rigorous standards of integrity. Every student is thus expected to abide by Notre Dame's Academic Code of Honor. The Code of Honor can be found at: <http://www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/docs/index.htm>.

Plagiarism (using the ideas, words, or work of others without attribution) will result in failing the course and, typically, even more serious consequences. If you have any questions about the Code of Honor, plagiarism, or academic honesty, please contact Professor Campbell.

In short, do your own work. All of it. Every time.



4. Pay attention

Good citizenship in the classroom calls for everyone to devote their full attention to the lectures and ensuing discussion. That means all cell phones must be silenced during class; also, no texting, tweeting, Facebook'ing, checking the price of Smurfs and GI Joes on e-bay, playing online poker, etc. Not only is such behavior rather rude, it will cause you to miss stuff that will appear on exams and is highly distracting to your fellow students. Plus you might miss the jokes.

In short, pay attention. All of the time.

Evaluation

Your evaluation in the course will have six components:

1. Paper 1	5%
2. Paper 2	10%
3. Paper 3	25%
4. Midterm	25%
5. Final Exam	25%
6. Participation/Attendance (checked periodically)	10%

The following scale will determine your grade:

93% +	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
60 – 69%	D

The final exam is scheduled for 10:30 AM on Wednesday, December 14. This date is set by the University (aka “The Man”), and the instructor is not able to change it, nor grant exceptions. So don’t even ask.

Readings

The course uses the following books, all of which are available at the Notre Dame bookstore, or through other sources. Be sure you have the correct edition (4th) of *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. (2010, Simon and Schuster)

Clyde Wilcox and Carin Robinson. *Onward Christian Soldiers? The Religious Right in American Politics* (2010, 4th edition, Westview Press)

There will also be a number of readings available on e-reserves (identified as “ER” in the course schedule).

Periodically, course material, including any slides shown during the lectures, will be posted on Concourse. You are encouraged to check Concourse regularly.

Teaching Assistant

In addition to Professor Campbell, this course employs a teaching assistant, Greg Shufeldt. He is a PhD student in political science, and thus well-versed in the material covered in this course. He will do much of the grading, and will be available to help you prepare for exams and papers. Greg should thus be your first stop for help in the course, particularly for questions related to exams and papers.

On rare occasions, a student will be unhappy with a grade awarded by the TA. If so, you can appeal your grade to Professor Campbell. Be warned, however, that I fancy myself to be like the Supreme Court (although without the nifty robe)—my verdict is final.

Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Topic	Readings
8/23	Introduction	The syllabus
8/25	America's Religious Landscape	AG, Chs. 1 and 2
8/30	Church and State	
9/01	1st paper due	
9/06	Switching	AG, Ch. 5
9/08	Innovations	AG, Ch. 6
9/13	The Sixties/First Aftershock	AG, Chs. 3 and 4
9/15	Evangelical and Mainline Protestants	<i>Onward</i> , Chs. 1 and 2
9/20	Second Aftershock/Rise of the Nones	Hout, Michael and Claude S. Fischer. "Why More Americans Have No Religious Preference: Politics and Generations" <i>American Sociological Review</i> 67 (2): 165-190. [ER]
9/22	2nd paper due	
9/27	The Rise of the Religious Right	<i>Onward</i> , Ch. 3 AG, Ch. 11
9/29	The Religious Right Today View <i>The Jesus Factor</i> in class	<i>Onward</i> , Chs. 4 and 5
10/04	Political Echo Chambers	AG, Chs. 10 and 12
10/06	MIDTERM EXAM	
10/11	Future of the God Gap	
10/13	Gender and Inequality	AG, Chs. 7 and 8
10/15 – 10/23	FALL BREAK	
10/25	Race and Ethnicity	AG, Ch. 9
10/27	Black Protestants	
11/01	Catholics	Wilson, J. Matthew. "The Changing Catholic Voter: Comparing Responses to John Kennedy in 1960 and John Kerry in 2004." Chapter in <i>A Matter of Faith: Religion in the 2004 Presidential Election</i> . [ER]
11/03	Muslims	Hertzke, Allen D. "The United States of America—American Muslim Exceptionalism." Chapter in <i>Borders of Islam</i> [ER]

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
11/08	Jews	Greenberg, Anna and Kenneth D. Wald. "Still Liberal After All These Years? The Contemporary Political Behavior of American Jewry." Chapter in <i>Jews in American Politics</i> [ER]
11/10	Mormons	Campbell, David E. and J. Quin Monson. "Dry Kindling: A Political Profile of American Mormons." Chapter in <i>From Pews to Polling Places: Faith and Politics in the American Religious Mosaic</i> [ER]
11/15	3rd paper due	
11/17	America's Religious Diversity	Guest speakers, Details TBA
11/22	Religion in Political Campaigns	
11/24	THANKSGIVING	
11/29	The Stained Glass Ceiling	Speeches by John F. Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Barack Obama, and Mitt Romney [ER]
12/01	Should Voters Care About Politicians' Religious Backgrounds?	Linker, Damon. "A Religious Test All Our Political Candidates Should Take," <i>Washington Post</i> , September 19, 2010. [ER]
12/03	Religion and Civic Engagement	AG, Ch. 13
12/08	The Puzzle of Religious Pluralism	AG, Chs. 14 and 15
12/14	FINAL EXAM, 10:30 AM	