1 Instructor Information

J. Tobin Grant, Professor
Phone: 618.453.3167
Email: grant@siu.edu
Office: Faner 3124
Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 M,T,Tr

2 Course Description

Examines the connection between religious beliefs and institutions and political beliefs and institutions.

3 How the Online Course Works

This online course covers the same material as a traditional, on-campus course.

3.1 SIU Online/Desire2Learn “D2L”

The course uses SIU Online’s program “Desire2Learn” or “D2L” to provide you with everything you need for this course. I will provide all of the quizzes, exams, instructions for assignments, and links to outside websites through D2L. If you can’t find the material, email me. I’ll be happy to help you find it.

3.2 Modules

The course is divided into four modules. Even though this is an online course that allows you to work at your own pace there are deadlines. Each module covers four weeks of material. You have four weeks to complete each module. In other words, you have a lot of freedom during each module on when you do what, but you have a deadline to complete all of the work for each module.

3.3 “Lectures”

Each module is broken into units. For each unit, I will post a short video discussing the major theme and comment on some of the ways the readings and videos speak to this theme.
3.4 Readings & Media

3.4.1 Books

There are four books required for this course:


3.4.2 Additional Readings

There are a few readings outside those in the book. I will post these on D2L, or I will provide a link to the document.

3.4.3 Videos

One of the best parts of an online course is the ability to integrate lectures and other video content. Most sections of the course include videos to watch.

3.5 Module Exams (or you can think of them as papers)

The most important assessment of your learning in the course is the exam. There are four essay exams. Each exam covers only the material from its module. The format of the exam is an essay. I will provide you with a set of questions. You can choose which question to answer. The essay will be graded on your ability to integrate the material from the module into an essay that answers your chosen question.

3.6 Course Paper: Observing Religion and Politics

One of the best parts of a course on religion and politics is that it is something you can see and experience first-hand. You will study five religious communities by examining their websites and by attending their religious services. You will study five types of communities:

- An evangelical Protestant church
- A Mainline Protestant church
- A black Protestant church
- A Catholic parish
A community of your choice that is neither Protestant nor Catholic (e.g., Jewish, Muslim, or Mormon)

Your paper will integrate material from the course with your own observations. This paper is considered the final exam for this course.

4 Student Learning and Assessment

4.1 Learning Objectives

1. To know the basic features of the U.S. religious market, constitutional theories on religion, major religious traditions, and the intersection of religion and politics.

2. To think critically about the role of religion in the polity and of politics in the religious market.

3. To analyze religion and politics through original research.

4.2 Assessment, i.e. how you’ll be graded and why

Module Exams: 60% (or 15% per exam)

There will be four exams. Each exam will be an essay exam. Each exam is equally weighted. Exams are not cumulative; each exam covers material just from its module.

There is one exam per module. Each exam must be completed by noon on the deadline for the module.

The exams will be used to evaluate Objectives 1 and 2.

Course Paper: 40%

To understand religion and politics, you need to experience it in action. To do this, you will have observe five religious communities. For each church, you will:

- Attend and observe a religious meeting
- Take detailed notes on worksheets, and
- Write a two page (single-spaced) essay based on your observations.
- Integrate your five essays into a single, coherent essay that compares and contrasts the role of politics in these religious communities.

Your grade will depend on the detail in your notes and an essay evaluating the meeting in a way that incorporates themes from the course with your observations.

The observation projects will be used to evaluate Objectives 2 and 3.
Deadlines and Grace Periods

Emergencies, technological issues, and other life events sometimes make it impossible to complete tasks by the deadline. Here is how I deal with these:

- All students have a deadline to complete all tasks for the module. The exam is due at noon of the last day of the module. The course paper is due at the start of finals week.

- If an emergency arises before the deadline, I will work with the student and find an appropriate accommodation. In most cases, a little more time is all that is required.

- Because many delays are minor, I give all students a grace period. The grace period extends from the deadline until noon on the Monday after the module ends. Any tasks completed during the grace period are not considered late.

- The grace period is a grace period. It is a time after the deadline. As such, any emergencies that occur during the grace period are not excused. I will only consider emergencies that occur before the deadline. If you wait until after the deadline to complete your work, and an emergency occurs, then the consequence will be that your tasks will receive zero credit.

5 General Policies

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any case of misconduct will result in a severe penalty, from zero credit for the assignment to failure for the course and a recommendation for university punishment.

If you have a disability or other issue that will affect how you learn, you must tell me at the start of class so that I can make appropriate accommodations.

As the instructor, I reserve the right to change the details of the class as necessary.
6 Modules

Module 1: January 14 - February 8

1.1 What is Religion?
- Watch the lecture video for 1.1 What is Religion?
- Read Fowler et al. Ch. 12
- Read Lambert Introduction
- Watch Video: Jonathan Walton Stop Worrying and Start Sowing! The Ethics of a ‘Recession-Proof’ Gospel

1.2 Religion in Early America
- Watch the lecture video for 1.2 Religion in Early America
- Read Lambert Ch. 1
- Read Fowler et al. Ch. 1

1.3 Religious Changes in America
- Watch the lecture video for 1.3 Religious Changes in America
- Read Putnam & Campbell Ch. 3
- Read Putnam & Campbell Ch. 4

1.4 Women, Religion, and Politics
- Watch the lecture video for 1.4 Women, Religion, and Politics
- Read Fowler et al. Ch. 11
- Read Putnam & Campbell ch. 8
- Watch Video: Amina Wadud on Feminism in Islam
- Watch Video: The Gender Gap in Christian Leadership
- Watch Video: More Than One Calling

Exam must be submitted before February 8, 12:01pm CT
Module 2: February 11 - March 8

2.1 Theology and Philosophy of Religious Liberty
- Watch the lecture video for 2.1 Theology and Philosophy of Religious Liberty
- Read Witte and Nichols ch. 2 & 3

2.2 Debating the First Amendment
- Watch the lecture video for 2.2 Debating the First Amendment
- Read Witte and Nichols ch. 4

2.3 ‘Free Exercise’ and ‘Establishment’
- Watch the lecture video for 2.3 ‘Free Exercise’ and ‘Establishment’
- Read Witte and Nichols ch. 6 & 7
- Watch Video: [Circumcision Ban: Violating Religious Freedom?](#)

2.4 Separation of Religion and Public Life
- Watch the lecture video for 2.4 Separation of Religion and Public Life
- Read Witte and Nichols ch. 10
- Read Witte and Nichols ch. 11
- Watch Video: [In Rural Virginia, Furo Erupts Over The Ten Commandments](#)

*Exam must be submitted before March 8, 12:01pm CT*
Module 3: March 11 - April 5

3.1 Evangelical and Mainline Protestantism
- Watch the lecture video for 3.1 Evangelical and Mainline Protestantism
- Read Lambert Ch. 2 and 4
- Read Fowler et al. Ch. 2
- Read Putnam & Campbell Ch. 2, pp. 180-195, and pp. 320-334

3.2 Black Protestantism
- Watch the lecture video for 3.2 Black Protestantism
- Read Lambert Ch. 6
- Read Fowler et al. Ch. 10
- Read Putnam & Campbell 195-211
- Watch Video: Derrick Harkins Aims for Inclusiveness as Faith Outreach Director of the DNC
- Watch Video: A House Divided: The Black Church and Gay Marriage

3.3 Catholicism
- Watch the lecture video for 3.3 Catholicism
- Read Putnam & Campbell 211-230
- Watch Video: The Complexities of the Catholic Vote
- Watch Video: What Would Jesus Do About the Budget?
- Watch Video: US Nuns and the Vatican Clash
- Watch Video: Archbishop William Lori Talks Religious Liberty

3.4 Judaism
- Watch the lecture video for 3.4 Judaism
- Read Fowler et al. ch. 3
- Watch Video: 2012 Jewish Values Survey
- Read Putnam & Campbell 334-351
3.5 Islam
- Watch the lecture video for 3.5 Islam
- Watch Video: Faith in Perspective: Muslim Identity in America
- Watch Video: Faith in Perspective: Muslim Misconceptions
- Watch Video: Sunni and Shi’a: An Exploration of Two Branches of Islam

3.6 Latter Day Saints or Mormonism
- Watch the lecture video for 3.6 Latter Day Saints or Mormonism
- Watch Video: The Long Approach to the Mormon Moment: The Building of an American Church
- Watch Video: Robert Jeffress: Mormonism Is A Cult, But A ’Theological Cult’
- Read Putnam & Campbell 351-368

3.7 Seculars or the ‘Nones’
- Watch the lecture video for 3.7 Seculars or the ‘Nones’
- Read Pew Report on Rise of the ‘Nones’
- Watch Video: The Politics of Spiritual but Not Religious
- Watch Video: Room in the Foxhole?

Exam must be submitted before April 5, 12:01pm CT
Module 4: April 8 - May 3

4.1 Religion and American Political Culture

- Watch the lecture video for 4.1 Religion and American Political Culture
- Read Fowler et al. Ch. 7
- Watch Video: George F. Will Religion and Politics in the First Modern Nation
- Watch Video: Barry W. Lynn Its Religion, Stupid, Not the Economy

4.2 Religion and Elections

- Watch the lecture video for 4.2 Religion and Elections
- Fowler et al. ch. 4
- Watch Video: 2012 Election: Faith on the Record 1
- Watch Video: 2012 Election: Faith on the Record 2
- Watch Video: Conversation with Political Scientist John Green

4.3 Religious-Political Movements

- Watch the lecture video for 4.3 Religious-Political Movements
- Fowler et al. ch. 5 and 8
- Read Lambert Ch. 7
- Read Lambert Ch. 5 & 8
- Watch Video: How an Evangelical Republican Became the Deputy Director of Faith Outreach for the DNC
- Watch Video: Andrew Preston The Religious Influence in American War and Diplomacy: A History

4.4 Religion of Political Leaders

- Watch the lecture video for 4.4 Religion of Political Leaders
- Fowler et al. ch. 6
- Watch Video: The Primary Source: JFK's 1960 Speech
- Watch Video: Defending His Faith: President Obama and the Politics of Religion

Exam must be submitted before May 3, 12:01pm CT

Course Paper is due May 5, 12:01pm CT