

**HON 105 Honors Core: Social Sciences  
Religion in the World: Struggles for Control**

**Fall, 2005 (Call #13665)  
Dr. Graber**

**National governments and religious organizations are, arguably, the most powerful institutions in today's world. What they do and how they interact affects the lives of every one in modern societies. Contemporary world politics makes it amply clear that many major political developments are intertwined with the activities of religious organizations and their followers. How do political authorities and religious leaders resolve their often clashing interests? The answers differ for the world's major religions and vary depending on the political contexts in which interactions take place. In this course, we will explore the profound political and religious consequences for states and their citizens in selected countries throughout the world when governments and religious organizations struggle over control of public policies. Our focus will be on formal and informal interrelations between governments and their citizens and religious organizations and their followers and the political settings that affect these interactions in the twenty-first century.**

**Required texts for this course are:**

**Ted Gerard Jelen and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002.**

**Mark Juergensmeyer, ed. Global Religions: An Introduction. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.**

**Mark Juergensmeyer, The New Cold War? Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994.**

**Kenneth D. Wald, Religion and Politics in the United States. 4th edition. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.**

**Testing Procedures:**

**There will be three examinations, each covering a five-week segment of the course. There will be no comprehensive final examination. The examinations have been scheduled tentatively for September 22nd, October 27th and December 1st. Each will count for 20 percent of your grade. Make-ups for missed exams will be given on December 8th, 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

**The remaining 40 percent of your grade will be based on two short papers. Details about the papers will be discussed in class. The first paper is due on October 11th, at the start of the eighth week of the course; the second paper is due on November 15th, at the start of the thirteenth week of the course. Plan on presenting a brief overview of your papers in class. You may revise each paper after you have presented it. Finished papers are due one week after your presentation date. You will receive credit for excellence in contributions to class discussion.**

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### Tentative Time Schedule and Reading Assignments

All assignments should be completed by the date listed in the outline.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
8-25	1. Points of contact between religious institutions and the state	Wald: Preface, 1, 2
8-30	2. Religion in global perspective; the rise of religious nationalism	Global: 1, 9, 10, 11 New: Introduction
9-6	3. God & Caesar in Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism & others	Global: 2-8
9-13	4. The religious dimensions of political behavior within the unique U.S. setting	Wald: 5, 6
9-20 Exam, 9-22	5. Inter-and intra-religious conflicts; reasons for violence	New: 1, 2, 6
9-27	6. What are the positives and the negatives when religion enters the public square?	Jelen: 1, 13, 14 Wald: 9
10-4	7. The politics of separation of church and state	Wald: 3, 4 Jelen: 4
10-11	8. In-class presentation of student reports	
10-18	9. Theocracies, official state churches, trans-national activities	New: 7 Jelen: 5, 6, 7
10-25 Exam, 10-27	10. Religion in atheistic societies; Marxism and the social gospel	New: 5 Jelen 2, 9
11-1	11. Impact of religions on domestic public policies: Europe, India, Central America	Jelen: 3, 8, 10, 11
11-8	12. Impact of religions on domestic public policies: U.S. denominations	Wald: 7, 8
11-15	13. In-class presentation of student reports	
11-22	14. Impact of religion on foreign policies nationalist movements	New: 3, 4 Jelen: 12

**11-29**  
**Exam, 12-1**

**15. Religion as a factor in revolutions, wars  
and peace movements**

**New: conclusion**  
**Outside reading**