

# Syllabus

POT 4632

Religion and Politics

Dr. Terri Susan Fine

Spring 2008

Section	Location	Time	Credit Hours
0001	CL 1 105	7:30-8:45am	3

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## Instructor Contact:

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Terri Susan Fine
<b>Office</b>	Phillips Hall 302K
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesday and Thursday 12-1:30pm and by appointment
<b>Phone</b>	407-823-2081
<b>Course mail</b>	Available through the "mail" function on the course home page. Contacting me through the "mail" function insures that I know in which course you are enrolled.
<b>Personal e-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:tfine@mail.ucf.edu">tfine@mail.ucf.edu</a> <b>Note:</b> E-mail to this personal account is to be used for emergencies only (i.e. if you have no Internet access);  All regular communication must go through "course mail". Non-emergency e-mail submitted to my personal account will not receive a response.
<b>Course page</b>	Available through Webcourses

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## ● Course Description:

This course will look at religion and politics in the United States and Israel from three interrelated perspectives:

- a) What are the theoretical religious foundations for the founding of each country? What does it mean to be a democracy devoted to religious freedom when those founders are members of the same religious group and the founding of the country was based on religious motivations including escaping religious persecution?
- b) What are the core religion-based public policies in effect or under consideration in each nation-state? How does the policy making and implementation process work in each nation-state to bring about religion-based policy? What constitute the core intra-state and inter-state conflicts surrounding these religion based public policies or policy proposals?
- c) How does religion motivate and impact political behavior in each nation-state? How does religion impact who has political power? How does religion motivate power-seeking behavior in each nation-state?

Why look at the United States and Israel?

The United States and Israel are similar and different in ways that warrant their comparison within the context of religion and politics. Both countries were founded by homogeneous religious groups seeking refuge from religious persecution. Both countries claim to be democracies while at the same time it is clear that one religious group dominates the political system in each nation-state. Religion is also a prime motivator and influence on political behavior in each state and, as a result, how each political system functions, including party structures, electoral outcomes, campaign strategies, voter mobilization and other grassroots efforts, are all affected by religious commitments in each country. The relationship between Israel and the United States has also impacted political behavior at the mass and elite levels in both countries. This relationship, and the consequences for each country, will also be examined.

**Course Goals:** The primary goals of this course are to understand the relationship between religion and politics in democratic theocracies from four core perspectives: Theoretical orientations, mass-level participation, elite behavior, and public policy. The course will focus on this relationship in the United States and in Israel.

**Course Objectives:** At the end of this course, you will be able to develop approaches to analyzing the relationship between religion and politics in democratic theocracies, and critique the role that religion plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy. You will also be able to evaluate

how religion and politics affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.

The course texts is: Religion and Politics in the United States (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Additional readings will be assigned; these readings will be accessible through the UCF Library homepage, as reserve readings, or will be provided to you as electronic files.

### ●Class Requirements:

Readings should be completed for the day listed because they form the foundation for class lecture and discussion. The better prepared you are for class, the richer your experience will be. There will be two in class examinations (short answer/essay), a final examination, short reaction papers, and a research paper. You will also make a class presentation (working in teams) on a course-related issue. The examinations are not cumulative.

Midterm Examinations	25% highest exam score 20% lowest exam score
Lou Frey Reaction Paper/Alternative Assignment	5%
Reaction Papers	20%
Class Presentation	10%
Research Paper	20%

**All examinations must be taken and the research paper must be submitted. Failure to take any examination or submit the final paper without a valid, documented medical or other reasonable excuse will automatically result in an F for the course. Makeup examinations for excused absences will be arranged with the instructor.**

Attendance will be taken regularly. Two missed class periods are allowed without penalty. Unreasonably late arrival and early departure count as absences; this means that arriving late for class or leaving before class is dismissed are considered absences. Partial credit is not given for partial attendance on any given day. It is best to "save" your absences as you may find that emergencies arise after you have "used up" your allowed absences for non-emergency reasons.

All work must be made up for excused absences (beyond those allowed); alternative assignments will be provided in order to make up for excused absences beyond those allowed. Alternative assignments may be completed provided that the instructor is notified within 48 hours of a missed class day or assignment deadline. The 48 hour requirement does not apply if it can be documented that notifying the instructor within the 48 hour window was impossible.

One half overall final letter grade will be taken for each unexcused class. In other words, two unexcused absences after the first two will calculate to a full letter grade (i.e. B to C) penalty in the final grade. Attendance will be taken beginning Tuesday January 15.

Students are responsible for any materials covered in class. A short meeting with the instructor to review any announcements or questions is encouraged for those whose absences are excused; such an option is not available for students with unexcused absences. Students who miss class for any reason are encouraged to meet with at least two other students to get notes and other needed materials.

Papers, exams and other materials may be picked up during regular office hours if class is missed on the days that such materials are returned. .

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### ● Plus/Minus Grading:

This course will be graded using plus/minus grading. Your recorded final grade will be one of the following: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. There will be no A+, F+ or F-.

Your transcript will reflect the calculation of grade points accordingly:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
A	4.00
A-	3.75
B+	3.25
B	3.00
B-	2.75
C+	2.25
C	2.00
C-	1.75
D+	1.25
D	1.00
D-	.75
F	0.00

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## ● Student Code of Conduct:

### **The Golden Rule:**

Students must follow the University standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in *The Golden Rule*. Students are apprised when they are accepted at the University that they must be aware of and follow these policies of conduct. See <http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/> for details.

### **Common Courtesy:**

No side conversations, cell phones, beepers, personal stereos or other disruptive activities. This includes shuffling books or papers before class is dismissed or otherwise partaking in activities considered unprofessional in a classroom setting.

### **Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please make certain that all assignments and examinations are completed individually and that these assignments are completed for this course **only**. Please let me know if you have questions about this policy.

### **Disability Access Statement:**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term. A revised syllabus may be issued at my discretion. Readings and assignments should be completed for the day listed.

Please see me if you have any problems about the reading load, tips on getting the most from your reading, or the course in general. My office hours are listed above.

## Schedule

Class Week	Assigned Reading	Assignments	Notes
	<b>Democratic Theocracies in the United States and Israel</b>		
January 8-10	Ghanem, Rouhana and Yiftachel, "Questioning Ethnic Democracy" Sammy Smooha, "The Model of Ethnic Democracy" Wald, Silverman and Fridy, "Making Sense of Religion in Political Life"		
January 15-17	Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 1 Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 2	Syllabus Quiz January 15  Note: Quiz is worth up to 5 extra points on either, but not both, midterm examinations.	
January 22-24	Book of Genesis, Chapter 13 (any version is acceptable) Herzl, <u>The Jewish State</u> (Preface, Introduction, The Jewish Question, Conclusion) Herzl, "First Congress Address" Nordau, "Speech to the First Zionist Congress." Nordau, "Zionism" The Covenant of the Islamic		

	Resistance Movement/Hamas Charter The Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel Palestinian National Charter		
January 29-31	Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 3 Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 4 The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America The United States Constitution/Amendments 1 and 14 “Letter from the Danbury Baptist Association to Thomas Jefferson” (October 7, 1801) “Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptists” (January 1, 1802)  Reynolds v. U.S. 98 U.S. 1456 (1878) Davis v. Beason 133 U.S. 333 (1898) Church of the Lukumi Babal U Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah, Florida 91 U.S. 948 (1993) Wisconsin v. Yoder 406 U.S. 205 (1972) Engel v. Vitale 370 U.S. 421 (1962) Lemon v. Kurtzman 403 U.S. 602 (1971)		January 29 Class cancelled University Open Instructor Away

	<p>Heffron v. International Society for Krishna Consciousness 452 U.S. 640 (1989)</p>		
<p>February 5-7</p>	<p>Continue:</p> <p>Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 3</p> <p>Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 4</p> <p>The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America</p> <p>The United States Constitution/Amendments 1 and 14</p> <p>“Letter from the Danbury Baptist Association to Thomas Jefferson” (October 7, 1801)</p> <p>“Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptists” (January 1, 1802)</p> <p>Reynolds v. U.S. 98 U.S. 1456 (1878)</p> <p>Davis v. Beason 133 U.S. 333 (1898)</p> <p>Church of the Lukumi Babal U Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah, Florida 91 U.S. 948 (1993)</p> <p>Wisconsin v. Yoder 406 U.S. 205 (1972)</p> <p>Engel v. Vitale 370 U.S. 421 (1962)</p> <p>Lemon v. Kurtzman 403 U.S. 602 (1971)</p>		<p>February 7: Presentations</p>



	<p>Heffron v. International Society for Krishna Consciousness 452 U.S. 640 (1989)</p>		
<p>February 12-14</p>	<p>Continue:</p> <p>Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 3</p> <p>Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 4</p> <p>The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America</p> <p>The United States Constitution/Amendments 1 and 14</p> <p>“Letter from the Danbury Baptist Association to Thomas Jefferson” (October 7, 1801)</p> <p>“Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptists” (January 1, 1802)</p> <p>Reynolds v. U.S. 98 U.S. 1456 (1878)</p> <p>Davis v. Beason 133 U.S. 333 (1898)</p> <p>Church of the Lukumi Babal U Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah, Florida 91 U.S. 948 (1993)</p> <p>Wisconsin v. Yoder 406 U.S. 205 (1972)</p> <p>Engel v. Vitale 370 U.S. 421 (1962)</p> <p>Lemon v. Kurtzman 403 U.S. 602 (1971)</p>		<p>Midterm Examination 1 Review</p> <p>February 14</p>

	Heffron v. International Society for Krishna Consciousness 452 U.S. 640 (1989)		
February 19-21	No Assigned Reading	February 19 Midterm Examination 1	February 21 Class Cancelled University Open Instructor Away  February 21 Reaction Paper #1 Due, 11pm via WebCourses
	<b>Religion and Political Behavior</b>		
February 26-28	Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 5  Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 6		
March 4-6	Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 7  Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 8  Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 9		March 6: Presentations
March 11-13	<i>No Assigned Reading</i>		<i>Enjoy your Spring Break</i>
March 18-20	Continue: Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 7  Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 8  Wald and Calhoun-Brown Chapter 9		March 20 Final Paper Overview  March 20: Presentations

March 25-27	Wald and Shye, "Religious Influence in Electoral Behavior" Arian and Shamir, "Candidates, Parties and Blocs" Frisch, "Stability Amidst Flux"		March 27 Reaction Paper #2 Due, 11pm via WebCourses
March 31			Lou Frey Institute (www.loufrey.org)
April 1-3			April 1 Midterm Examination 2 Review  Midterm 2 will cover all material since February 26  April 3 Midterm Examination 2
	<b>Religion and Public Policy</b>		
April 8-10	No Assigned Reading	Religion and Public Policy in the United States:  Marriage and Divorce  Religious Holidays as Secular Holidays  Employment Issues	April 10: Presentations  April 11 Lou Frey Reaction Paper Due, 11pm via WebCourses
April 15-17		Religion and Public Policy in Israel:	

		The Military Citizenship "Women of the Wall" National Symbols	
April 22 (Tuesday)			Final Paper due by 11pm via WebCourses

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## Grading and Assessment

### Assessment Rubric

<b>Formative Assessment</b>	<b>Course Objectives Met</b>
Midterm Examinations	Analyze the relationship between religion and politics in democratic theocracies  Critique the role that religion plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy  Evaluate how religion and politics affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.
Presentation	Understand how religion and politics affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.
Research Paper	Understand how religion and politics affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.
Reaction Papers	Analyze the relationship between religion and

	<p>politics in democratic theocracies</p> <p>Critique the role that religion plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy</p> <p>Evaluate how religion and politics affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions</p>
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### Grading Procedures

Final grades are determined through the use of the following letter grades: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. Grades of A+, F+ and F- are not used.

Numerical grades compute into letter grades as follows:

Grade	Score Range
A	95 and up
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Numerical grades will be determined for all examinations and discussion questions, and then converted to letter grades as noted above. Once letter grades have been determined for all assessments, letter grades are associated with the following scale:

Grade	Associated Score
A	11
A-	10
B+	9
B	8
B-	7

C+	6
C	5
C-	4
D+	3
D	2
D-	1
F	0

Using this scale, weights are assigned based on the syllabus. All of your scores are then determined and weighted accordingly. This overall score is then divided by 100 and applied to the 0-11/A-F grading scale above. **Note:** Grades are not rounded.