COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the relationship between religion and politics across the world. It is organized around four overarching questions: 1) What explains the degree of separation between church and state? 2) How do religious beliefs and practices affect tolerance and attitudes towards redistribution? 3) Are democratic regimes harder to sustain given some religious traditions or institutions? and 4) Under what conditions do religious differences form the basis of party politics and other forms of collective action?

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The requirements are as follows:

- **Class participation and weekly submission of discussion questions – 35% of the final grade**
  You are expected to have read the required text for the week before the class meets and to post three discussion questions on Courseworks by 9pm on the Monday before class. You are also expected to read your classmates discussion questions before class.

- **Research Memo 1: Identifying a Research Question – due February 20th by 9am – 10%**
  You will write a short memo (800-1000 words) identifying a research question for your final paper and describing the question's the theoretical and substantive importance.

  You will write a short memo (800-1000 words) describing potential answers to your research question and discussing how you plan to use evidence to support your preferred answer. The memos will form the basis of a discussion on March 6th.

- **Presentation of research project in class – April 24th –5%**

- **Research paper – due May 10th by 9am – 40%**
  Your research paper must contain a theoretical argument related to one of the themes of the course and must test that argument empirically. Research papers should be between 15 and 20 pages long. In a few cases, students considering a senior thesis will be allowed to submit a detailed research proposal instead of a paper.

The penalty for late assignments will be one grade per hour after the deadline (e.g. A- to B+).
LOGISTICS

There is no course reader for this class. All readings are available electronically or posted on the class website on Courseworks (https://courseworks.columbia.edu/). You should purchase the following four books, which are available from Book Culture.


Session 1 (17/01): Introduction

Session 2 (24/01): Social and Political Causes of Religious Belief and Practice

Session 3 (31/01): Separation of Church and State I: Comparative Perspectives

Session 4 (07/02): Separation of Church and State II: Cases
Session 5 (14/02): Attitudes Towards Redistribution


Session 6 (21/02): Tolerance


Session 7 (28/02): Political Regimes


Session 8 (06/03): Religion and Party Politics in Europe


Spring Break (13/03)

Session 9 (20/03): Meetings/Class Discussion about Research Proposals
Session 10 (27/03): Religion and Party Politics in the Middle East


Session 11 (03/04): Religion and Party Politics in the United States


Session 12 (10/04): Social Movements


Session 13 (17/04): Political and Sectarian Violence


Session 14 (24/04): Presentation of Research Projects