

Understanding the Role of Religion in International Affairs

September 14-16, 2023 (1 credit)

Preliminary Syllabus

Overview

The fundamental religious nature of human beings means that religion will be a perpetual factor in world affairs. Yet this has often been ignored or theorized away in policymaking. How can a Christian perspective on human nature and the role of faith in the lives of individuals and communities inform the fields of national security and international relations? How might this outlook shape the callings of individual Christians, whether as citizens or specialists? What are the religious trends and dynamics that influence international politics and security today?

Schedule

Thursday, September 14, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Friday, September 15, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 16, 9:00-5:00 p.m. (including 1 hour lunch break)

Topics

- A Biblical Outlook on the Nature of Human Beings and Political Order
- Religion and Conflict: Surveying Global Trends
- How Secularization Theory Has Shaped U.S. Foreign Policy
- The Christian Just War Tradition and the Law of Armed Conflict
- Religious Freedom Internationally: Trends, Social Outcomes, and U.S. Policy
- Global Trends in Political Islam
- The Role of Religious Actors in International Relations and Economic Development
- The Evolving Role of Military Chaplains

Assessments

1) Reading Completion 30% (see reading list attached); Due Oct. 1.

2) Writing 50%

- Reading Summaries: Three summaries, two-pages each (double-spaced) of required reading (6 pages total). Further instructions in final syllabus. Due Oct. 1.
- Course Final Paper: Research paper on topic approved by professors, 8-10 pages, double-spaced. Further specifications will be supplied during the course. Due by midnight October 7.

3) Class Participation (20%)

Readings

Please obtain a copy of *Politics in a Religious World: Toward a Religiously Informed U.S. Foreign Policy* by Eric Patterson (New York: Bloomsbury, 2011). Other readings are available on Canvas (noted with *) or via online links below.

Readings by topic:

Religion and Conflict: Surveying Global Trends

- *Politics in a Religious World*, Chapters 1-2.
- Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in *Foreign Affairs*, (Summer 1993).*
- "[The Struggle for Liberty Continues](#)"; "[Was There Really a Clash of Civilizations?](#)"

Overview of Foreign and National Security Policy and How Secularization Theory Has Influenced It in the Past Century

- *Politics in a Religious World*, chapter 3.
- “[The Instruments of National Power](#)” from *The Lightning Press*.
- Jennifer Marshall and Thomas Farr, “Public Diplomacy in an Age of Faith” in Philip Seib, ed. *Toward a New Public Diplomacy* (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2009).*

The Christian Just War Tradition and the Law of Armed Conflict

- Patterson, “The Just War Tradition” in Tim Demy and Jeffrey Shaw, eds. *War and Religion: An Encyclopedia of Faith and Conflict* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2017).*
- Excerpt from *Just War Thinking: Morality and Pragmatism in the Struggle against Contemporary Threats* (Lexington Books, 2009).*
- [Augustine Letter 189 “To Boniface.”](#)
- [Schleithem Confession.](#)

Justice, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation

- Berkley Center [South Africa Case Study](#).
- Jean Bethke Elshtain’s “Just War and an Ethic of Responsibility” in *Ethics At War’s End* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2012).*
- Patterson, *Ending Wars Well* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2012). Ch. 7.*

Religious Freedom Internationally: Trends, Social Outcomes, and U.S. Policy

- Patterson, “Revisiting Religious Freedom as a National Security Lens: The Case of China” in *Review of Faith and International Affairs* vol. 21, no. 1 (Summer 2023).*
- Brian Grim and Roger Finke, *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the 21st Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011). Chapters 1-2.*
- Thomas F. Farr, “Diplomacy in an Age of Faith: Religious Freedom and National Security” in *Foreign Affairs* (2007).*
- *Politics in a Religious World*, chapters 6-7.

Global Trends in Political Islam

- Berkley Center case studies on 1) [Kashmir](#) and 2) [Lebanon](#).
- Cole Bunzel, “From Paper State to Caliphate: The Ideology of the Islamic State,” Brookings Institution, March 2015.*
- Asma Afsaruddin, “Debating Absolutism and Pluralism in Today’s Islam” in Eric Patterson and John P. Gallagher, *Debating the War of Ideas* (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2009).*
- Monica Toft, Daniel Philpott, Timothy Shah, *God’s Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics* (New York: Norton, 2011), chap. 5.*

The Role of Religious Actors in Int’l. Relations, Economic Development, and Peacemaking

- Mark Amstutz, “The Roots of Evangelical Humanitarianism and International Political Advocacy,” in David K. Ryden, ed. *Is the Good Book Good Enough?* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011).*
- Berkley Center Case Studies on 1) [Liberia’s Second Civil War](#), 2) [Mozambique](#).
- Berkley Center report on “[Strategies for Peace](#).”

- David R. Smock (USIP) “[Religious Contributions to Peacemaking: When Religion Brings Peace, Not War.](#)”
- Toft et al., *God’s Century*, chap. 7.*

The Evolving Role of Military Chaplains

- Patterson, *Military Chaplains in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Beyond* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2012). Chapter 1.*

Statesmanship, Christian Realism, and Reinhold Niebuhr

- “The Christian Statesman: Bismarck and Gladstone” in Gordon A. Craig and Alexander L. George, *Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Problems of Our Time*, first ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983).*
- *Christianity and Power Politics Today* (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2009). Chapter 1.*
- Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History* (New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 1952). Chapter 1.*