

# Religion, Politics, and Security in the International Relations

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**Course instructor:**

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**On campus:**

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**Office hours:**

By appointment.

**Overview**

This course explains the connection between religion, politics, and security through a combined political science and religious studies approach. The syllabus divides it into three modules. In the first part, students will get familiar with the essential theories of religion and their relevance to politics. The second facet examines the major religious teachings and the violent aspects of their theological profile. Finally, the course stresses several less familiar cults, which, although having a minor influence on younger generations, are still central to the foundation of its political attitudes. This course is not about theology or applied sciences.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to:

- Explain what the relation between religion, politics, and security is.
- Explore the violent interpretations of all major religious teachings.
- Assess the need for de-radicalization and secularization of international relations.

**Expected outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to:

- Generate substantial knowledge about religion as part of international relations.
- Achieve fluency in the fundamental theories of religion and politics.
- Assess the religious implications on political violence.
- Analyze the need for de-radicalization of political extremists.

**Grading**

- 70% upon successful and analytical writing of your essay.
- 20% upon active participation in classes.
- 10% upon interaction with our guest speakers.

## Schedule

Date	Topic
Week 1	Introduction. Overview of the syllabus. Assessing the connection between religion, politics, and security.
Week 2	Religion and Politics: Case Studies and Theories
Week 3	Religion and Security: Case Studies and Theories
Week 4	Guest speaker. Topic: Religion and Conspiracies in the United States
Week 5	Christianity and Politics: Security implications
Week 6	Islam and Security: Political Islam and Moderate Islam
Week 7	Shintoism and Political Cultivation
Week 8	Buddhist Politics: The concept of political Dharma
Week 9	Guest speaker. Topic: Violent interpretations of religion
Week 10	Hindu nationalism and politics
Week 11	Taoism and Confucianism in Chinese politics.
Week 12	Closing session

## Grading Scale

Essay Points	Grade
100 – 94	A
93 – 90	A-
89 – 86	B
85 – 79	B-
78 – 75	C
75 – 69	C-
68 – 50	D
50 – 0	F

## Readings:

1. Carter, Jeffrey, ed. *Understanding Religious Sacrifice: A Reader*. New York: Continuum, 2003.
1. Chatterjee, Ipsita. "Social conflict and the neoliberal city: a case of Hindu–Muslim violence in India." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 34, no. 2 (2009): 143-160.
2. Diamond, Stephen A. *Anger, Madness, and the Daimonic: The Psychological Genesis of Violence, Evil, and Creativity*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1996.
2. Esposito, John L. "Islam and political violence." *Religions* 6, no. 3 (2015): 1067-1081.
3. Jefferis, Jennifer L. *Religion and Political Violence: Sacred Protest in the Modern World*. London: Routledge, 2010.
3. Jerryson, Michael K. "Buddhism, War, and Violence." *The Oxford Handbook of Buddhist Ethics* (2018): 453.
4. Jones, James William. *Blood That Cries Out from the Earth: The Psychology of Religious Terrorism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
5. Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.
6. Jung, C. G., and Murray Stein, ed. *Jung on Evil*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995.
7. Juergensmeyer, Mark and Kitts, Margo. *Princeton readings in religion and violence*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2011.
4. Kant, Garth. (2016). "Signs of divine intervention in Trump victory", LMD, <https://www.wnd.com/2016/11/signs-of-divine-intervention-in-trump-victory/>, retrieved on November 20.
8. Lifton, Robert Jay. *Destroying the World to Save It: Aum Shinrikyo, Apocalyptic Violence, and the New Global Terrorism*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 1999..
9. Selengut, Charles. *Sacred fury. Understanding religious violence*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008.
10. Tambiah, Stanley Jeyaraja. *Leveling Crowds: Ethno-Nationalist Conflicts and Collective Violence in South Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.
5. Volf, Miroslav. "Christianity and violence." (2002).
11. Waller, James. *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
12. Weinberg, Leonard, and Ami Pedahzur, eds. *Religious Fundamentalism and Political Extremism*. Portland, OR: Frank Cass, 2004