RELIGION AND CONFLICT, LSHV 354-01

Mondays, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Course Description
Religious terrorism is on the rise. Even a cursory glance at world affairs will show that religion and politics is at the heart of today’s ongoing struggle between nations and ideology. Religion may be a motivator and catalyst in rallying popular support for waging war, and in fact may play a significant role in nurturing communal strife among various faith groups in their struggle to achieve governmental control.

This course is designed to acquaint students with the analytical study of religion, politics, conflict and religious terrorism on the world stage. By design, the course is interdisciplinary, covering areas in religion (theology/philosophy), sociology (ethno-religious & identity conflicts), ethics and politics. Students will have an opportunity to focus on one or more of these areas for their semester paper. This course will help students comprehend the global resurgence of religion in intra-state and international affairs, and will focus on specific areas in the world where religion is the primary issue.

Through classroom lecture and discussion, reading assignments, media and student presentations, we will address the role religion and politics play in various global conflicts, the determination of whether religion is the basis of a given conflict, and possible resolutions to these conflicts.

Instructor
Gregory Havrilak, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, and by appointment

Course Goals
To provide an intellectual framework and analytical tools for students to discuss, reflect upon, understand, and propose solutions to a variety of religion and conflict issues throughout the world.

Evaluation
Students are expected to attend lectures, read assigned texts, submit term paper & essays, and participate in discussion, as well as display an ability to absorb, comprehend, and analyze the course material.
Course Requirements

- Reading Assignments
- Submit three short analytical essays (3 pages each, max) on assigned readings. Topics will be distributed for take home one week in advance.
- Submit one 20-25 page paper
- Oral Presentation: a 10-minute review of your semester paper

Study Groups
Depending on class size, study groups (usually four) will be formed to prepare class presentations on world “hot spots.” These 20-minute group presentations will take place November 7.

Grading Policy
Final grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. Class Participation & Study Group 10%
2. Analytical Essays 30% (10 X 3)
3. Term Paper 40%
4. Oral Presentation 20%

Grade Table

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92%</td>
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<td>87 - 89%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 66%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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Learning Objectives
The following objectives are built into the pedagogy of this course syllabus:

1. To provide awareness, knowledge & understanding of the global resurgence of religiously motivated conflict and violence
2. To help students understand the cultural, psychological, political & religious/theological foundations for religion and conflict on the world stage
3. To provide the building blocks for students to develop models of reconciliation and peace to religion and conflict issues on the world stage
4. To help students discuss religious terrorism and political/ideological differences in a respectful and open atmosphere
Disabilities Statement
If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Georgetown Honor System
All students are expected to follow Georgetown’s honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at www.georgetown.edu/honor, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, “What is Plagiarism?”, “Sanctioning Guidelines”, and “Expedited Sanctioning Process.”

Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Work that appears to have been plagiarized or otherwise violated the Honor Code will be reported to Georgetown’s Honor Council. If the Council finds that the work violates the university’s standards of academic honesty, the work will receive a grade of zero for the assignment for the first offense; a second infraction will earn an F for the course. The Honor Council may impose sanctions of its own as well.

Devices
All electronic devices will be turned off at the beginning of class.

Readings Assignments
Required readings for each class are listed below, and should be completed before the class period. All others are highly recommended, and may be referred to in class. Shorter articles will be uploaded to Blackboard. Additional websites and recently declassified government documents will be made available in class.

Attendance, Campus Closing and Inclement Weather
Attendance is mandatory, and roll call will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students with two absences for any reason may receive lower final grades. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to make up any assignments on time and obtain class handouts. If the campus is closed you should monitor the University website for official information, and/or call 202-687-7669 for status reports. Makeup classes will be posted on Blackboard.
**Required Texts**


**Course Syllabus**

Week 1, First Class, Aug 31 (Wednesday is a Monday)

**Introduction to the Course**

**Foundations of Religious Conflict**


Monday, September 5: NO CLASS, Labor Day Holiday

Week 2, Sept 12 (Back to Monday)
**What Initiates Religious Conflict? Writing Exercise**


Week 3, Sept 19
**Religious Conflict from Family Myth and Culture**
First Analytical Essay questions distributed


Week 4, Sept 26
**Organized Religion as a Locus of Blame**
First Analytical Essay Due: 3 pages max


Week 5, Oct 3

On the Road to Transformation
Marc Gopin, HWHP, 92-100.


Monday, October 10, NO CLASS, Columbus Day Holiday

Week 6, Oct 17

Models of Reconciliation in Abrahamic Religions
Second Analytical Essay questions distributed

Madeleine Albright, The Mighty and the Almighty, 123-144.

Tzvi Marx, “Theological Preparation for Reconciliation in Judaism,” Gort, 93-104.


Week 7, Oct 24

Models of Reconciliation: Judaism
Second Analytical Essay due: 3 pages max
Topics Due for Semester Research Paper


Week 8, Oct 31

Models of Reconciliation: Islam
Anton Wessels, “Can the Children of Abraham be Reconciled: Ishmael and Isaac in the Bible and the Qur’an,” Gort, 134-144.


Week 9, Nov 7
Models of Reconciliation: Islam, continued
Study Group Presentations
Third Analytical Essay questions distributed


Week 10, Nov 14
Patterns in Abrahamic Reconciliation
Third Analytical Essay due: 3 pages max

Gopin, “Patterns of Abrahamic Reconciliation,” HWHP, 103-143.


Week 11, Nov 21
Models of Reconciliation: the Balkans


Week 12, Nov 28

**Student Oral Presentations**


Week 13, Dec. 5

LAST CLASS

**Student Oral Presentations**

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE NLT December 19 by 5:00 PM

**READING LIST**

**Primary Sources**


**Secondary Sources**


**United Nations and U.S. Government Documents**

Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. [http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/religion.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/religion.htm)


Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr](http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr)

United States Department of State, “Foreign Terrorist Organizations” (FTO’s), [http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm](http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm)


Additional documents will be made available during the semester.

*End of Syllabus. Syllabus may be updated and/or corrected.*