

POLI 136: Politics and Religion

Victor Magagna

Winter 2017

(858)-534-1951, Office Hours: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Price Auditorium

The purpose of this course is to provide all interested students with an introduction to the study of politics and religion. Topics will include an exposition of the core beliefs of a selection of the world's great religions, an analysis of the historical and contemporary significance of religion, and a comparison of the everyday impact of religious belief on political and economic behavior. Cases are drawn from Judaism; Christianity; Islam; Buddhism; and the Confucian tradition.

Grades will be based on one of two options:

A.) One take-home mid-term (40%) and one take-home final (60%)

B.) One 12-16 page **Research Design**. If you choose B, you must present me (Victor Magagna) with a concrete research proposal no later than **Friday, January 20th**.

Readings:

-Weeks 1-5: Putnam and Campbell "American Grace": entire book

-Weeks 2-6: Toby and Siegel: choose two religions covered in the book

-Weeks 7-10: Esposito "The Future of Islam": entire book

-Recommended: Mo Fiorina "Culture War?"

