

POLI 4000: Religion & Politics

Location: 218 Coates MWF 2:30-3:20
Instructor: Kate Bratton
Office hours: MWF, 11:30-1:20, Stubbs 208A, or by appointment

I) Required Texts:

Hertzke, Olson, and den Hulk, *Religion and Politics in America*

And supplemental readings

II) Grade Distribution:

Midterm 1: 20% (online & in-class)

Midterm 2: 20% (online & in-class)

Final: 20%

Moodle Quizzes & Exercises: 20%

Quizzes are:

- Online
- Two tries (usually)
- Open-book
- Final grade an average of the two
- After the first try, there is feedback on many of the questions

Exercises are in-class and take-home

Attendance: 20%

Illness with a doctor's excuse, religious observances, athletic participation (or participation in other academic events) are all considered separately, and as long as you notify me before class, they are excused.

III) Useful Links

[LSU Disability Services](#)

[PS 22](#) on “Student Absence From Class”

[PS 26](#) on Policy for Persons with Disabilities

[PS 44](#) on Student Grading

[PS 48](#) on Student Appeals

IV) Academic Integrity

Taken from the LSU Code of [Student Conduct](#), Section 8.0, page 18:

A. High standards of academic integrity are crucial for the University to fulfill its educational mission. To uphold these standards, procedures have been established to address academic misconduct.

As a guiding principle, the University expects Students to model the principles outlined in the University Commitment to Community, especially as it pertains to accepting responsibility for their actions and holding themselves and others to the highest standards of performance in an academic environment. For example, LSU students are responsible for submitting work for evaluation that reflects their individual performance and should not assume any assignment given by any professor is a “group” effort or work unless specifically noted on the assignment. In all other cases, students must assume the work is to be done independently. If the student has a question regarding the instructor’s expectations for individual assignments, projects, tests, or other items submitted for a grade, it is the student’s responsibility to seek clarification.

Any Student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit Academic Misconduct is subject to the disciplinary sanctions set forth in Section 9.0.

B. An instructor may not assign a disciplinary grade, such as an "F" or zero on an assignment, test, examination, or course as a sanction for admitted or suspected Academic Misconduct in lieu of formally charging the student with Academic Misconduct under the provisions of this Code. All grades assigned as a result of accountability action must be approved by the Dean of Students or designee.

V) Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

LSU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning, psychological hearing, sight and mobility impairments. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see me or the Office of Disability Services, 112 Johnston Hall, so that such accommodations may be arranged

VI) Grading Scale

97 and above: A+

93-96.9: A

89.5-92.9: A-

86.5-89.49: B+

83.5-86.49: B

79.5-83.49: B-

76.5-79.49: C+

73.5-76.49: C

69.5-73.49: C-

66.5-69.49: D+

63.5-66.49: D

59.5-63.49: D-

59.49 and below: F

Tentative Schedule

I) Intro / Chapter 1 (1/15-1/24)

Martin Luther King Holiday, 1/20

1/22 (Wed): Final date for dropping without W, 4:30 pm

1/23 (Thur): Final date for adding courses, 4:30 pm

1/23 (Thur): Final date for petitioning deans' offices for Grade Exclusion Policy, 4:30 pm

II) Chapter 2: Theories of Religion, Culture & American Politics (1/27-1/31)

III) Chapter 3: Christianity and its Major Branches (2/3-2/7)

IV) Chapter 4: Judaism, Islam, and Other Expressions of Religious Pluralism (2/10-2/14)

V) Chapter 5: Latino & African American Religion & Politics (2/17-2/21)

Mardi Gras, 2/24

VI) Chapter 6: Gender, Sexual Orientation, Religion, and Politics (2/28-3/6)

MIDTERM 1 (3/2)

VII) Chapter 7: Voting and Religion in American Politics (3/9-3/13)

VIII) Chapter 8: The Politics of Organized Religious Groups (3/16-3/20)

Spring Break, 3/23-3/29

IX) Chapter 9: Religion and Political and Cultural Elites (3/30-4/1)

MIDTERM 2 (4/3)

X) Chapter 10: Religion, Civil Society, and Political Culture (4/6-4/8)

Good Friday, 4/10

4/6 (Mon): Final date for dropping courses, 4:30 pm deadline

4/6 (Mon): Final date to reschedule a final exam when 3 exams are scheduled within 24 hours

4/6 (Mon): Final date for resigning from University, 4:30 pm deadline

XI) Chapter 11: The Politics of Religion in the Legal System (4/13-4/17)

XII) Chapter 12: Church and State in the Courts (4/20-4/24)

XIII) Chapter 13: Big Themes & Normative Concerns (4/27-5/1)

4/29 (Wed) – 5/1 (Sun): Concentrated study period, Review

Final, Thursday, 5/7, 12:30-2:30