

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 175 – RELIGION, GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN AMERICA

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course analyzes the relations between religion, religious communities, and political institutions in the United States and California. The course examines political institutions and processes set out in the U.S. and California Constitutions and the ways that religion and religious communities and political institutions and processes have shaped one another, especially related to the rights and duties of citizenship. Topics include: U.S. Constitution and policy making related to the presidency, Congress, and the judiciary; freedom of religion; civil rights and citizenship; the role of religion in war and domestic and foreign policy; and Constitutional documents as sources of civil religion, religion and immigration, separation of church and state, and religion in public education.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Introduction to the study of religion and political institutions.
 - a. Dimensions of religion.
 - b. Political institutions and religion.
 1. Approaches and orientations.
 2. Topics and issues.
- 2) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and Religion.
 - a. The Articles of Confederation and religion.
 1. Branches of government and powers.
 2. The influence of religion and religious communities on the Articles of Confederation.
 3. Religion in the Articles of Confederation.
 - b. Political and religious philosophies of the framers of the Constitution.
 1. Benjamin Franklin.
 2. George Washington.
 - (1) 1790 Letter to Jewish Synagogue in Rhode Island.
 3. Alexander Hamilton.
 4. James Madison.
 - c. Principles and institutions of the Constitution.
 1. Separation of powers.
 2. The branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial.
 3. Checks and balances: powers and responsibilities.
 4. Federal government processes and structures: The Presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court.
 5. Representation: The House, Senate, and Electoral College.
 - d. Federal and State Governments:
 1. Relations: powers and responsibilities.
 2. Interpretations.
 - e. The Bill of Rights: freedoms and responsibilities.

1. The amendment process: case study on the first amendment.
2. Civil liberties: individual rights and obligations, including the freedom of religion and competing freedom.
- f. Clauses on religion.
 1. The no establishment of religion clause.
 - (1) Jefferson: separation of church and state.
 2. The free exercise of religion clause.
- 3) Congress, Legislation and Religion.
 - a. Native Americans.
 1. The Anti-Indian practices law of 1892.
 2. Indian Citizenship Act (1924) and tribal religions.
 3. Indian Land Claims Act of 1946 and freedom of religion.
 4. Native American Religious Freedom Act of 1978.
 - b. African Americans.
 1. Slavery codes and the invisible institution of African American religious assemblies.
 2. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the invisible churches made visible.
 3. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and African American religion.
 - c. Latino/Latina Americans.
 1. The Jones Act of 1917 and Latin American religious communities.
 2. The Cuban American Adjustment Act of 1966 and Cuban-American religion.
 3. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Latino religious communities.
 - d. Protestant Christians.
 1. The theology of Manifest Destiny and homesteading legislation, the Homestead Act of 1862.
 2. Protestant Abolitionists.
 3. Nativist and anti-Catholic legislation.
 4. The Moral Majority, Evangelical Protestants, and legislation; the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1992.
 - e. Roman Catholics.
 1. The Immigration Act of 1921 and Roman Catholics in the U.S.
 2. New Deal legislation and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.
 3. The GI Bill and Roman Catholics in the era of the Kennedys.
 - f. Communities of Judaism.
 1. Nativist legislation and the denominations of Judaism.
 2. The Immigration Acts of 1924 and 1952.
 3. Holocaust remembrance legislation and communities of Judaism.
 - g. Muslims.
 1. Slave codes and the repression of Islam.
 2. The Immigration Act of 1965 and Muslim Americans.
 3. Keith Ellison: The first Muslim in Congress.
 - h. Buddhists.
 1. The Chinese Exclusion Act and early Buddhist communities.
 2. The Immigration Acts of 1952 and 1962 and Buddhist Americans.
- 4) Presidents, Executive Orders, and Religion.
 - a. Constitutional powers and responsibilities of the President.
 - b. Historical development of the Executive Office.
 - c. Andrew Jackson and Evangelical Protestant expansion.
 1. The Removal Policy, Native Americans, and Native American religions.
 2. Slavery, African Americans, and religious communities.
 - d. Abraham Lincoln.

1. The religious orientation of President Lincoln.
2. Emancipation, the Thirteenth Amendment, enlistment in the military, and African-American churches.
- e. Theodore Roosevelt.
 1. Religious affiliation and orientation of Teddy Roosevelt.
 2. National parks and sacred lands for Native Americans.
 3. Anti-trust actions and Protestants: The Social Gospel and the Gospel of Wealth.
- f. Franklin Roosevelt.
 1. Religious affiliation and orientation of FDR.
 2. FDR's support for and prejudice against Jews.
 3. The New Deal, executive order 8802, and African American Religion.
 4. The internment of Japanese Americans and making of the Buddhist Churches of America.
- g. John F. Kennedy.
 1. JFK and Roman Catholics as Un-American and as fully American.
 2. The Protestant opposition and ecumenical supporters.
 3. Affirmative actions and African American religious communities.
- h. Ronald Reagan.
 1. Religious affiliations and orientation.
 2. Evangelical support of the Moral Majority.
 3. Pres. Reagan on prayer, God and Armageddon.
 4. Religious opponents: Protestant, Catholic and Jewish.
- i. George W. Bush.
 1. Evangelical faith and support.
 - (1) Faith-based social services.
 2. On Islam and Muslims after 9/11.
 3. Opponents of diverse faiths.
- j. Barack Obama.
 1. Protestant faith and orientation.
 2. Obama called "Muslim" and "the antichrist" by evangelicals.
 3. Obama on Hindus, Buddhists, and Atheists.
- k. Donald Trump.
 1. Religious affiliations and orientation.
 2. Trump and Christian nationalism.
 3. White Evangelical support for Trump.
 4. Trump as "Cyrus" figure.
- l. Joe Biden.
 1. Catholic affiliation and orientation.
 2. Biden as "suffering servant".
 3. Biden and denial of communion.
- 5) The Supreme Court and Religion.
 - a. The power and organization of federal court.
 - b. Selection of judges for the Supreme Court.
 - c. Powers and responsibilities of the Supreme Court under the Constitution.
 - d. The influence of religion and religious orientation on Supreme Court Judges.
 1. The Protestant Boys Club of the first two centuries.
 2. The first Jewish judges.
 3. The recent "Catholic Club".
 4. Thurgood Marshall, Ketanji Brown-Jackson and African American religion.
 - e. Rulings on Religion.

1. On Church and State (1879, 1947, 1948, 1984, 1989, 2005, 2014).
 2. On freedom of religion (1940, 1947, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1978, 1981, 1986, 1990, 2001, 2006).
 3. Jehovah's Witnesses and the Pledge of Allegiance (1943).
 4. Quakers, Mennonites, the Amish and Conscientious Objection (1965, 1971).
 5. Tax free status: Scientology, The Church of Satan, Bob Jones (1970, 1983, 1989).
 6. Religion in public schools (1940, 1948, 1962, 1971, 1987, 2000, 2017, 2022).
 7. On prayer in public schools (1962, 1985, 1992, 2000, 2004, 2022).
 8. Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, and medical treatment of children (1944, 1981, 2009).
 9. On chaplains in the U.S. government (1984, 2014).
 10. Aid to church-related schools (1925, 1947, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1993, 2002, 2011, 2022).
 11. On sacrifice of animals for religious purposes (1983, 1993).
 12. Government intervention in church controversies (1944, 1952, 1969, 1979, 2012).
 13. COVID restrictions on religious gatherings (2021).
- 6) The Supreme Court and Religious Communities.
- a. Native Americans.
 1. On tribal sovereignty and religious freedom (1831, 1942, 1975, 1988).
 2. On sacred lands: The Black Hills, Chimney Rock (1946, 1980, 1988).
 3. On peyote and freedom of religion (1993).
 - b. African Americans.
 1. Dred Scott, slavery and African American religion.
 2. Separate but equal and African American churches.
 3. Brown vs Board of Education, civil rights and African American religions.
 4. Affirmative action and African American clergy.
 - c. Protestant Christians.
 1. Rulings of Protestant dominance.
 2. On the repression of church bells: Protestant decline (1850-1960).
 3. The Amish and public education (1972).
 4. Roe v Wade: Evangelical and Liberal Protestants.
 5. On the Affordable Care Act and Religious Freedom: Hobby Lobby.
 6. Overturning Roe v Wade: Evangelical Christians.
 - d. Roman Catholics.
 1. Rulings on Catholic Schools (1947, 1971).
 2. Roe v. Wade and Catholic Responses.
 3. Ruling on Obamacare and birth control.
 4. Overturning of Roe v Wade and Catholic responses.
 - e. Muslims.
 1. Rulings on Muslims and the First Amendment (2006, 2015).
 2. The Muhammad Ali case: Islam and conscientious objection.
 3. On limitations to the call to prayer (1962, 1990).
 4. On Muslim prayer in public schools (2014).
 - f. Buddhism.
 1. On war internment and Japanese American Buddhists (1944).
 2. On the rights of Buddhist prisoners (1972).
 3. Buddhist chaplains in the military (1965, 1983).
- 7) U.S. Government Social Policy and Religion.
- a. Slavery and Religion.
 1. Pro-slavery religious communities.

2. Abolitionist religious communities.
 3. African American religious communities and slavery.
 - b. Civil Rights and Religion.
 1. Women's suffrage, rights and religion.
 2. African American churches and the civil rights movement.
 3. The ecumenical movement and the civil rights movement.
 4. LGBT rights and same sex marriage.
 - c. Immigration and Religion.
 1. Catholic and Jewish immigrants in the 19th century.
 2. Protestant anti-Catholicism, anti-Semitism, and anti-immigration.
 3. Religion and exclusion of Asian immigration.
 4. Immigrants after 1965 and the increasing religious diversity.
 5. Anti-Islam and recent opposition to immigration.
 - d. Labor Rights, social programs, and religion.
 1. The Social Gospel and the labor movement.
 2. Roman Catholics and the rights of labor.
 3. Evangelicals opposed to labor rights.
 4. Communities of Judaism and the labor movement.
 5. The Council on American-Islamic Relations and justice for workers.
- 8) The U.S. Constitution as source of Civil Religion.
- a. Introduction to civil religion.
 - b. Rituals: the pledge of allegiance, civil holy days, and rites of passage.
 - c. Sacred stories of the Revolution and of "freedom, justice, and democracy" to come.
 - d. Doctrines: The Constitutional documents as sacred texts.
 - e. Ethics: civil rights as sacred obligations and responsibilities.
 - f. Social life: public trust in the civil hierarchy and in the world-leading status of the United States.
 - g. The framers of the Constitution as architects of U.S. civil religion.
 - h. The Civil War as war of civil religions: The Gettysburg Address, the constitutional documents, and U.S. civil religion.
 - i. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I have a dream" and rights as obligations.
 - j. President Obama and U.S. civil religion.
 - k. President Trump and the crisis of U.S. civil religion.
- 9) California State Government and Religion.
- a. Direct democracy in California.
 1. The recall.
 2. The initiative.
 3. The referendum.
 4. Reform.
 - b. The California Constitution and state government structures.
 1. Executive branch.
 2. The legislature.
 3. Judicial branch.
 - c. California Constitutional law and religion: Jeffersonian orientation on "Wall of separation of church from the state".
 1. Historical relations.
 2. The present landscape.
 - d. California State Supreme Court rulings on religion.
 1. Religion in public schools (2000, 2003, 2004).
 2. Islam in public schools (2003).

3. Evolution and Creationism in public schools (1981, 2008).
 4. Yoga in public schools (2015).
 5. Religious freedom: peyote, tribal religious practices (1972, 1982, 2016).
 6. Christian colleges and accreditation (2008).
 7. On Wiccan chaplains in prison (1985, 2013).
 8. Religious freedom and medical treatment of children (1988, 2008).
 - e. California State legislation and religion.
 1. Religious affiliations and the California legislature: past and present.
 2. Religious advocacy related to California legislation.
 3. The impact of legislation on religious communities.
 - f. California immigration policy and religious communities.
 1. Taoists and Buddhists.
 2. Latino Catholics.
 3. Muslims.
 4. The church sanctuary movement.
 5. Evangelical opponents.
 - g. The California Constitution and citizenship as source of California civil religion.
 1. Rituals: gatherings at the beach, mountains and deserts.
 2. Myth: California as sacred place of realized American dreams.
 3. Doctrine: the obligatory conditions for being an exceptional people.
 4. Ethics: sacred rights and obligations of California citizens.
 5. Social life: the set apart character of California integration and federal-state relations in California.
 - (1) New religious movements and California.
- 10) Local governments in California and Religion.
- a. Nature and processes under the California Constitution: the manger-council structure.
 - b. Relations with federal, state and local governments: processes for conflict resolution and collaboration.
 - c. Intersections, conflicts and collaborations of federal, state, and local branches of government in California: cases related to religion.
 1. The Buddhist Temple of San Diego and Internment laws during World War II.
 2. The People's Temple and political institutions in California: federal, state, and local governments.
 3. The building of Islamic Centers in relation to federal, state and local governments in Murrieta, California.
 4. The right to die, religious communities, and federal, state and local laws (2012, 2015, 2016).
 5. Christian colleges in California: federal, state and local governments.
 6. The Sacred Source Sanctuary and religious cannabis use (2018).
 7. Native Tribes of San Diego County, religion and governments, federal, CA state, local).
 8. Vaccinations and federal, California, and local laws (2012, 2015, 2020).
 9. The Mt. Soledad Cross Case: local, state, and federal courts (2016).

Course Objectives

- 1) Explain the powers, processes, and structures for the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of U.S. government under the Constitution, analyze how religion has influenced the branches of U.S. government, and evaluate how operations of branches of the U.S. government have impacted religious communities.
- 2) Compare and contrast the political and religious philosophies of the framers of the U.S. Constitution and of various U.S. Presidents.

- 3) Explain and analyze how religion influenced establishment of the core elements in the Bill of Rights and analyze the impact of the obligations of citizenship under the Bill of Rights on religious communities.
- 4) Describe ways in which Congressional legislation has impacted religious communities and analyze the impact of religious communities on Congressional legislation.
- 5) Describe ways in which Supreme Court decisions have impacted religious communities and analyze ways religious communities have influenced Supreme Court rulings.
- 6) Describe the role of religion related to U.S. federal social and foreign policies; especially regarding slavery, civil rights, immigration, and war.
- 7) Describe core elements of the U.S. and California Constitutions as sources of civil religion, especially related to the rights and obligations of citizenship.
- 8) Compare and contrast the various approaches practiced by religious communities in the United States in their relations with federal, California state, and California local governments.
- 9) Describe the powers, processes, and structures for local and state governments in California under the California constitution, analyze ways in which state and local governments in California have impacted religious communities, and evaluate how religious communities have influenced state and local political institutions in California.
- 10) Identify the relations between federal, state, and local governments in California, concentrating on recent cases associated with religious communities and religion.
- 11) Analyze the impact of religion and politics on government policy and social justice efforts.
- 12) Analyze how religion intersects with social factors of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and age in federal and state political institutions.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be a project, an essay exam, or skills demonstration.

- 1) Class participation/work
- 2) Written assignments
- 3) Field Trips
- 4) Group Projects
- 5) Presentations
- 6) Papers and essays
- 7) Quizzes and exams
- 8) Journals

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Multimedia presentations
- 3) Group discussions
- 4) Field trips/field observations
- 5) Student presentations
- 6) Guest speakers
- 7) Instructional videos

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Short essays and written assignments
- 2) Written homework assignments (worksheets, journals, etc.) that summarize and/or reflect upon the assigned reading materials or instructional videos
- 3) Research papers
- 4) Projects or presentations

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Wald, Kenneth D., and Allison Calhoun-Brown. *Religion and Politics in the United States*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2018.
 - b. Witte, John, and Joel A. Nichols. *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment*. Oxford University Press, 2022.
 - c. Field, Mona. *California Government and Politics Today*. Pearson, 2018.
 - d. Gaustad, Edwin S. *Proclaim Liberty throughout All the Land: A History of Church and State in America*. Oxford University Press, 2003.
 - e. Gerston, Larry N. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*. Cengage Learning, 2021.
 - f. Hertzke, Allen D., et al. *Religion and Politics in America: Faith, Culture, and Strategic Choices*. Routledge, 2019.
 - g. Lacorne, Denis, et al. *Religion in America: A Political History*. Columbia University Press, 2012.
 - h. Noll, Mark A., and Luke E. Harlow. *Religion and American Politics: From the Colonial Period to the Present*. Oxford University Press, 2007.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Interpret how the social, cultural, political, and historical context of religious traditions inform their respective beliefs, values, and practices.
- 2) Analyze and apply the beliefs, values, and practices of religious traditions to students' own lives, identities, and experiences.
- 3) Analyze how religions are used to contest, assert, or mediate social, political, and cultural power related to race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and/or nationality.
- 4) Develop an argument or thesis statement related to religious studies and support that argument with reliable evidence.