Course Overview

The American political story cannot be fully understood without understanding our country’s religious history and politics. In this course we will exam religion and its impact on American politics. This course will offer students a complete, revealing, and very challenging portrait of religion in America politics. It is important – even critical – to study and understand the impact and the symbiotic relationship between religion and politics in the United States. Students will journey deep inside the tumultuous 400-year history of the intersection of religion and politics in America.

Course Materials


Course Goals

This course will give an overview of the influence of religion on politics in the US. The primary question addressed in this class is “what is the proper role of religion in public life.” Several topics will be addressed that look at this question in different ways. We will discuss the ideas that influenced the founders on this topic, the religious freedom clauses of the 1st Amendment and related court cases, the role of religion in US political history, public policies related to religion, and how religion influences political behavior with particular attention paid to certain religious groups. By the end of this course you are expected to be able to thoughtfully analyze issues regarding religion and politics and be able to cogently express this analysis through written and verbal communication.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

Because this course is primarily a reading seminar, class attendance and participation are crucial. Everyone is expected to complete the reading before class every week and to contribute actively to class discussions. "Cold calls" may sometimes be used, although comments contributed will only help, and not hurt, one’s participation grade.

The successful student will write four brief response papers (about 1000 words) that critically discuss one of ten questions (see below). You may also write more than five papers and drop the least successful one from your grade. To ensure
unbiased grading, please put your name on a separate page at the end of the paper. Do not email your papers to me. Please print them and bring to the class on the assigned due date.

There will be a comprehensive online (take-home) final exam. This exam will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions. This exam will be based primarily upon the reading assignments and your class notes.

**Student Performance Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Instrument</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Assessment Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Each Scheduled Class Meeting MWF 1:00 to 1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper # 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>September 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper # 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper # 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper # 4</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>December 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Requirements for Paper Assignments**

1. Each of your four papers must address one of these ten questions.

1. What democratic overtones existed in early expressions of both Puritan and evangelical Protestantism in America? How did religion penetrate early American political thought?

2. Thomas Jefferson and the evangelical Baptists of Virginia set aside their differences and together defend a belief they shared: the right to worship freely. Why did Jefferson argue for religious liberty? Why do the Baptists? What are the similarities and differences in their views?

3. What does the First Amendment say about religion? How do its words contribute to sustaining American religion? What do you think Thomas Jefferson’s famous phrase “wall of separation between church and state” means?

4. Who really won the Scopes Trial? The trial is described as representing “one of the deepest and most persistent conflicts of modern American culture.” How
does the 1925 conflict compare to current religion and science divides in American politics?
5. How is the First Amendment tested in contemporary politics? What is at issue in the 1st Amendment cases? Why did the Court rule as it did? What events and circumstances in the larger world encouraged the Court to move in the direction of protecting religious minorities?
6. Why did conservative evangelicals reject political engagement for decades, and why did they reenter politics?
7. We will compare Republican presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, their religious rhetoric, their outreach to evangelicals, and their policy achievements on behalf of conservative evangelicals. What were the similarities and differences between them?
8. How does religion guide political choices or your thinking about social issues?
9. Has Barack Obama articulated a new political consensus about the relationship between faith and power in America?
10. Is the United States a Christian nation? In the midst of great religious diversity how does the country find national unity?

2. 12 point font – 1 inch margins – double spaced – printed and turned in on the due date. Late papers will be docked a letter grade for each day late.

3. Put your name on the cover page only.

4. Cite your work. Using ideas that are not your own without proper citation is plagiarism.

5. Be careful about using internet sources. Make sure it is a legitimate source before using. Wikipedia.com can be a great resource for finding information quickly and cheaply, but since there is no review process for the information it provides, you may not cite it as a resource for a paper.

6. Use formal writing style—No first person. No contractions.

7. No fancy covers are needed, but PLEASE STAPLE.

8. Points will be deducted for the following reasons: a. Not following the page requirements. b. Not following the format requirements listed above. c. Grammatical errors, including misspelled words and poorly written sentences. d. Not having a clearly stated, and specific, thesis statement. e. Not presenting a persuasive argument in defense of your thesis.

**Academic Etiquette:** Students are expected to observe proper etiquette in class. Disruptions, such as talking to a classmate must be avoided. I expect all students to maintain a high level of professionalism in their classroom conduct with me, and with their fellow students. This means coming to class on time, being respectful during class discussions and in all communications with me and others. Rude behavior will not be tolerated. Any student who acts in such an inappropriate manner may be asked to leave the class.
**Course Milestones and Outline**

Course Outline: Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and will be posted to the course calendar and in Blackboard. Please be sure you read the correct chapters in advance of the designated class dates.

While I will periodically remind students of upcoming scheduled events, it is your responsibility to be familiar with this schedule and any changes to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>DISCUSSION TOPIC AND READINGS</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27 - 31</td>
<td>“A Model of Christian Charity” by John Winthrop - The Puritan Experiment</td>
<td>Religion in the American Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3 – 7</td>
<td>Religious Individualism and Anne Hutchinson</td>
<td>Religion in the American Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1 – 5</td>
<td>A New Light - Israel in America - Heresy, Higher Criticism, and Holy Scripture - The Age of Fundamentalism -</td>
<td>Continuity and Change in the Religious Center: Catholics, Mainline Protestants, &amp; Jews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 8 – 12</td>
<td>The 1925 Scopes evolution trial</td>
<td>The Political Mobilization of Evangelical Protestants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15 – 19</td>
<td>Soul Of A Nation Christianity and Cold War America</td>
<td>The Political Mobilization of Evangelical Protestants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 22 – 26</td>
<td>“What Kind of America I Believe In”</td>
<td>Religion and Political Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 29 – Nov 2</td>
<td>“Equal Souls, Equal Votes”</td>
<td>Religion and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

#### Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include: Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade) Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Political Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 5 – 9</td>
<td>Of God and Caesar - “I Endorse You”</td>
<td>Mobilizing Religious Interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 12 – 16</td>
<td>A New Religious and Political America</td>
<td>Religion and American Political Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Religion in the White House</td>
<td>Religion and Public Opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 22 – 25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays – be safe!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 3 – 7</td>
<td>Public Policies Impacted by Religious Politics</td>
<td>The Other Minorities: Women and Gay People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

#### Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include: Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade) Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

#### Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include: Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade) Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

#### Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include: Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade) Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course Drop Policy Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit.

If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.