Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:35 AM to 9:55 AM, 208 Residence Commons (Fall) / 409 Southam Hall (Winter)

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Course Description and Objectives

“Modern politics,” according to John Gray, “is a chapter in the history of religion” (Black Mass, 2008, p. 1). “The expanding gap between the sacred and the secular societies around the globe,” Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart write, “will have important consequences for world politics, making the role of religion increasingly salient on the global agenda” (Sacred and Secular, 2004, p. 241). “The great forces of modernity,” John Micklethwait and Adiran Wooldridge insist, “are all strengthening religion rather than undermining it” (God is Back, 2009, pp. 354–355). But what is religion? What is politics, or, for that matter, ‘modern politics’, as distinct from ‘politics’? What is modernity? How are these concepts related? What is meant by the global resurgence of religion many scholars are now discussing and debating? What are its supposed causes and effects and what does it portend or promise for global politics? Is it real? Is it meaningful at all?

This seminar course aims to introduce students to the study of religions through an examination of the conjunctions and intersections between religion and politics in a variety of contemporary and historical contexts and in a variety of religious traditions. By addressing the questions just mentioned in a variety of contexts and in a variety of ways—through case studies; theoretical, philosophical, and theological readings; films; field research—students will gain insight into the academic study of religions; learn about different aspects of various religious traditions; learn about how members of different religious traditions have responded to various political situations or challenges; gain an understanding of how the authoritative sources of different religious traditions address political concerns or speak to political matters; appreciate the politics sometimes involved in determining what sources within a given religious tradition are, in fact, authoritative; and be encouraged to reflect on the concept of religion in general and its relevance in the contemporary world. Finally, the course also aims to help students develop their critical thinking, reading, writing, and academic research skills.

Required Texts (prices as of 24 August 2009, subject to change without notice)


FYSM 1501P Course-pack (approximately $62 at Carleton Bookstore).
### Fall Term Course Requirements

**Personal reflection on religion and politics (400-600 words) DUE 21 SEPTEMBER** 2.5%

*Explain in your own words what the concept of religion means to you, what politics means to you, and how religion and politics might be related. Explain why you think it might be important or interesting to study the relationship between religion, or specific religions, and politics. You will be graded on grammar, writing style, presentation, and the seriousness with which you address the questions.*

**Essay proposal / outline (200-300 words) DUE 21 OCTOBER** 2%

**Article review (700-800 words) DUE 4 NOVEMBER** 8%

**In-class quiz 23 NOVEMBER** 5%

**Essay (1800-2000 words) DUE 7 DECEMBER** 15%

**Oral presentation 1 on selected readings (in groups of 2 or 3) VARIOUS DATES** 2.5%

**Oral presentation 2 on field research, with 1000-word group report (in groups of 3 or 4) VARIOUS DATES • GROUP REPORTS DUE 23 NOVEMBER** 7.5%

50% of your grade will be based on your individual contribution to the in-class presentation, and 50% will be based on the grade assigned to the group report.

**Participation** 5%

**Attendance** 2.5%

**SUB-TOTAL:** 50%

### Winter Term Course Requirements

**Essay proposal / outline (400 words) DUE 22 FEBRUARY** 2.5%

**Book review (1000 words) DUE 22 MARCH** 10%

**Essay (2100-2300 words) DUE 5 APRIL** 20%

**Oral presentation 3 on selected readings (in groups of 2 or 3) VARIOUS DATES** 5%

**Oral presentation 4 on essay proposal / outline (individually) VARIOUS DATES** 5%

**Participation** 5%

**Attendance** 2.5%

**SUB-TOTAL:** 50%

**TOTAL:** 100%

**Extensions:** extensions will only be granted for properly documented medical reasons or in the event of a death in the student’s family or other serious personal crisis and must be approved by me before the official due date.

**Late penalty:** written assignments will be graded out of 100 points. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of -5 points per day after the due date. You must complete all course requirements to receive a grade for this course.

**Attendance and participation:** you are expected and required to attend and participate fully in all classes. If you are unable to attend class on a given day, contact me at mmacdani@connect.carleton.ca before class to let me know. This does not guarantee that you will not lose points for not attending; it is a courtesy to your colleagues and me. For every unexcused absence in each term you will lose 0.5 % of your final course grade, up to 2.5 % (the portion of your final grade your attendance grade amounts to in each term). After five unexcused absences in any one term, you will lose 2.5 % of your final course grade for every additional unexcused absence, up to 5%, to be deducted from your participation grade, worth 5 % each term (regardless of how much you otherwise participate in class).

**Other important information:** instructions for presentations and specific assignments will be given in class at a later date. This is a seminar class and you are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Unless you speak to me or otherwise contact me about any special concerns you may have about your ability to participate fully in class, I reserve the right to call upon you at any time during class to speak. Therefore, if you are at all anxious about speaking in class, you must come see me as soon as possible. This is not meant to intimidate anyone, but rather to encourage everyone to participate actively in class—we are all here to learn.
Articles for Fall Term Article Review

You are required to write a review of one of the following articles in the fall term (all available on WebCT):


Specific instructions for your article review will be given in class at a later date. All of these articles are required reading for the winter term. Therefore, by reading and reviewing one of them in the fall term, you will already have a head start on some of your reading for the winter term.

Books for Winter Term Book Review

You are required to write a review of one of the following books in the winter term:


Only in exceptional circumstances will I allow you to review another book. If you would like to explore this option, please speak with me. Specific instructions for your book review will be given in class at a later date.

Reading Advice

Please note: there is a small chance that some of the readings on this outline may be changed or removed as the year progresses, based on student feedback and in consideration of student interest and the direction class discussion takes us. Rest assured that you will not have to buy any more texts and that all assigned texts that you have to purchase will be used extensively. The only readings that might change are those freely available online, especially those assigned in the winter term. Any changes to the reading list will be discussed with the entire class in advance.

This course requires a lot of reading, but hopefully it will be interesting reading. Also, since there are no formal examinations in this course, you do not have to worry about remembering every precise detail of everything you read. Instead, focus on understanding the broad themes of and key concepts, figures, dates, and events mentioned in whatever you read and consider how these relate to the course. You must, of course, read all assigned readings as attentively as possible. Otherwise, your participation grade will suffer and our class discussions will not be nearly as fun. Also, you will likely fare badly on the in-class quiz.
To help get the most out of each reading and to prepare for class discussions and the in-class quiz, make a note of each of the following, whenever possible, for each reading:

- The thesis statement, main argument or arguments, or central claim or claims.
  
  *Example:* “...the erosion of religious values, beliefs, and practices is shaped by long-term changes in existential security, a process linked with human development and socioeconomic equality, and with each society’s cultural legacy and religious traditions” (Norris and Inglehart, Sacred and Secular, p. 53).

- The evidence the author uses to support his or her arguments or claims.

- Counterarguments, whether mentioned in the reading or that you think of.

- How persuasive the reading is to you and why. Does the reading adequately address counterarguments?

- Any specific themes or concepts discussed and how these are defined, understood, and/or used.

Hopefully this will also help you with your own writing.

**FALL TERM SCHEDULE:**

**Monday, 14 September 2009**
Introductions and introductory remarks. Review syllabus. Discuss broad theme of the course.

**Wednesday, 16 September 2009**
READ FOR TODAY: “What is Religion?” World Religions
   “By Way of Introduction,” Sociology of Religion, in Course-pack
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: What is religion and why study it, or religions (part one)?

**Monday, 21 September 2009 — Today is Eid al-Fitr, the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal and a celebration of the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting and prayer.**
DUE TODAY: Personal reflection on the study of religion and politics (400-600 words)
READ FOR TODAY: Catherine Bell, “Paradigms Behind (and Before) the Modern Concept of Religion,” History and Theory 45.4 (2006): 27–46. Available on WebCT.
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: What are ‘world religions’? What are ‘theories of religion’?
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Paradigms Behind (and Before) the Modern Concept of Religion”
   Names of students presenting: ____________________________
   One presentation on “Thinking Globally about Religion,” Global Religions
   Names of students presenting: ____________________________

**Wednesday, 23 September 2009**
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: What is religion and why study it, or religions (part two)? Should we study ‘religion’, ‘religions’, or something else? What does ‘religion and global politics’ refer to? What does it mean to study the relationship between religion and politics?
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Religion Is Not a Preference”
   Names of students presenting: ____________________________

**Monday, 28 September 2009 — Today is Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, the most solemn religious fast of the Jewish year, the last of the ten days of penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year).**
READ FOR TODAY: “The Secularization Debate,” Sacred and Secular
“Religion and the secularisation of health care,” Journal of Clinical Nursing, available on WebCT [Note: this article, aimed at healthcare professionals, presupposes no prior knowledge of nursing practice. Please read it carefully, as it not only touches upon many of the issues we will be discussing in this course, but also demonstrates some of the immediate practical implications of such issues. Furthermore, we will be critically examining it in class in some detail.]

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: What does ‘secular’ mean? What does ‘sacred’ mean? What is ‘secularization’? What are some versions of the secularization thesis? What are some practical implications of secularization or de-secularization? How to write a good essay.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The Secularization Debate”
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Wednesday, 30 September 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “Introduction,” God is Back
“Obituary: God,” The Economist, available at
http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=347578

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Conclude previous discussion; modernity, postmodernity, and God (part one).

Monday, 5 October 2009
J. Ranilo B. Hermida, “The Resurgence of Religion in the Advent of Postmodernity,”

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Modernity, postmodernity, and God (part two).

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The European Way: The Necessity of Atheism,” God is Back
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “The American Way I: The Chosen Nation (1607–1900),” God is Back
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “The Resurgence of Religion in the Advent of Postmodernity”
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Wednesday, 7 October 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “The American Way II: Surviving the Acids of Modernity (1880–2000),” God is Back

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Modernity and religion in the United States of America.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The American Way II: Surviving the Acids of Modernity (1880–2000),” God is Back
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Monday, 12 October 2009
THANKSGIVING DAY • NO CLASS

Wednesday, 14 October 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “The Revenge of God?” The Twentieth Century as the ‘Last Modern Century’,” Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Affairs, in Course-pack
“Measuring Secularization” and “Comparing Secularization Worldwide,” Sacred and Secular [Note: “Chapter 2: Measuring Secularization” may be a somewhat difficult chapter to read if you are unfamiliar with quantitative research methods in the social sciences. It is important to read and attempt to understand it as much as possible, however, since it attempts to answer, as the title implies, a very important question: how do we measure secularization?]
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: What is meant by a global religious resurgence? What is either its significance, or the significance of claims that we are currently witnessing such a thing? The debate over secularization and a global religious resurgence.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The Revenge of God?” The Twentieth Century as the ‘Last Modern Century’,” *The Global Resurgence of Religion*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

**Monday, 19 October 2009**
READ FOR TODAY: “The Puzzle of Secularization in the United States and Western Europe,” *Sacred and Secular*
“Religion and Politics in a Secular Europe: Cutting Against the Grain,” *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective*

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Understanding and explaining religion and religiosity in the United States of America and Western Europe.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The Puzzle of Secularization in the United States and Western Europe,” *Sacred and Secular*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “Bush, Blair, Obama and the God Gap (2000–2008),” *God is Back*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “Religion and Politics in a Secular Europe: Cutting Against the Grain,” *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

**Wednesday, 21 October 2009**
DUE TODAY: Essay proposal / outline
READ FOR TODAY: “Judaism,” *World Religions*
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Judaism.

**Monday, 26 October 2009**
READ FOR TODAY: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 (verses 1 to 9 only), 16, and 21 (verses 1 to 21 only) of “Genesis,” and chapters 2, 3, 19, 20, and 32 (verses 1 to 14 only) of “Exodus,” *Bible / Hebrew Scriptures*, available at http://www.catholic.org/bible/ (or any number of other online sources)
“The Jewish people and its past” and “The Jewish religion,” *An Introduction to Judaism*, in Course-pack

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Judaism.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on a visit to an orthodox synagogue
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on a visit to a conservative synagogue
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on a visit to a reform synagogue
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

**Wednesday, 28 October 2009**
READ FOR TODAY: “The Religious Dimension of Israeli Political Life,” *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective*

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Judaism and Israel.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The Religious Dimension of Israeli Political Life,” *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
Monday, 2 November 2009 — Today is All Souls’ Day, a day observed by many Christians, but notably Roman Catholics, commemorating the faithful departed and marked by special prayers for the souls of the dead.

READ FOR TODAY: “Christianity,” World Religions

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Christianity.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on a visit to Roman Catholic church
Names of students presenting:

One presentation on a visit to an Orthodox Christian church
Names of students presenting:

Wednesday, 4 November 2009
DUE TODAY: Article review
READ FOR TODAY: Prepare to watch a fascinating documentary. Here’s the description of the film from the producer’s website: “A growing number of Evangelical Christians believe there is a revival underway in America that requires Christian youth to assume leadership roles in advocating the causes of their religious movement. Jesus Camp follows a group of young children to Pastor Becky Fischer’s ‘Kids on Fire Summer Camp’, where kids are taught to become dedicated Christian soldiers in God’s army and are schooled in how to take America back for Christ. The film is a first-ever look into an intense training ground that recruits born-again Christian children to become an active part of America’s political future” (http://www.jesuscampthemovie.com/).

FILM: Jesus Camp (84 minutes).

Monday, 9 November 2009
“Religion and Democracy in South America: Challenges and Opportunities” Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Jesus Camp; The Reformation; Christianity in South America.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on a visit to a United Church of Canada church
Names of students presenting:

Wednesday, 11 November 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “Looking for Hope in Central America: The Pentecostal Movement,” Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Christianity in Central America; Pentecostalism.

PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on a visit to a Pentecostal church
Names of students presenting:

One presentation on “Looking for Hope in Central America: The Pentecostal Movement”
Names of students presenting:

Monday, 16 November 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “Islam,” World Religions
Please read in this order: Chapters 96, 1, 2 (verses 122 to 141 and 213 only), 4 (verses 153 to 173 only), of The Qur’an, or an English translation of it. Available at http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/crc/engagement/resources/texts/muslim/quran/ (or any number of other online sources)
“The Rise of Islam and the Life of the Prophet Muhammad,” The First Muslims, in Course-pack
“The Question of the Succession to Muhammad,” in Course-pack

PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Islam.
PRESENTATIONS: One or two presentations on a visit to a mosque, depending on group assignments and student interest
   Names of students presenting: ________________________________________________

Wednesday, 18 November 2009
READ FOR TODAY: Prepare to watch a fascinating documentary. Here’s the description of the film from the producer’s website: “Puerto Rican American rapper Hamza Pérez ended his life as a drug dealer 12 years ago, and started down a new path as a young Muslim. Now he’s moved to Pittsburgh’s tough North Side to start a new religious community, rebuild his shattered family, and take his message of faith to other young people through his uncompromising music as part of the hip-hop duo M-Team. Raising his two kids as a single dad and longing for companionship, Hamza finds love on a Muslim networking website and seizes the chance for happiness in a second marriage. But when the FBI raids his mosque, Hamza must confront the realities of the post-9/11 world, and challenge himself. He starts reaching for a deeper understanding of his faith, discovering new connections with people from Christian and Jewish communities. New Muslim Cool takes viewers on Hamza’s ride through the streets, projects and jail cells of urban America, following his spiritual journey to some surprising places — where we can all see ourselves reflected in a world that never stops changing” (http://www.newmuslimcool.com/).
FILM: New Muslim Cool (90 minutes).

Monday, 23 November 2009
DUE TODAY: Written group reports on field research
IN-CLASS QUIZ TODAY (30 minutes)
READ FOR TODAY: Study for quiz.
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: New Muslim Cool.

Wednesday, 25 November 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “Islamism in Contemporary Arab Politics: Lessons in Authoritarianism and Democratization,” Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Islam and Arab politics; ‘Fundamentalism’.
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Islamism in Contemporary Arab Politics: Lessons in Authoritarianism and Democratization”
   Names of students presenting: ________________________________________________

Monday, 30 November 2009
READ FOR TODAY: “The Clash of Civilizations?” available on WebCT
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: The ‘Clash of Civilizations’ theory.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: The ‘Clash of Civilizations’ and the theory’s critics.
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The Clash of Ignorance” in light of the original article, “The Clash of Civilizations?” of which this is a critique
   Names of students presenting: ________________________________________________

Monday, 7 December 2009
DUE TODAY: Essay
READ FOR TODAY: “Religion and Politics in the Muslim World,” Sacred and Secular
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: The ‘Clash of Civilizations’ theory and Islam.
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Religion and Politics in the Muslim World,” Sacred and Secular
   Names of students presenting: ________________________________________________
One presentation on “Islamic Fatalism and the Clash of Civilizations: An Appraisal of a Contentious and Dubious Theory”

Names of students presenting: ________________________________

WINTER TERM SCHEDULE:

**Monday, 4 January 2010**
**READ FOR TODAY:** “Religion and Legitimacy,” *Bringing Religion Into International Relations*, in Course-pack
**PREPARE TO DISCUSS:** Religion and legitimacy (part one).

**Wednesday, 6 January 2010**
**READ FOR TODAY:** Catch up on any readings you have not completed.
**PREPARE TO DISCUSS:** Religion and legitimacy (part two)

**Monday, 11 January 2010**
**READ FOR TODAY:** “Religion, the Protestant Ethic, and Moral Values” and “Religious Organizations and Social Capital,” *Sacred and Secular*
**PREPARE TO DISCUSS:** Religion and social capital (part one).
**PRESENTATIONS:** One presentation on “Religion, the Protestant Ethic, and Moral Values,” *Sacred and Secular*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “Religious Organizations and Social Capital,” *Sacred and Secular*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

**Wednesday, 13 January 2010**
**READ FOR TODAY:** “Pray, Rabbit, Pray: Soulcraft and the American Dream,” *God is Back*
**PREPARE TO DISCUSS:** Religion and social capital (part two).
**PRESENTATIONS:** One presentation on “Pray, Rabbit, Pray: Soulcraft and the American Dream,” *God is Back*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

**Monday, 18 January 2010**
**READ FOR TODAY:** “Hinduism,” *World Religions*
“Colonialism,” *Studying Hinduism*, in Course-pack
“Chapter I,” *Alberuni’s India*, in Course-pack
**PREPARE TO DISCUSS:** Hinduism.
**PRESENTATIONS:** One presentation on “Colonialism,” *Studying Hinduism*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

**Wednesday, 20 January 2010** — *Today is Vasant Panchami (also known as Basant Panchami, Shree Panchami, and Saraswati), a Hindu festival celebrating Saraswati, goddess of knowledge, music, and art.*
**READ FOR TODAY:** “Art,” *Studying Hinduism*, in Course-pack
**PREPARE TO DISCUSS:** Hinduism.
**PRESENTATIONS:** One presentation on “Art,” *Studying Hinduism*
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “‘On Thursdays We Worship the Banana Plant’: Encountering Lived Hinduism in a Canadian Suburb”
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
Monday, 25 January 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Religion and Politics in India: The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),” Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Religion and politics in India; Hindu nationalism.
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Religion and Politics in India: The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),” Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Wednesday, 27 January 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Sikhism,” World Religions
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Sikhism.

Monday, 1 February 2010
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Sikhism.
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on both “Introduction,” The Construction of Religious Boundaries
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Wednesday, 3 February 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “The Bible Versus The Koran: The Battle of the Books and the Future of Two Faiths,” God is Back
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Religious diversity, pluralism, and freedom of religion (part one).
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “The Bible Versus The Koran: The Battle of the Books and the Future of Two Faiths,” God is Back
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Monday, 8 February 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Islamic Resurgence and the Ethnicization of the Malaysian State: The Case of Lina Joy,” available on WebCT
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Religious diversity, identity, pluralism, and freedom of religion (part two).
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Islamic Resurgence and the Ethnicization of the Malaysian State: The Case of Lina Joy”
Names of students presenting: ________________________________
One presentation on “Less Than Equal: Secularism, Religious Pluralism and Privilege”
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Wednesday, 10 February 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Zero Tolerance? Sikh Swords, School Safety, and Secularism in Québec,” available on WebCT
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Sikhism and reasonable accommodation in Canada; religious diversity, pluralism, and freedom of religion (part three).
PRESENTATIONS: One presentation on “Zero Tolerance? Sikh Swords, School Safety, and Secularism in Québec”
Names of students presenting: ________________________________

Monday, 15 February 2010
FAMILY DAY / WINTER BREAK • NO CLASS

Wednesday, 17 February 2010
WINTER BREAK • NO CLASS
Monday, 22 February 2010
DUE TODAY: Essay proposal / outline
READ FOR TODAY: “Buddhism,” World Religions
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Buddhism.
PRESENTATIONS: Three student presentations of essay proposals / outlines

Wednesday, 24 February 2010
READ FOR TODAY: Prepare to watch the first part of a fascinating film directed by Martin Scorcese.
FILM: Kundun (part one: 67 minutes).
PRESENTATIONS: Two student presentations of essay proposals / outlines

Monday, 1 March 2010
READ FOR TODAY: Prepare to watch the second part of a fascinating film directed by Martin Scorcese.
FILM: Kundun (part two: 67 minutes).
PRESENTATIONS: Two student presentations of essay proposals / outlines

Wednesday, 3 March 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Religion and Politics in Japan,” Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Kundun; Buddhism in Japan.
PRESENTATIONS: Three student presentations of essay proposals / outlines
One presentation on “Religion and Politics in Japan”
Names of students presenting: 

Monday, 8 March 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Introduction,” Baha’i and globalization, in Course-pack
“The Messianic Roots of Babi-Baha’i Globalism,” Baha’i and globalization, in Course-pack
Read some of the material on “the international web site of the Bahá’ís of the World” at http://www.bahai.org/
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: The Baha’i movement.
PRESENTATIONS: Three student presentations of essay proposals / outlines
One presentation on “The Messianic Roots of Babi-Baha’i Globalism”
Names of students presenting: 

Wednesday, 10 March 2010
Read some of the material at http://www.spiritualprogressives.org/
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Progressive ‘spirituality’; is ‘spirituality’ different from ‘religion’?
PRESENTATIONS: Four student presentations of essay proposals / outlines

Monday, 15 March 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Orthodoxy, Islam and the ‘Problem’ of the West: a Comparison of the Liberation Theologies of Christos Yannaras and Sayyid Qub,” available on WebCT
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: What does ‘progressive’ mean when referring to spirituality? Are Yannaras and Qub ‘progressives’?
PRESENTATIONS: Three student presentations of essay proposals / outlines
One presentation on “Orthodoxy, Islam and the ‘Problem’ of the West: a Comparison of the Liberation Theologies of Christos Yannaras and Sayyid Qub”
Names of students presenting: 

FYSM 1501P – The Study of Religions: Religion and Global Politics • Syllabus Fall 2009 / Winter 2010
Wednesday, 17 March 2010
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: ‘Spirituality’ and the ‘Decline of Tradition’.
PRESENTATIONS: Four student presentations of essay proposals / outlines

Monday, 22 March 2010
DUE TODAY: Book review
READ FOR TODAY: “Apocalyptic AI: Religion and the Promise of Artificial Intelligence,” available on WebCT
“Surfing into Spirituality and a New, Aquatic Nature Religion,” available on WebCT
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Apocalyptic religion and Aquatic religion: different ways of looking at new ‘religions’.
PRESENTATIONS: Any remaining student presentations of essay proposals / outlines

Wednesday, 24 March 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “The New Wars of Religion,” God is Back
Read some of the material on the web site for the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, http://www.icrd.org/
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Religion, war, and peace.

Monday, 29 March 2010
READ FOR TODAY: “Secularization and Its Consequences,” Sacred and Secular
“The Culture Wars Go Global” and “Learning to Live With Religion,” God is Back
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Secularization and the resurgence of religion revisited.

Wednesday, 31 March 2010
PREPARE TO DISCUSS: Religion, global politics, and suggestions for future study.

Monday, 5 April 2010
DUE TODAY: Essay
PREPARE FOR: Class party.
REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED
Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- A+ = 90-100 (12) B+ = 77-79 (9) C+ = 67-69 (6)
- A = 85-89 (11) B = 73-76 (8) C = 63-66 (5)
- A- = 80-84 (10) B- = 70-72 (7) C- = 60-62 (4)
- D+ = 57-59 (3) D = 53-56 (2) D- = 50-52 (1)
- F = Failure. No academic credit
- WDN = Withdrawn from the course
- ABS = Absent from the final examination
- DEF = Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
- FND = Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

- Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm
- Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation.

PETITIONS TO DEFER
Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
- College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
- Classics and Religion Office 520-2100 2A39 Paterson
- Registrar's Office 520-3500 300 Tory
- Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 302 Tory
- Paul Menton Centre 520-6608 500 Unicentre
- Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632 4th floor Library
- Learning Commons 520-1125 4th floor Library