

RELIGION AND POLITICS
Columbia University, W3952
Spring 2011

Professor Kimuli Kasara
Office: IAB 717
Office Hours: Tuesday, 3-5
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Time: Tuesday, 11-12:50
Location: IAB 711

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 theoretical and substantive importance.
- *Research Memo 2: Empirical Strategy – due March 19th by 9am – 10%*
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.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 1996. *The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe* Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Putnam, Robert D., David E. Campbell, and Shaylyn Romney Garrett. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon & Schuster .

Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. 2002. *Mobilizing Islam: Religion, Activism and Political Change in Egypt*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Harris, Fredrick C. 1999. *Something Within: Religion in African-American Political Activism*. New York: Oxford University Press

Session 1 (17/01): Introduction

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

[Stark, Rodney, and Roger Finke. 2000. *Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 5.](#)

[Weber, Max. 1958. The Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism. In *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.](#)

[Iannaccone, Laurence R. "Why Strict Churches Are Strong." *American Journal of Sociology* 99, no. 5 \(1994\): 1180-211.](#)

[Blaydes, Lisa, and Drew A. Linzer. "The Political Economy of Women's Support for Fundamentalist Islam" *World Politics* 60 \(2008\): 576-609.](#)

[Peel, J.D.Y. 2002. Gender in Yoruba Religious Change. *Journal of Religion in Africa* 32 \(2\):136-66.](#)

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

[Iannaccone, Laurence R., Roger Finke, and Rodney Stark. 1997. Deregulating Religion: The Economics of Church and State. *Economic Inquiry* 35 \(2\):350-364](#)

[McCleary, Rachel M., and Robert J. Barro. "Religion and Economy." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20, no. 2 \(2006\): 49-72.](#)

[Gill, Anthony James. 2008. *The Political Origins of Religious Liberty*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2](#)

[Kuru, Ahmet T. 2007. Passive and Assertive Secularism: Historical Conditions, Ideological Struggles, and State Policies toward Religion. *World Politics* 59 \(4\):568-594.](#)

Session 4 (07/02): Separation of Church and State II: Cases

[Buehler, Michael. 2008. Shari'a By-Laws in Indonesian Districts: An Indication for Changing Patterns of Power Accumulation and Political Corruption. *Southeast Asia Research* 16 \(2\):165-195.](#)

[Cruise O'Brien, Donal B. 2003. Supping with the Devil: The Mouride Brotherhood and the Senegalese State. In *Symbolic Confrontations: Muslims Confronting the State in Africa*. New York: Palgrave.](#)

[Tessler, Mark. 2010. Religion, Religiosity and the Place of Islam in Political Life: Insights from the Arab Barometer Surveys. *Middle East Law and Governance* 2:221-252.](#)

[Thachil, Tariq. 2009. Neoliberalism's Two Faces in Asia: Globalization, Educational Policies, and Religious Schooling in India, Pakistan, and Malaysia. *Comparative Politics* 41 \(4\):473-494.](#)

Session 5 (14/02): Attitudes Towards Redistribution

[Scheve, Kenneth, and David Stasavage. 2006. The Political Economy of Religion and Social Insurance in the United States, 1910–1939. *Studies in American Political Development* 20 \(Fall\):132-159.](#)

[Huber, John D., and Piero Stanig. "Church-State Separation and Redistribution." *Journal of Public Economics* 95, no. 7-8 \(2011\): 828-36.](#)

[De La O, Ana L., and Jonathan A. Rodden. "Does Religion Distract the Poor?: Income and Issue Voting around the World." *Comparative Political Studies* 41, no. 4 \(2008\): 437-76.](#)

[Mockabee, Stephen T., Kenneth D. Wald, and David C. Legee. 2009. Is There a Religious Left?: Evidence from the 2006 and 2008 ANES. *Working Paper*.](#)

[Kahl, Sigrun. 2005. "The Religious Roots of Modern Poverty Policy: Catholic, Lutheran, and Reformed Protestant Traditions Compared." *European Journal of Sociology* 46:1: 91-126.](#)

Session 6 (21/02): Tolerance

[Clingingsmith, David Lawrence, Asim Ijaz Khwaja, and Michael Kremer. 2008. Estimating the Impact of the Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islams Global Gathering. *Working Paper, Harvard Kennedy School*](#)

[Gibson, James L. 2009. The Political Consequences of Religiosity: Does Religion Always Cause Intolerance? *Working Paper*.](#)

Putnam, Robert D., David E. Campbell, and Shaylyn Romney Garrett. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010., Chapters 9 and 14.

Session 7 (28/02): Political Regimes

[Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2000. Commitment Problems in Emerging Democracies: The Case of Religious Parties. *Comparative Politics* 32 \(4\):379-399.](#)

[Fish, Steven. 2002. Islam and Authoritarianism. *World Politics* 55 \(1\):4-37.](#)

[Stepan, Alfred. 2001. The World's Religious Systems and Democracy: Crafting the Twin Tolerations In *Arguing Comparative Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.](#)

[Somer, Murat. 2011. Does It Take Democrats to Democratize? Lessons From Islamic and Secular Elite Values in Turkey. *Comparative Political Studies* 44 \(5\):511-545.](#)

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

Kalyvas, Stathis N. 1996. *The Rise of Christian Democracy in Europe* Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2 & 5

[Minkenberg, Michael "Party Politics, Religion and Elections in Western Democracies." *Comparative European Politics* 8, no. 4 \(2010\): 385-414.](#)

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

Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. 2002. *Mobilizing Islam: Religion, Activism and Political Change in Egypt*. New York: Columbia University Press, Chapters 1, 5-6, and 7.

[El-Ghobashy, Mona. 2005. The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37 \(3\):373-395.](#)

[Kurzman, Charles, and Ijlal Naqvi. "Do Muslims Vote Islamic?" *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 2 \(2010\): 50-63.](#)

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

[Layman, Geoffrey. 2001. *The Great Divide: Religious and Cultural Conflict in American Party Politics* New York: Columbia University Press. Chapters 1 & 3.](#)

[Hout, Michel, and Claude S. Fiser. 2002. Why More Americans Have No Religious Preference: Politics and Generations. *American Sociological Review* 67 \(2\):165-190](#)

Putnam, Robert D., David E. Campbell, and Shaylyn Romney Garrett. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon & Schuster, Chapters 11 and 12.

Session 12 (10/04): Social Movements

[Trejo, Guillermo 2009. Religious Competition and Ethnic Mobilization in Latin America: Why the Catholic Church Promotes Indigenous Movements in Mexico. *American Political Science Review* 103 \(3\):323-342](#)

Harris, Fredrick C. 1999. *Something Within: Religion in African-American Political Activism*. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapters 2-3, 6 and 8.

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

[Hutchinson, Sharon E. 2005. Spiritual Fragments of an Unfinished War. In *Religion and African Civil Wars*, edited by N. Kastfelt. London: C. Hurst.](#)

[Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2006. Religion as a Cause of Terrorism. In *The Roots of Terrorism* edited by L. Richardson. New York: Routledge.](#)

[Berman, Eli , and David Laitin. 2008. Religion, Terrorism and Public Goods: Testing the Club Model *Journal of Public Economics* 92:1942-1967.](#)

[Jha, Saumitra. 2008. Trade, Institutions and Religious Tolerance: Evidence from India. *Stanford GSB Working Paper* 2004.](#)

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