University of Toronto
Department of Political Science & Department for the Study of Religion

JPR 364Y RELIGION AND POLITICS
Syllabus September 2018-April 2019

Mon. 12-2, SK 548

INSTRUCTOR:
Ruth Marshall  Departments of Religion & Political Science
Jackman Humanities Building (170 St. George St.), Room 300
Tel: 416-978-0241
Email: ruth.marshall@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 3-5 or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:  Rosalind Cooper (Study of Religion)
TBA (Political Science)

THEMES:
This course will engage with contemporary debates on religion and politics in our post-9/11 world, and will do so comparatively across a wide range of contexts around the globe. The emphasis will be on understanding the evolving relationship between religion and politics in liberal democracies, and examining challenges facing democratic politics from the religious sphere, both in the West, where secular liberalism is the dominant framework for discussing these questions, and across the Global South, where such a framework is more likely to be contested. The themes we will explore include secularism, religious pluralism and tolerance, rights and freedoms, religion’s relation to law and state, electoral politics, the formation of identity and political community, gender, and sexuality, the political implications of transnational religious networks, their advocacy and militancy—evangelical Christianity and radical Islam in particular. Some of the readings will speak to such themes in theoretical terms; others will focus on contemporary political debates; still others will examine specific cases in which religious questions are at issue in politics. Readings will be complemented by student-led research into current stories and issues found in the media and online, from both primary and secondary sources – investigative articles, blogs, videos, public speeches, films, radio shows etc. that exemplify, dramatize or illustrate the themes and issues.

JPR 364Y is jointly offered by the departments of Political Science and Religion, and will draw students from both areas, in addition to some who are enrolled primarily in other programs. All are welcome, though students registered in the class should be prepared for a multidisciplinary approach.

LEARNING: As this is a 3rd year course, students should be ready to take active responsibility for their own learning. The instructor’s pedagogical approach is one of learning facilitation, rather than the imparting of wisdom from on high. The more active a role you take in the course, through reading, discussion, writing, research, reflection and questioning, the more you’ll get out of it and the better you do. The instructor is delighted to meet you during office hours to discuss aspects of the course content or themes on which you would like clarification or further discussion.
REQUIREMENTS:

1. **2 Reading Reflections** of 1000 words each  
   Total Weight: 20%  
   - 1st due at 11 a.m. on Oct. 22 Turnitin.com on– based on selection of readings and class lectures covered between Sept. 17 and Oct. 15.  
   - 2nd due at 11 a.m. on Turnitin.com on Nov. 26– based on selection of readings and class lectures covered between Oct. 22 and Nov. 17

2. **Take Home Exam**  
   Due Dec. 7, 11:59 pm  
   Total Weight: 20%  
   The exam, comprising short identification questions (40%) and a choice of 2 essay questions from which you must answer 1 (60%) will be posted on Dec. 2nd. A review session will be held in class Dec. 3rd. Completed exams are to handed in to Turnitcom no later than 11:59 p.m. Friday December 7th. Late exams will receive a mark of zero.

3. **Opinion piece** – 1200 words  
   Due Feb. 25 at 11 am  
   Total Weight: 15%  
   See below for more information

4. **Class Participation and Posting**  
   year-long  
   Total Weight: 15%  
   Class attendance will count for 10 % of this grade. The remaining 5% will be based on participation in class discussion and/or posting on Quercus Discussion. See below for more information re posting.

5. **Final Paper Outline**– Due before class. Mar. 18.  
   Total Weight: 5%  
   Thesis statement plus short outline (max 500 words in total) accompanied by an annotated bibliography of no less than 6 academic sources (4-5 sentences each). To be handed in to Quercus. Paper work-shopping session to be held in class Mar. 25th.

6. **Final Research Paper** - Due Friday, April 5th  
   Total Weight: 25%  
   See below for information.

READING REFLECTIONS:
Each of you is responsible for submitting two short papers (1000 words), each of them a critical reflection developed from the readings associated with one or more week’s topics from the period covered under the assignment. The aim of these reflections is to apply the insights and arguments found in a selection of readings to a current issue, event or controversy. The assignments require you to show that you have understood the ideas and issues analyzed in the readings, and are able to apply these in a critical and engaged way to your chosen issue. For each assignment, suggestions of topics or issues will made in class and posted on Blackboard, but you are not bound to these, and are encouraged to come up with your own. Some media sources are suggested below, more will be posted on Blackboard, but you are encouraged to research your own.

OPINION PIECE:
You will write a 1200 word opinion piece on the “Is ISIS Islamic?” debate. Some readings on this are listed on the syllabus for the week of February 11th, but you are encouraged to find others. You’ll respond to the question: What is at stake in the “Is ISIS Islamic?” debate and why does or doesn’t it matter? This is NOT an exercise in determining an ‘answer’ to the question of whether or not ISIS is Islamic, but thinking about why the question matters, in what ways and for whom. You
should also draw on ideas and information presented in readings from both terms as you formulate and argue your views on the matter. More guidelines will be discussed in class.

**PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSION, POSTING IN DISCUSSION ON QUERCUS:**
Students should post relevant media items, comments or questions in the Discussion threads that relate to, debate or illustrate the week’s themes and readings. (For example: for the week on American Culture Wars, you might make comments on an aspect of the readings, and/or post media reports, public statements from religious or political leaders, op ed pieces, links to radio or TV coverage or commentary, late night comedy shows, cartoons etc, on Pres Trump’s relation to evangelicals, hate groups/speech, policies around LGBT issues etc.) See media publications, websites etc. listed below and posted by the Instructor on Quercus for some sources – you are encouraged to find others.
All students must come to class ready to present their views on the themes and readings and actively discuss with their peers. Regular attendance is necessary for a good grade on this part of the course.

**RESEARCH PAPER:**
Students are expected to develop their own essay topics. They should take up some question or argument with reference to the intersection of religion and politics in the contemporary period. Essays may either be predominantly theoretical or empirical and they may focus on one particular setting (country, region, institution), event or issue or compare two or three – though it is important to keep the topic focused and manageable. More detailed instructions will be posted on Blackboard and discussed at the beginning of the second term. Essays will be no more than 3,500 words.
You will hand in a Thesis Statement and Paper Outline of no more than 500 words accompanied by an Annotated Bibliography (3-4 sentences per work) including at least 6 academic articles or books. These outlines/bibliographies will be group work-shopped in class on March 25th.

**MEDIA RESOURCES:**
Given the contemporary and pressing nature of the issues covered in this course, you will find frequent references to, discussion and illustrations of them in a variety of media – academic and quasi-academic blogs, mainstream investigative journalism and news media, as well as media produced by religious organizations, lobbyists, partisan political groups, talk radio hosts, think tanks, activists and advocates of all stripes.
An excellent academic resource is the extremely exhaustive and topical blog on religion and politics by American Social Science Research Council - The Immanent Frame. [http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/](http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/).
You should consult national dailies, global news outlets services such as the BBC World Service, Al Jazeera, CNN, MSNBC, FOX for news reports. There are many good investigative articles in publications such as The Economist, The New Republic, Harpers, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The New Statesman, The Wall Street Journal. Liberal or left liberal political commentary: Politico.com, Salon.com, Democracy Now, Alternet. The Intercept, Talk2Action etc. Right or far right: Fox News, World Net Daily, Breitbart. Media, Gateway Pundit; far-right watchdogs – Right Wing Watch, Media Matters for America, Southern Poverty Law Centre. More sources, including faith-based media outlets will be posted on Quercus.

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**WRITING ESSAYS:**
Clear, well-organized, and articulate writing is an indispensable feature of the analytical process, and this course assumes that you are prepared to work on improving your capacity to communicate in prose. The Political Science Department’s web site (www.chass.utoronto.ca/polsci) includes, a “Writing at U of T” link on the left side of the home page, a brief guide to essay writing (authored by Rayside), as well as a link to a vast array of university-wide resources – at the “plagiarism” link. Each college also has a writing workshop.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**
Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with accordingly. Students must read “Tips for Avoiding Academic Misconduct” [http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students/avoid-misconduct/tips-for-avoiding-academic-misconduct](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students/avoid-misconduct/tips-for-avoiding-academic-misconduct) and the University’s “How not to Plagiarize” document, [http://www-writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www-writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize) and are encouraged to discuss with the instructors if they are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Plagiarism does not only apply to essays, but also more informal forms of writing.

**SUBMITTING THE FINAL ESSAY: TURNITIN.COM**
Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments and final essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their work to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. See also [http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm](http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm). Reminder: Final Essay is due on Turnitin.com by 11:59 p.m. on April 10th. Students have the right to refuse to use Turnitin.com. In this case, students will be expected to submit an electronic copy of their essay to the professor by email, accompanied by their outline, thesis statement and annotated bibliography, as well all their notes and rough drafts **before 4 p.m. on Friday, April 5th**.

**SUBMITTING TERM WORK:**
Term work must be handed in to Turnitin.com, on the dates and times indicated on this syllabus. You should ensure that you have a hard copy and an electronic copy of all work submitted, and you are strongly advised to retain the rough work, notes, and draft material that went into the essay or assignment. Again, students have the right to refuse to use Turnitin.com. In this case, students will be expected to submit a hard copy of their work accompanied by their notes and rough drafts in class on the day the work is due.

**LATE WORK POLICY:**
Late essays, exams or assignments will **NOT** be accepted: assignments handed in late will be returned unmarked with a grade of ZERO assigned. Exceptions may be granted to students who have faced serious medical or other emergencies, and who have substantial and convincing documentation fully accounting for the length of delay. If you are facing such a situation, inform the instructor as soon as possible. Students registered with Accessibility Services are of course entitled to extensions in keeping with their Accommodations – please notify the instructor when you require one.

**QUERCUS & EMAIL:**
The course has a Quercus web site, on which the syllabus, announcements, relevant media reports, and other items will be posted. You MUST have a valid UTOR email and are expected to consult
Quercus regularly. Quercus is an important tool for class participation, as students are encouraged to post media items and comments of relevance to the weeks’ themes and readings on the discussion threads.

The instructor is prepared to respond to a reasonable number of e-mails, but not necessarily right away. The TAs will not be responding to emails, and as the instructor receives a considerable volume of messages, you should not assume that yours in particular requires urgent attention. Questions asking for information that is available on the course syllabus or Quercus, or on using the library to access readings, will not be answered. Matters that require a substantive answer, such as the development of assignments and term paper topics, questions about the lectures or reading materials, or personal difficulties should be addressed in person during office hours.

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:
Lectures and classroom discussion will not simply replicate the reading. They will assume that you have covered the reading material, and go beyond the theoretical questions, issues or descriptive material covered in it. In some cases there will be specific questions worth exploring in more detail; in others there will be updates to be provided. The take-home exam, reading reflections and opinion piece will draw on both readings and lectures. Students are expected to participate in active class discussion. Students who do not attend class or participate in class and/or on the Discussion threads can expect to see their grade suffer for this portion of the evaluation.

TEXTS:
Materials drawn from academic journals and books in electronic format are available through the U of T library site by finding the “electronic resource” listing under the journal or book title. Books from which other articles are drawn will usually contain other material worthy of your attention, and are available on short-term loan at Robarts Library. The Instructor has copies of all materials and more instructions on accessing materials electronically will be given during the first class.

READING LIST:
All the readings marked on the syllabus are required, unless otherwise stated. Readings may be modified at the Instructor’s discretion – you must consult Quercus regularly for new, revised or updated readings. Students are expected to read all materials attentively, and be prepared to discuss them in class. In addition to the items listed below, newspaper or magazine articles may be posted and treated as required reading. Films and guest lectures are integral to the course, and material discussed in them considered on a par with regular lectures and required reading. Reading/watching your peers’ postings on the discussion thread is strongly encouraged.

You can find the readings on this website: jpr364.tumblr.com, password: religionandpolitics (N.B. the readings/dates may not correspond with this year’s schedule, so scroll until you find the right collection for the week according to the schedule of readings below.)
**FIRST TERM**

**Sept. 10 – Course Overview**

**Sept. 17 – Secularism between the West and the ‘Rest’**


**Sept. 24 – The Limits of Canadian Multiculturalism**


**Oct. 1 - Republican “Laïcité” in France**


**Oct. 15 - Islam, Law and State**


**Oct. 22 - Faith and America’s Culture Wars?** - **First Reading Reflection DUE**


Reading TBA

**Oct. 29 – The Impossibility of Religious Freedom?**


**Nov. 5 – Fall Break. No Class.**

**Nov. 12 – Hate Speech and Political Polarization in America**

Jeremy Waldron *The Harm in Hate Speech*, Harvard U. Press, Chap. 4

Angela Nagle, *Kill all Normies: Online Culture Wars from 4chan and Tumblr to Trump and the Alt-Right*, Zero Books, Chap. 5, Conclusion


**Nov. 19 – Film: Jesus Camp**

**Nov. 28 - Islam and Secularism in Egypt** - **Second Reading Reflection DUE**


Dec. 5 – Review Class for Take-home Exam

SECOND TERM

Jan. 7 – Transnationalism, Globalization, and Religion beyond the State


http://www.thenation.com/doc/20011022/said

Jan. 14 - Global Politics of Religious Freedom


Jan. 21 - Muslim Europe and Anti-Immigrant Politics


Jan. 28 - Freedom of Speech – A Comparative Approach


Feb. 4 - Global Salafism: A New Ummah?


Feb. 11 - Uprising in the Arab World: Between Democratic Revolution and Jihad


The “Is ISIS Islamic?” Debate:


Feb. 18 – Reading Week. No Class

Feb. 25 - Film - Among the Believers - Opinion Piece on “Is ISIS Islamic?” Debate DUE

Mar. 4 - Moral Geographies of Terror

**Mar. 11 - The New Christendom**


[http://pewforum.org/uploadedfiles/Orphan_Migrated_Content/pentecostals-08.pdf](http://pewforum.org/uploadedfiles/Orphan_Migrated_Content/pentecostals-08.pdf)


**Mar. 18 - Christians and Empire: Paper Thesis, Outline and Annotated Bibliography DUE**


**Mar. 25 - Final Paper Group Workshopping Session** – Comments and discussions on your graded Thesis/Outlines from Instructor, TAs and peers.

**Apr. 1 - Justice, Rights and the Problem of Universality - Course Conclusion**


The Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam. Available at:


**APRIL 5 - FINAL PAPER DUE ON TURNITIN BY 11:59 p.m.**