The George Washington University
PSC 3192W: Religion and Politics

Time: Wednesday, 6:10 – 8:00 pm
Place: Monroe/Hall of Government 102
Professor: Vincent Stine, PhD
Email: vstine@gwu.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Course Description
This course examines the relationship between religion and politics in the United States, from its founding until present day. We will explore the impact of religion on the American political system, including its influence on individual, group and political party behavior, political mobilization, policy formulation and electoral outcomes. In addition, we will examine America’s ‘civil’ religion and new religious/political trends in the United States. After this course, students will understand:

- the foundation and evolution of church-state relations in the United States;
- the role of religion in the public policy arena;
- the influence of religion on the American electoral process; and
- differences between the US and other church-state models.

Commitment to Learning
To gain the most from this class requires that you invest the time and effort necessary to learn the course material. Generally, you will receive 2 hours of direct instruction each week that will include a combination of lecture and class discussion. Outside of class, you should set aside four hours each week to do your readings and other required activities. You should also allocate another five hours to study for each of the exams, four hours to write you policy memo, 10 hours to research and write your essay, 5 hours to critique your fellow student’s first drafts of their research paper, and another 25 hours to research and write your own research paper. If you invest your time properly, you will have a much better learning experience and most likely get a better grade.

Readings:

The following texts are required:

- *Church and State in America: The First Two Centuries, First Edition*, James Hutson
Grading
All graded work must be in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity. There are no extra credit assignments. Your grade is determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-18 page research paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7 page essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 page briefing document</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Exams
There will be a mid-term and final exam. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer questions and an essay question. Exam questions will be derived from the assigned readings and lectures. Since not all lecture material will be from the assigned readings, it’s important to attend class or, if you have to miss, to get the notes from someone else. The final exam is not cumulative.

Course Writing Requirements
This is a Writing in the Disciplines (WID) course, which requires students to write throughout the course. At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- recognize and differentiate various genres of writing and types of audience that are common in Political Science;
- identify, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and employ information resources and/or other forms of supporting evidence appropriate and relevant to scholarly work in Political Science;
- apply critical analytic and evaluative thinking to their writing, through drafting, revising, and/or editing processes appropriate to Political Science; and
- apply critical analytic and evaluative thinking to the work of their classmates through collaborative practices such as peer review that are appropriate to Political Science.

These objectives will be met through three writing assignments: a briefing document/memo; an essay; and a research paper (with peer review and revisions). The assignments follow:

**Paper I: Briefing Document** – This assignment emphasizes brevity, content and readability. You will write a one page, single-spaced memo that provides your Professor with as much information as he needs to understand the topic. The document should be quick to the point so that he can read it on his way to a panel discussion, where he is expected to be conversant on the topic. It needs to be well-organized, well-written, thoughtful, coherent, intelligent, and easily understood.
The title of the briefing document is: “The impact of the Glorious Revolution on American political thought and government.” You will need to use Michael Barone’s book for this assignment. The document, in a memo format, should: (1) briefly describe the revolution; (2) provide the context and importance of the revolution; (3) discuss its impact on American politics and political institutions; and (4) identify key talking points that highlight the influence of the revolution on the formation of the American Republic. There is no need for citations in this document.

**Paper II: Essay** – The second assignment is a 5-7 page essay. It will require some research and analysis. In this paper, you will give your opinion on the following question: Should the US serve as “A City upon a Hill”? Your perspective should be introduced in the beginning, substantiated in the middle and completely apparent in the end.

Your paper should include: (1) an introductory statement that highlights your point of view and the key points you want to make; (2) a text that substantiates the key points made in the introductory statement; and (3) a conclusion that ties together the main arguments that conveys a rationale as to why someone should support your position.

**Paper III: Research Paper** – Whereas an essay is based on your opinion, a research paper is objective. For your research paper, you will examine the impact of religion on a presidential election. You will need to: (1) identify a presidential election where religion played a significant role; (2) discuss the role of religion within the election; (3) discuss each party’s response; (4) discuss the views of key religious groups and organizations; and (5) analyze the overall impact of religion on the election.

The Research Paper assignment will involve multiple elements. The first element will be to provide an 8-page initial draft document for peer (in-class) review by March 28th. You will turn-in a hard copy of your draft, as well as e-mail a draft to me to distribute to your classmates. The following week, on April 4th, class time will be set aside for you to offer suggestions on how your classmates can improve their papers, as well as receive input on your own. A typed copy of your critique of your classmate’s work should be turned in at the beginning of class on April 4th. The comments you receive from your classmates should help you revise and improve your research paper, which will be due on April 18th.

**Student Responsibilities**

Read all the assignments in advance so that we may discuss them in class. Come to class prepared and take good notes. Class attendance and participation is expected and will be taken into consideration when determining final grades on the margin.
Course Outline

Week 1 – January 17 – The Reformation: Religion and the State
Corbett Chapter 1

Week 2 – January 24 – English Church-State Relations
Barone Chapters 1-10; Hutson Chapter 1

Week 3 – January 31 – Religion in Colonial America
Corbett Chapter 2; Hutson Chapter 2; Read John Winthrop’s sermon “A Model of Christian Charity” [http://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html]

Week 4 – February 7 – The American Experiment (Paper I due)
Hutson Chapters 3-4

Week 5 – February 14 – The Religious Marketplace and Moral Reforms
Hutson Chapter 4 (pages 163-188)

Week 6 – February 21 – The Changing Political Landscape Parts I & II
Corbett Chapters 3 & 4 (Paper II due)

Week 7 – February 28 – Mid-Term

Week 8 – March 7 – US Political Parties & Voting Behavior
Corbert Chapters 7-9

Week 9 – March 14 – Spring Break

Week 10 – March 21 – Religion and US Elections
President Ronald Reagan’s 1983 speech before the National Association of Evangelicals Convention [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7bUye1CpfE]

Week 11 – March 28 – American Civil Religion and the Presidency (Draft of Paper III due)

Week 12 – April 4 -- Peer Review of Draft Papers

Week 13 – April 11 – Religious Group Lobbying
Corbert Chapter 10
Week 14 – April 18 – Religion and Foreign Policy (Paper III due)

Week 15 – April 25 - Comparative Church-State Models
Soper, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7

Final Exam (Between May 7 - 15)

Academic Integrity
All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with, and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams. Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at [http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html).

Tips of Writing for Political Science Webpage
The Department has a webpage on its site [http://politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/types-political-science-writing](http://politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/types-political-science-writing) with tips on how to write for the political science field. You may consult this page if you have questions as well as contact me directly.

Support for Students with Disabilities
GW’s Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Additional information is available at [www.gwu.edu/~dss](http://www.gwu.edu/~dss).

University Counseling Center 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals
  http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

**In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class**
If we experience an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. If we must leave the classroom, we will meet at the corner of 20th and G Street to account for everyone and to make certain that everyone is safe. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University’s operating status: http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/.