CIEE Global Institute – Copenhagen

Course name: Politics of Religion
Course number: (GI) RELI 2001 CPDK / POLI 2001 CPDK
Programs offering course: Copenhagen Open Campus
Open Campus Track: International Relations and Political Science Track
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course examines contemporary public discourses suggesting that Northern Hemisphere societies are moving towards secular and presumably progressive positions, whilst North Africa and the Middle-East are portrayed as sites of virtually eternal religious conflict. In exploring the relationship between church, religion and state, this course will evaluate a comprehensive range of thematic approaches in the politics of religion. Where evidence, both current and historical, suggests a relationship between religion and morality, this course will review how religious morality informs the politics of the state, and how some societies are moving towards popular and populist notions of civic morality. Through the contrast between civic and religious morality, students will explore case studies in different countries on issues such as homosexuality, contraceptives, abortion, legitimate and illegitimate violence, the role of women in society, and the significance of rational thought in the sciences.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be in a position to:

- Critically evaluate readings from the course
- Independently source and verify additional and relevant sources of information
- Start to develop and deliver complex arguments on highly sensitive issues
- Articulate the distinction between morality and religion
- Improve academic writing and presentation skills
- Enhance intercultural awareness and communication competencies

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Among other techniques, the methodology used throughout this course will include: teacher presentations with student-teacher dialogue and discussion; active discussion in which students will be

expected to prepare presentations to argue a specific case and defend it to an opponent and the class. Students will also attend site visits, special events, and guest lectures. They are expected to take copious notes of readings, lectures and out-of-class activities to be potentially used for course submissions. Rules for citation and referencing apply.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Case Studies Debates   10%
2. Presentation   20%
3. Midterm Exam   25%
4. Final Paper   25%
5. Class Participation   20%

Course Requirements

Case Studies Debates
Each student is required to participate in a prepared debate on the role of politics in religion, based on selected case studies. The individual debates will be in groups each given a topic. Grading will be based on knowledge and preparation demonstrated in the in-class debate.

Presentation
Students will be required to deliver a presentation during the course. Each presentation should be about 10-15 minutes (excluding opponent and class discussion) and it should show a good understanding of a selected topic and the ability to put it in perspective. The topic should be presented in a concise yet comprehensive manner.

Midterm Exam
The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice and short answer / paragraph questions to measure the students' progress halfway through the course.

Final Paper
A 2000-word discussion paper will be required. This paper will cover a specific topic and needs to show a solid understanding of and reflection on the topic assigned. The topic cannot be the same as the presentation topic.

Class Participation
Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed	Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes	Minimum Penalty
Up to 10%	1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements + 3% grade reduction ; **written warning**
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 5 language classes	Automatic **course failure**, and possible expulsion

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1

Class 1.1 Introduction: Religion in Our Societies
This module of the course introduces students to the role of religions as social systems which structure societies. Attention will be paid to how religion intersects with political, social and cultural contexts in both Western and non-Western societies, and the impact of religion as a social system on everyday life.

Readings:
Bruce, S.: *Politics and Religion*, pp. 1-14.

Added readings:
Pike K. L.: Etic and Emic Standpoints for the Description of Behavior
Geertz, C.: Religion as a Cultural System

Optional:
Otto: R.. *Das Heilige*,

Week 2

Class 2.1 Religion, Empires, and Colonialism
This module of the course examines the role of the Christian churches during the development of European empires in the American, Asian, and African continents. The module will explore the Crusades, and the fermenting of a violent relationship between faiths in the Middle East, whilst also exploring how religious obligation was used as the justification of colonization in the Americas and Africa.

Readings:
Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 15-40.
Carson, P. "An imperial dilemma: The propagation of Christianity in early colonial India*".*
Chevedden, Paul E. "The Islamic view and the Christian view of the Crusades: A new synthesis."
Porter, A. "Religion and Empire: British Expansion in the Long Nineteenth Century, 1780–1914*".*

Optional:
Jotischky, Andrew. *Crusading and the Crusader States*.

Class 2.2 Migration and Faith

This module explores the history of migration based upon religious conflict, social subjugation, and pilgrimage. Examples for analysis will be historical and current, and present examples from throughout the world focusing on the impact on communities and economies at the departure and arrival stages of religious migration.

Readings:

Levitt, Peggy. "Redefining the Boundaries of Belonging: The Institutional Character of Transnational Religious Life."

Stamatov, P. "Activist Religion, Empire, and the Emergence of Modern Long-Distance Advocacy Networks."

Yang, F. & Ebaugh, H.R. "Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications" Site Visit: Islamisk-Kristent Studiecenter, København, Denmark

Optional:

Garnett, Jane and Alana Harris, eds. *Rescripting religion in the city: Migration and religious identity in the modern metropolis.*

Class 2.3. **Debates**

Week 3

Class 3.1 Religion and the Nation-state

In this module students will explore the relationship between religion and the nation-state through a historical examination of the connections between church and state in Europe and beyond.

Readings:

Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion,* pp. 41-93.

Furseth Inger. "Secularization, Deprivatization, or Religious Complexity?"

Ibenwa, C.N. *Religion and Nation Building: A Critical Analysis*

Optional:

Båckström, Anders and Grace Davie, editors. *Welfare and Religion in the 21st Century Europe: Volume 1 Configuring the Connections.*

Vejrup, Marie and Lene Kühle. "Religion and State in Denmark: Exception Among Exceptions?"

Class 3.2 Religion, Ritual, and Society
Following from the previous module, this module deconstructs ritual in contemporary societies, with particular emphasis on religious-inferred rituals surrounding public commemorations, and the operating religious-inspired rituals of modern governments and parliaments.

Site Visit: The Danish Humanist Society (Humanistisk Samfund)

Readings:
Kühle Lene et al. "Religion and State: Complexity in Change."
Montserrat, Guibernau. *Belonging: Solidarity and Division in Modern Societies*, pp. 92-116.
Turner, V. *The Forest of Symbols*, Cornell University Press (selected readings)

Optional:
Gordon-Lennox, Jeltje et al. "Case Study: A Nordic Rite of Passage Comes of Age", pp. 87-103.

Class 3.3 **Midterm Exam**

Week 4

Class 4.1 Religious Politics
In this module students will examine case studies from throughout the world, wherein political systems engage in support or opposition (or a blend of both) with religious dogma. Students will examine circumstances where overt religious rhetoric was present in the political discourse, and examples, such as the New Labour years under British Prime Minister Tony Blair, where religious discourse was intentionally avoided by government. Students will also examine case studies where the private lives of politicians impacted how the public viewed the moral standing of the public representative and consider what impact religious dogma had in these circumstances.

Readings:
Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 94-126.
Tessler, M. "Islam and Democracy in the Middle East: The Impact of Religious Orientations on Attitudes toward Democracy in Four Arab Countries"

Site Visit: Humanity in Action Denmark

Class 4.2 Religion and Representation

In this module students will discuss the representation of religions in the public sphere. Representation analyses will evaluate concurrently the level and impact of the political representation of religions, both predominant and minority religions, in society whilst also examining the public representation of religions in the mediascape and social media.

Readings:
Arnal, William and Russell T. McCutcheon. *The Sacred is the Profane: The Political Nature of "Religion"*, pp. 57-72 and 134-171.
Herbert, David. *Religion and Civil Society: Rethinking Public Religion in the Contemporary World.*

Optional:
Campbell, Heidi, editor. *Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds,* pp. 223-269.
Knott, Kim, et al., editors. *Media Portrayals of Religion and the Secular Sacred: Representation and Change*, pp. 15-100.

Class 4.3 **Presentations Due**

Week 5

Class 5.1 Religion and Public Morality
This module examines case studies of key debates surrounding a number of sensitive issues in contemporary society, including abortion rights, contraceptives, and state-sanctioned executions.

Readings:
Evans, Michael S. and John H. Evans. "Arguing Against Darwinism: Religion, Science and Public Morality."

Optional:
Engeli, Isabelle, et al., editors. *Morality Politics in Western Europe: Parties, Agendas and Policy Choices.*
Studlar, Donley T. and Gordon J. Burns. "Toward the permissive society? Morality policy agendas and policy directions in Western Democracies".

Class 5.2 Religion and Violence

This module explores historical and contemporary examples wherein violence was legitimized through the invocation of religious dogma.

Readings:
Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 127-160
Maguire, D. (ed.) *Sacred Rights*

Optional:

Reader, Ian. "Religion and Violence." *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations.*
Film: "Jihad: A Story of the Others"

Week 6

Class 6.1 Religion and Gender
This module evaluates how religious dogma influences and informs public and political discourses throughout the world in relation to the role of women.

Readings:
https://www.religionandgender.org/
Woodhead, Linda. "Religion and Gender."

Optional:
Marler, Penny Long. "Religious Change in the West: Watch the Women."

Class 6.2 Religion and Sex
This module evaluates how religious dogma influences and informs public and political discourses throughout the world in relation to homosexuality, civil liberties and marriage equality.

Readings:
Bruce, S. *Politics and Religion*, pp. 161-204.
Johnston, C. "Ireland becomes first country to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote – as it happened", *The Guardian*

Final Discussion Paper Due

Readings
Main text
Bruce, Steven. *Politics and Religion*. 2003. Polity Press, 2008.
[To be acquired by all students]

Additional readings

Arnal, William and Russell T. McCutcheon. *The Sacred is the Profane: The Political Nature of "Religion"*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Båckström, Anders and Grace Davie, editors. Welfare and Religion in the 21st Century Europe: Volume 1 Configuring the Connections. Routledge, 2010.

Campbell, Heidi, editor. *Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds.* Routledge, 2013.

Carson. Penelope. "An imperial dilemma: The propagation of Christianity in early colonial India." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, vol. 18, no. 2, 1990, pp. 169-190.

Chevedden, Paul E. "The Islamic view and the Christian view of the Crusades: A new synthesis." *History*, vol. 93, no. 310, 2008, pp. 181-200.

Engeli, Isabelle, et al., editors. *Morality Politics in Western Europe: Parties, Agendas and Policy Choices.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Evans, Michael S. and John H. Evans. "Arguing Against Darwinism: Religion, Science and Public Morality." *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*, edited by Brian S. Turner, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2010, pp. 286-308.

Furseth Inger. "Secularization, Deprivatization, or Religious Complexity?" *Religious Complexity in the Public Sphere. Palgrave Studies in Religion, Politics, and Policy*, edited by Inger Furseth, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 291-312.

Garnett, Jane and Alana Harris, editors. *Rescripting religion in the city: Migration and religious identity in the modern metropolis.* Ashgate, 2013.

Gordon-Lennox, Jeltje et al. "Case Study: A Nordic Rite of Passage Comes of Age." *Emerging Rituals in Secular Societies: A Transdisciplinary Conversation*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2017, pp. 87-103.

Herbert, David. *Religion and Civil Society: Rethinking Public Religion in the Contemporary World.* 2003. Routledge, 2016.

Ibenwa, C.N. "Religion And Nation Building: A Critical Analysis", *International Journal of African Society Cultures and Traditions*, vol.1, no.2, 2014, pp.1-12.

Jotischky, Andrew. *Crusading and the Crusader States*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2017.

Knott, Kim, et al., eds. *Media Portrayals of Religion and the Secular Sacred: Representation and Change*. Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2013.

Kühle Lene, et al. "Religion and State: Complexity in Change." *Religious Complexity in the Public Sphere. Palgrave Studies in Religion, Politics, and Policy,* edited by Inger Furseth, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 81-135.

Levitt, Peggy. "Redefining the Boundaries of Belonging: The Institutional Character of Transnational Religious Life." *Sociology of Religion,* vol. 65, no. 1, 2004, pp. 1-18.

Maguire, Daneil, editor. *Sacred Rights*, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Marler, Penny Long. "Religious Change in the West: Watch the Women." *Women and Religion in the West: Challenging Secularization*, edited by Kristin Aune, Sonya Sharma and Giselle Vincett, Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2016, pp. 23-56.

Montserrat, Guibernau. *Belonging: Solidarity and Division in Modern Societies*. Polity Press, 2013.

Porter, Andrew. "Religion and Empire: British Expansion in the Long Nineteenth Century, 1780–1914." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, vol. 20, no. 3, 1992, pp. 370-390.

Reader, Ian. "Religion and Violence." *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations.* 3rd ed., edited by Linda Woodhead et al., Routledge, 2016, pp. 473-492.

Stamatov, Peter. "Activist Religion, Empire, and the Emergence of Modern Long-Distance Advocacy Networks." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 75, no. 4, 2010, pp. 607-628.

Studlar, Donley T. and Gordon J. Burns. "Toward the permissive society? Morality policy agendas and policy directions in Western Democracies". *Policy Sciences,* vol. 48, no. 3, 2015, pp. 273-291.

Tessler, Mark. "Islam and Democracy in the Middle East: The Impact of Religious Orientations on Attitudes toward Democracy in Four Arab Countries." *Comparative Politics*, vol. 34, no.3, 2002, pp. 337-354.

Turner, Vicor. *The Forest of Symbols*, Cornell University Press, 1967.

Vejrup, Marie and Lene Kühle. "Religion and State in Denmark: Exception Among Exceptions?" *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society*, vol. 24, no. 2, 2011, pp. 173-188.

Yang, Fenggang and Ebaugh, Helen Rose."Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and their Global Implications", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 66, no. 2, 2001, pp. 269-288.

Woodhead, Linda. "Religion and Gender." *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations.* 3rd ed., edited by Linda Woodhead et al., Routledge, 2016, pp. 493-510.

Online Resources

https://www.religionandgender.org/

Clements, B. and Spencer, N. (2014) "Voting and Values in Britain: Does religion count?"
   Theos, available at:
   http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/files/files/Reports/Voting%20and%20Values%20i
   n%20 Britain%2012.pdf

"House of Lords: Religious Representation", *House of Lords Library Note*, 25 November
   2011,LLN 2011/036, available at:
   http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2011-036/LLN-2011-036.pdf

Johnston, C. (2015) "Ireland becomes first country to legalise same-sex marriage by popular
   vote - as it happened", *The Guardian*, May 24, 2015, available at:
   http://www.theguardian.com/global/live/2015/may/23/counting-underway-for-
   irelandsreferendum-on-marriage-equality