

POLI 136: Religion and Polits

Prof. Victor Magagna¹

Winter 2019

MWF | 13:00-13:50 | Price Center Theater

Please direct all email communication to poli136winter2019@gmail.com

Course Description

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.

Assignments and Grades

Course grades are based on one take home midterm exam (worth 40% of the final grade) and one take home final exam (worth 60%). *Both exams must be submitted digitally via the Turnitin assignment link on TritonEd.* No hard copy will be required.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please visit the UCSD academic integrity office's website at <http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu>.

If you need help writing these essays, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the UCSD writing center (<http://commons.ucsd.edu/students/writing/index.html>). Specific deadlines, instructions, and submission guidelines will be announced when the exam prompts are posted to TritonEd.

Course Resources

Lectures will be available via podcast at <https://podcast.ucsd.edu>. Professor Magagna's notes from each lecture will be posted to TritonEd as well.

Readings

- Robert Putnam and David Campbell, "American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us": entire book
- John Esposito, "The Future of Islam": entire book

¹ Office: SSB 375; Phone: (858) 337-1926

- Willard Oxtoby and Alan Segal, “A Concise Introduction To World Religions” (2nd edition): choose three religions covered in the book

Recommended:

- Mo Fiorina with Samuel Abrams and Jeremy Pope, “Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America”
- Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address

Teaching Assistants

The TAs for this course are Brandon Merrell, Hernan Picatto, Mariana Carvalho, and Rachel Skillman. The TAs will not hold regular office hours. At least one TA will be present at every lecture; students are encouraged to approach the TA with questions either before or after the class session. Please direct all communication to poli136winter2019@gmail.com.