

POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Online Course: 3 Credits

Course Description

There is no question that we are witnessing a revival of political theology as an academic discipline; a theology that has, through the ages, adapted to exigencies like secularization, modernization, globalization, *et al.* As an academic discipline, political theology addresses questions such as, the relationship between theology and politics; the relationship between Church and State; the role of religion in public life; and, to what extent religious belief might/should shape our political discourse.

Introduction to Political Theology is an online graduate course that explores the historical roots of political theology, while examining the philosophical, theological, and sociological relationship between religious faith and political life in civil society. Class readings will highlight some of the primary sources that influenced religious and secular practices and the ordering of society through the ages. We look at the first generation of political theologians (Johann Baptist Metz, who started it all) and the second generation of political theologians (Cavanaugh, Hauerwas, Milbank, O'Donovan, Yoder). Our online discussions will focus on the age-old tension between the transcendent and secular, the sacred and the profane, and how this on-going oscillation has shaped and continues to shape public discourse.

The pedagogy of this course is designed to bring students up to date in the growing field of political theology. The online CANVAS course site will guide students through each Module.

Instructor

Gregory C. Havrilak, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM East Coast Time, via ZOOM or SKYPE

Course Goals

To provide an intellectual framework and analytical tools for students to discuss, reflect upon and understand the foundations and major players in the development of political theology, and the interaction between politics and the church.

Learning Objectives

The following objectives are built into the pedagogy of this course syllabus:

1. To provide an awareness, knowledge & understanding of the primary historical, philosophical and ecclesial sources of political theology
2. To help students recognize the interaction between politics and religion
3. To critically examine how secular and religious discourse critique each other
4. To present the major players in the development and influence of political theology
5. To help students formulate personal positions on the role of theology in public life

Evaluation

Students are expected to read assigned texts, watch weekly lecture slides, submit written assignments, participate in discussion, as well as display an ability to absorb, comprehend, and analyze the course material.

Course Requirements

- Weekly slide lecture presentation
- Reading Assignments
- Bi-Weekly Discussion Board Posts & Responses
- Submit three short analytical essays (3 pages each, max) on assigned readings. Topics will be announced one week in advance
- Study Group Project
- Submit one 20-page research paper; DLS has additional requirements

No exams are given in this course.

Grading Policy

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

1. Discussion Board Postings	24% (8 posts X 3 points each)
2. Analytical Essays	30% (3 X 10 points each)
3. Study Group Project	16%
4. Final Research Paper	30%

Grade Table

A	100-93
A-	92.99-90
B+	89.99-88
B	87.99-83
B-	82.99-80
C	79.99-70
F	69.99-0

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 accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Class Participation

As an online course, the class is designed in weekly modules. Each new module begins on a Monday, and concludes with most assignments due by Sunday night. Discussion Board posts are due on Thursdays. It is imperative to maintain regular and consistent participation with online requirements.

Reading Assignments

Required readings for each week are listed below, and should be completed during the module. All others are highly recommended. Shorter articles will be uploaded to CANVAS. Additional websites and recently declassified government documents will be made available online.

Analytical Essays

Three analytical essays based on course readings and slide lectures are spaced throughout the course. Students can choose from a selection of questions to respond in a 500-750 word essay (3 pages max, doubled spaced). Questions will be posted one-week in advance.

Discussion Board Posting

Students may respond to course readings and class lectures by posting their comments on the course's Discussion Board. You will also be responding to classmate's postings. In many ways this bi-weekly discussion becomes the lifeblood of the course.

Study Group Project

Study groups will be formed to work on a 10-minute class presentation. Depending on class size and local social distancing requirements, students will have the opportunity to work together on a special project for presentation to the class.

Required Texts

- William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. Bailey, Craig Hovey, eds. *An Eerdmans Reader on Contemporary Political Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012). ISBN: 978-0-8028-6440-6. Pbk. \$32.99.
- Johann Baptist Metz, *Faith in History and Society*, Trans. by J. Matthew Ashley (New York: Crossroads, 2011). Pbk. ISBN: 10:08245-2554-X. \$34.00.
- _____, *A Passion for God: The Mystical-Political Dimension of Christianity* (New York: Paulist Press, 1998). Pbk. ISBN: 0-8091-3755-0. \$19.95.
- Elizabeth Phillips, *Political Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2012). Pbk. ISBN: 978-0-567-26354-4. \$21.39.
- John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus*, 2nd Ed., (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994). Pbk. ISBN:13:978-0-8028-0734-2. \$16.63.

Recommended, not required

The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology, eds. Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004). Pbk. ISBN: 13:978-0-631-22342. \$43.62.

Eduardo Mendieta, Ed., *The Frankfurt School on Religion: Key Writings by the Major Thinkers* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

John Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2006). Pbk. ISBN:0-631-18948-3. \$43.96.

Oliver O'Donovan and Joan Lockwood O'Donovan, *From Irenaeus to Grotius: A Sourcebook in Christian Political Thought* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans, 1999).

Thomas R. Rourke, *The Social and Political Thought of Benedict XVI* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011). ISBN: 978-0-7391-4280-6. \$26.99.

Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, et al. Ed., *Political Theology: Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2013).

COURSE SYLLABUS

Module One

Introduction to the Course; What is Political Theology?

Enlightenment Roots of Political Theology; The Four Approaches to Political Theology

Weekly Slide Presentation

Readings: Elizabeth Phillips, *Political Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2012), 1-40.

William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. Bailey, Craig Hovey, "Introduction," in William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. , Craig Hovey, eds, *An Eerdmans Reader on Contemporary Political Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012), 1-XXIV, listed hereafter as ER.

Judith Butler, *The Power of Religion in the Public Square* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), sections posted on CANVAS.

Module Two

The Frankfurt School: Theodore Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Walter Benjamin, Ernst Bloch, Jürgen Habermas

Discussion Board Posting 1 (by Thursday, 11:59 PM; response by Sunday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Readings: Phillips, 42-50.

Heinz Duthel, *The Frankfurt School* (Germany: 2011), sections posted on CANVAS.

Theodore Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Ernst Bloch, Bertolt Brecht, *Aesthetics & Politics: Radical Thinkers* (London: Verso Publishing, 2007), sections posted on CANVAS.

Jürgen Habermas, Joseph Ratzinger, *The Dialectics of Secularization* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2010), sections posted on CANVAS.

Module Three

The First Generation of Political Theologians

Discussion Board Posting 2 (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Carl Schmitt

Johann Baptist Metz

Weekly Slide Presentation

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology II* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2008), sections posted on CANVAS.

J.B. Metz, "Theology in the New Paradigm: A Political Theology," ER, 316-326.

_____, *Faith in History and Society* (New York: Crossroads, 2011), English Trans. by J. Matthew Ashley.

_____, "'Politische Theologie' als fundamentale Theologie der Welt," in *Zum Begriff der neuen Politischen Theologie: 1967-1997* (Munich: Matthias-Grünwald, 1997). Optional.

M. Xhaufflaire, *La 'théologie politique': Introduction à la théologie politique de J.B. Metz* (Paris: 1972). Optional.

Module Four

First Analytical Essay Distributed

The First Generation of Political Theologians

Johann Baptist Metz, Con't

Discussion Board Posting 3 (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

J.B. Metz, *The Passion for God* (New York: Paulist Press, 1998), English Trans. by J. Matthew Ashley.

J. Michael Ashley, "Johann Baptist Metz," *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology*, eds. Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004), 241-255. Optional.

_____, "'Politische Theologie,' in der Diskussion," in *Discussion zur "Politischen Theologie"*, ed. Helmut Peukert (Mainz: Matthias-Grünwald, 1968). Optional.

Module Five

First Analytical Essay Due

The Second Generation of Political Theologians

Post Liberalism, Radical Orthodoxy, "Contextual" Theologies

Weekly Slide Presentation

Readings: Phillips, 50-54.

James K.A. Smith, *Introducing Radical Orthodoxy: Mapping a Post-Secular Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004). Sections posted on CANVAS

John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward, *Radical Orthodoxy: A New Theology* (London: Routledge, 1999). Sections posted on CANVAS.

Angie Pears, *Doing Contextual Theologies* (Oxford: Routledge, 2010), sections posted on CANVAS.

Module Six

Liberation Theology: Gutiérrez, Sobrino

Discussion Board Posting 4 (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Gustavo Gutiérrez, *A Theology of Liberation* (New York: Maryknoll, 2010). Sections posted on CANVAS.

Jon Sobrino, "The Central Position of God in Liberation Theology, ER, 194-216.

Phillips, PT 127-140.

Roberto S. Goizueta, "Gustavo Gutiérrez," in Peter Scott & William Cavanaugh, eds., *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2005), 288-301. Optional.

Module Seven

Second Analytical Essay Distributed

Second Generation of Political Theology**The Politics of Jesus**

Weekly Slide Presentation

Anabaptism, Yoder, R. Niebuhr, David Tracy

Readings: Phillips, 72-88.

John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994).

Reinhold Niebuhr, "The Grace to Do Nothing," ER, 254-258.

William Werpehowski, "Reinhold Niebuhr," in *Blackwell*, 180-193. Optional.

David Tracy, *Pluralism and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994), sections posted on CANVAS.

Module Eight

Second Analytical Essay Due

The Church and the Political**Discussion Board Posting 5** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Barth, Bonhoeffer

Readings: Phillips, 57-71.

John Howard Yoder, "Sacrament as a Social Power: Christ the Transformer of Culture," ER, 643-546.

Karl Barth, "Church and State," ER, 303-315.

"Augustine," IG, 104-163.

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer," by Stanley Hauerwas, Blackwell, 136-149; William T. Cavanaugh,

"Church," in Blackwell, 393-406. Optional.

Module Nine**TOPICS FOR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER APPROVED BY TODAY****Violence and Peace****Discussion Board Posting 6** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Readings: Phillips, 89-106

Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*, sections posted on CANVAS.

Clement of Alexandria, *Protrepticus*, sections posted on CANVAS, "Clement," IG, 30-38.

Tertullian, *On the Crow*, sections posted on CANVAS; "Tertullian," IG, 23-29.
 Augustine, *Reply to Faustus the Manichaeon*, sections posted on CANVAS.
 William T. Cavanaugh, *The Myth of Religious Violence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
 Optional.

Module Ten

Third Analytical Essay Distributed

Liberalism and Democracy

Weekly Slide Presentation

Stanley Hauerwas, John Milbank

Readings: Phillips, 111-126.

John Milbank, "The Last of the Last: Theology, Authority & Democracy," ER, 674ff

Stanley Hauerwas, "The Politics of the Church: How We Lay Bricks and Make Disciples," ER, 657-673.

Posting on CANVAS from *The Hauerwas Reader*.

Module Eleven

Third Analytical Essay Due

Optimism, Marginalization & Liberation

Discussion Board Posting 7 (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Martin Luther King, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Althaus-Reid

Readings: Phillips, 126-140.

David Colbert, *Ten Days That Shook the World* (New York: Aladdin Publishing, 2008), sections posted on CANVAS.

Robert W. Jenson, "Eschatology," *Blackwell*, 407-420. Optional.

Module Twelve

Creation, History and Eschatology

Discussion Board Posting 8 (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Weekly Slide Presentation

St. Thomas Aquinas & Dino Bigongiari, *The Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas* (New York: The Free Press, 1997), sections posted on CANVAS

"Recent Catholic Tradition," in James W. Skillen, Rockne M. McCarthy, eds. *Political Order and the Plural Structure of Society* (Atlanta: Emory University Press, 1991), 137-142, hereafter cited PO. Sections posted on CANVAS.

Jacques Maritain, "Man and the State," PO, 175-196.

Phillips, 141-152.

"Thomas Aquinas," IG, 320-361.

Richard John Neuhaus, *Catholic Matters* (New York: Basic Books, 2007); or *The Naked Public Square: Religion & Democracy* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988). Optional.

Charles Taylor, "Why We Need a Radical Redefinition of Secularism," in Eduardo Mendieta, Jonathan Vanantwerpen, eds., *The Power of Religion in the Public Sphere* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), 35-59. Sections posted on CANVAS.

Module Thirteen: Work on your Video/Audio Presentation

Module Fourteen

Last Week of Class

Final Oral Class Online Video/Audio Presentations

Final Research Paper Due: TBT

SUGGESTED READING LIST

St. Thomas Aquinas and Dino Bigongiari, *The Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas* (New York: The Free Press, 1997).

William Bain, *Political Theology of International Order* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2020.

B. B. Bauer, *Christliche Hoffnung und menschlicher Fortschritt: Die politische Theologie J. B. Metz als theologische Begründung gesellschaftlicher Verantwortung des Christen* (Mainz: 1976).

John Berkman and Michael Cartwright, eds., *The Hauerwas Reader* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001).

Stephen B. Bevans, *Models of Contextual Theology* (New York: Orbis Books, 1992).

_____, *An Introduction to Theology in a Global Perspective* (New York: Orbis Books, 2009).

Ernst Bloch, *Atheism in Crisis* (New York: Herder & Herder, 1972).

William T. Cavanaugh, *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011).

_____. *The Myth of Religious Violence* (Oxford: 2009).

William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. Baily, Craig Hovey, eds., *An Eerdman's Reader on Contemporary Political Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012).

William T. Cavanaugh, *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011).

David Colbert, *Ten Days that Shook the World* (New York: Aladdin Publishing, 2008).

Crestan Davis, John Milbank and Slavoj Žižek, eds., *Theology and the Political: The New Debate* (Durham: NC: Duke University Press, 2005).

John K. Downey, ed., *Loves Strategy: The Political Theology of Johann Baptist Metz* (Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 1999).

Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, et al. Ed., *Political Theology: Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2013).

Gustavo Gutiérrez, *A Theology of Liberation* (New York: Maryknoll, 2010).

Jürgen Habermas, Joseph Ratzinger, *The Dialectics of Secularization* (New York: Ignatius Press, 2010).

Michael Hoelzl and Graham Ward, eds. *Religion and Political Thought* (London: Continuum, 2006).

Max Horkheim, *Critical Theory: Selected Essays* (New York: Continuum, 2003).

Catherine Keller, *Political Theology of the Earth* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018).

Michael Jon Kessler, *Political Theology for a Plural Age* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).

Michael Kirwan, *Political Theology: A New Introduction* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2008).

Johann Baptist Metz, all books.

Johann Baptist Metz, with Dorothee Sölle, *Welches Christentum Hat Zukunft? Dorothee Sölle und Johann Baptist Metz im Gespräch mit Karl-Josef Kuschel* (Stuttgart: Kreuz Verlag, 1990).

Eduardo Mendieta, ed., *The Frankfurt School on Religion* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward, eds., *Radical Orthodoxy* (London: Routledge, 1999).

John Milbank, *The Future of Love: Essays in Political Theology* (Norwich: SCM Press, 2009).

Eduardo Mendieta, Ed., *The Frankfurt School on Religion: Key Writings by the Major Thinkers* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

Richard John Neuhaus, *Catholic Matters* (New York: Basic Books, 2007).

_____, *The Naked Public Square: Religion & Democracy*, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: 1988).

Saul Newman, *Political Theology: A Critical Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2019).

H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture* (New York: Harper, 1951).

Oliver O'Donovan, *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the Roots of Political Theology* (Cambridge: 1996).

_____. *The Ways of Judgment* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).

Oliver Donovan and Joan Lockwood O'Donovan, eds., *From Irenaeus to Grotius: A Sourcebook in Christian Political Thought* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999).

_____. *Bonds of Imperfections: Christian Politics, Past and Present* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004).

C.C. Pecknold, *Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010).

Thomas R. Rourke, *The Social & Political Thought of Benedict XVI* (Latham,, MD: Lexington Press, 2011).

Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh, Eds. *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004).

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters of the Concept of Sovereignty* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago, 1985).

_____, *Political Theology II* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2008).

James K.A. Smith, *Introducing Radical Orthodoxy: Mapping a Post-Secular Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004).

Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh, eds., *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004).

James W. Skillen & Rockne M. McCarthy, eds., *Political Order and the Plural Society* (Atlanta: Emory University Press, 1991).

Max Stackhouse, "Civil Religion, Practical Theology and Public theology: What's the Difference?" *Political Theology* 5.3 (2004): 275-293.

J. Milburn Thompson, *Introducing Catholic Social Thought* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010).

David Tracy, *Pluralism and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994).

David VanDrunen, *Politics After Christendom* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020).

M. Xhaufflaire, *La 'théologie politique': Introduction à la théologie politique de J.B. Metz* (Paris: 1972).

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."

This Syllabus may be corrected and/or updated