

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

Fall, 2006 (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:**

Eric O. Hanson, Religion and Politics in the International System Today. New York:  
Cambridge University Press, 2006.

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

Kenneth D. Wald and Allison Calhoun-Brown, Religion and Politics in the United States.  
5th edition. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

**Testing Procedures:**

To test your comprehension of the assigned readings, you will write a brief (500 words or less) essay each week that deals with selected issues raised in the text. Essays are due every Tuesday at the start of class and will be graded on a 4-point scale with fractions for plusses and minuses. If you complete all eleven essays, the essay with the lowest grade will be dropped from your score. There is a penalty of one-grade point per week for late submissions. Cumulatively, your ten best essays will count for 60 percent of your grade.

A ten to fifteen page term paper due at the start of class on December 5th will count for 30 percent of your grade. The term paper is your opportunity to explore a topic of your choice in greater depth. We will be covering the interface of religion and politics from many different vantage points so that the treatment of many topics will be brief. As we move along, make a list of topics that seem particularly interesting so that you have several choices when it comes to focusing on a term paper. Your instructor will guide you in selecting a topic that can be researched easily and covered satisfactorily in ten to fifteen pages. Please submit an outline of your planned paper after the tenth week of the course and no later than November 21<sup>st</sup>. Plan on presenting a brief overview of your papers in class. Ten percent of your grade will be based on the quality of your participation in class discussions. This class is a collective venture. We will share insights and work together!

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**Tentative Time Schedule and Reading Assignments**

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
8-29	1. The impact of economic power, military power, and communication systems on religion and politics	Hanson: Intro, ch.1
9-05	2. Political and religious perspectives in the modern world; the religions of the book and public life	Hanson: ch. 2, 3, 4
9-12	3. The West: Protestants, Catholics and Jews; East Asia: China, Japan and Korea	Hanson: ch. 5, 6
9-19	4. South and Central Asia: Gandhi, Khomeini, Hussein; the Middle East and North Africa: Islamic politics	Hanson: ch. 7, 8
9-26	5. Latin America: Indigenous religions and Christianity; alliance formation; global comparisons	Hanson: ch. 9, 10
10-03	6. The puzzle of religious vitality in the modern world; patterns of religious affiliation in the U.S.	Wald: Preface, ch. 1, 2, 3
10-10	7. The genesis of church-state conflict in the U.S.; separation and accommodation periods	Wald: ch. 4, 5
10-17	8. Religion and political action; partisan political alignments; public opinion and culture war issues	Wald: ch. 6, 7
10-24	9. The political mobilization of Evangelical Protestants; mainline Protestants; transformation of Catholic attitudes	Wald: ch. 8, 9
10-31	10. Religion and politics of minorities: ethnics, women, gays	Wald: ch. 10, 11, 12
11-07	11. The Catholic church in democratic Poland, in the republic of Ireland and in Portugal and Spain	Jelen: ch. 1, 2, 3, 4
11-14	12. The religious dimensions of politics in Israel, in Iran, Egypt, Algeria and Lebanon and in secular Europe	Jelen: ch. 5, 6, 7, 8
11-21	13. Religion and democracy in South and Central America; Hindu nationalism; Japan's major religions	Jelen: ch. 9, 10, 11, 12
11-28	14. Religious mobilization in religiously diverse societies Religious market structures and competition	Jelen: ch. 13, 14
12-05	15. Selected term paper presentations and discussion	Term paper prep.