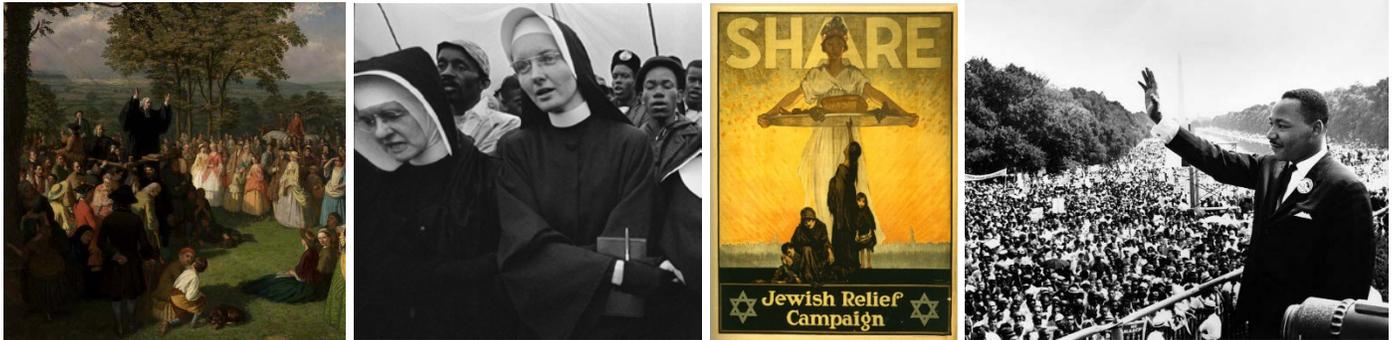


**HIST 4460-1:
Seminar in U.S. History: Religion and Politics**



**Fall 2017
Mondays from 4:30 – 7:25pm in Chapman 235**

**Dr. Lauren Turek
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1pm-2pm, Thursday 10am-11am, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the interplay between religion and politics, as well as religion and foreign relations, throughout United States history. We will study how American leaders, from the founders to Barack Obama, drew on religious rhetoric to justify and explain their policy agendas. We will seek to understand how religious interest groups came together to shape domestic and foreign policies, and how religion influenced political culture in the United States more broadly. In addition, we will explore the role that religion and religious ideas played in the development of national identity, core values, and what some historians have termed the “American civil religion.” We will also consider how engagement in politics reshaped religious culture and theology, as well as the role of secularism and irreligion in American culture. Our readings, a mix of secondary and primary sources, will enable us to discuss how race, gender, class, and culture intersect with (and cannot be disentangled from) religion and politics in American history. These readings and discussions will help students select and develop a topic on which to write a 20-25-page primary source-based research paper.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is an upper-level discussion seminar centered of exploration of the day’s readings and the completion of a major research paper. Our secondary readings will introduce you to innovative works, both recent and classic, which will inform our understanding of key course themes and help give you some ideas on how to approach your research paper. We will also examine a variety of primary documents and multimedia resources, including congressional debates, religious periodicals, films, songs, artifacts, and firsthand accounts, to immerse

ourselves in the history of religion in American politics and foreign policy. These secondary and primary readings will expose you to conflicting and at times controversial interpretations of the historical events under consideration; students are expected to think critically about these divergent interpretations in their research paper as well in our in-class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: This is reading and discussion intensive course which requires active participation in discussion and careful engagement with the assigned texts. I expect you to have completed the assigned reading prior to class so that you can come to each meeting ready to explore the day's topic in depth. This class will focus on the exchange of ideas, and it is crucial that students come prepared for active, engaged discussion.

Oral Presentations: You will do two oral presentations of your research topic. The first will be a five-minute presentation of your preliminary topic on **September 25**. You will also submit to me a one-page proposal that day in which you outline the significance of your topic and state your preliminary historical question. This proposal should be written in your best prose. The first presentation and your research proposal is worth 10 percent of the course grade.

The second presentation will be more formal: we will spend twenty minutes on each paper. First, you will share your work with the class in a ten-minute presentation. Then one student will take five minutes to peer review your paper, the latest draft of which you will have emailed to her/him—and me—one week prior. This student will also provide you with a two-page written review of your work on the day of your presentation. We will then take around five minutes for further discussion and questions about your paper. This second round of presentations and the peer review will take place on **November 13**. The second presentation and peer review is worth 15 percent of your course grade

Final research paper: Students will submit a final paper of 20- to 25-pages. This paper should draw on primary source material and relevant secondary sources to make a significant argument. Further instructions will be distributed in class. Like the paper proposal, your final essay should be written in your best prose and employ a consistent form of citation. This assignment is worth **50 percent** of the final grade for the course. The final paper is due as a word .doc or .pdf via TLEARN by 5 p.m., Monday, December 11.

Policies for Written Work

Formatting. All written work must:

- be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins on each side
- include page numbers
- be submitted in .pdf or .doc format on TLEARN

If an assignment does not meet these formatting guidelines, I will return it to you and ask you to reformat it and resubmit it. The resubmitted assignment will be subject to a late penalty.

Citations. All sources **MUST** be cited according to Chicago Author-Date guidelines. Citation guidelines are available at <http://lib.trinity.edu/lib2/cite.php>. You can also consult the 16th

edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, available at Coates Library in the reference section and online through the library catalog.

Late Work. Papers turned in after the deadline will be considered late. Late papers will be penalized 2 grades per day (e.g. A- to B, B to C+). If you think you might need an extension on a major assignment due to your workload, let me know as soon possible. Requests for extensions are granted at my discretion; requests for extensions made within 24 hours of the due date will be granted only in exceptional circumstances (i.e. major injury, family crisis, etc.).

GRADING

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Participation:	25%	Presentation #2:	15%
Presentation #1/Proposal:	10%	Research Paper:	50%

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

All students are covered by a policy that prohibits dishonesty in academic work. Students who are under the Honor Code are required to pledge all written work that is submitted for a grade: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work” and their signature. The pledge may be abbreviated ‘pledged,’ with a signature. The specifics of the Honor Code, its underlying philosophy, and the norms for sanctioning can all be found at: http://www.trinity.edu/departments/academic_affairs/honor_code/index.htm.

If you have any doubt about whether an action violates the Honor Code, please email me before submitting your essays or research paper.

If you are struggling, overwhelmed, or confused please contact me! I am here to help you in the course and guide you through the material. I understand that personal circumstances or unforeseen events can sometimes interfere with your academic work; I will keep any concerns confidential and will work with you to ensure your best possible performance in the course.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this class, please bring your accommodation letter to me early in the semester so we can discuss how I can best meet your needs. All discussions will remain confidential. If you have not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact the office at 999-7411 or SAS@trinity.edu. You must be registered with SAS before I can provide accommodation.

Class Conduct

Respect your fellow students and instructor. Do not be disruptive. Turn off phones and do not text in class. If you text during class, I will ask you to leave and your participation grade for the semester will go down. If you text during another student’s presentation, your final grade for the

course will go down a full letter grade. You may use laptops for taking notes, but if you use them for activities not related to class, you will not be able to use them at all in class. If you are late, please come in quietly. Consistent lateness will result in a lowered course grade, as will violations of any of the above-mentioned aspects of class conduct.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. You must have a valid excuse for missing class (serious illness/injury, family emergency, etc.). **Absences will be excused only with a doctor's note or a letter from your dean or coach.** If you miss more than two classes or are consistently late, your final grade will be reduced (at my discretion). If you need to miss a class, please notify me. Absence from class does not excuse you from reading or writing assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Edwin S. Gaustad, *Faith of the Founders: Religion and the New Nation 1776-1826*
- C. C. Goen, *Broken Churches, Broken Nation: Denominational Schisms and the Coming of the Civil War*
- Darren Dochuk, *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plainfolk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism*
- Kevin Kruse, *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America*
- Frank Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*

All of the required texts will be available for purchase or rental at the bookstore as well as from online retailers. All other course readings will be made available on TLEARN.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY MEETINGS

August 28: Introductions and Methods

September 4: Labor Day Holiday – * NO CLASS *** – But get started on the following reading:**

- Edwin S. Gaustad, *Faith of the Founders: Religion and the New Nation 1776-1826*

September 11: Church and State in a New Nation

- Edwin S. Gaustad, *Faith of the Founders: Religion and the New Nation 1776-1826*
- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Primary sources:

- Phyllis Wheatley, “To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth,” 1773
- James Madison, “Memorial and Remonstrance,” 1785 (in Gaustad, *Faith of the Founders*, 118-123)
- Thomas Jefferson, “An Act for Establishing Religions Freedom,” 1786 (in

Gaustad, *Faith of the Founders*, 123-131)

September 18: Religious Identities and Politics in the Early Republic

- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Chapter 2
- Amanda Porterfield, “Religion in the Formation of Political Parties,” in *Conceived in Doubt: Religion and Politics in the New American Nation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012).
- Shannon Bontrager, “From a Nation of Drunkards, We Have Become a Sober People: The Wyandot Experience in the Ohio Valley during the Early Republic,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 32, no. 4 (Winter 2012): 603-632.

September 25: The Bible, Slavery, and Abolitionism

**** Presentation #1 and Paper Proposal Due ****

- C. C. Goen, *Broken Churches, Broken Nation: Denominational Schisms and the Coming of the Civil War*, Chapters 3-5

Primary Sources:

- Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” (1852)
- Angelina Grimke, “Appeal to the Christian Women of the South,” (1836)

October 2: Religion and Reform

- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Chapter 3
- Andrew Preston, “Missionaries and the Imperialism of Human Rights,” and “An Also Chosen People,” in *Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy* (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012).

Primary Sources:

- Josiah Strong, “Our Country,” (1885)
- Archbishop John Ireland and Arthur J. Brown, “A Catholic and Protestant Debate over the Philippines,” (1899 and 1903)

October 9: The Limits of Toleration + LIBRARY SESSION

- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Chapter 4
- Leigh Eric Schmidt, “Mormons, Freethinkers, and the Limits of Toleration,” *The Journal of Mormon History* 40, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 59-91.
- Jennifer Snow, “The Civilization of White Men: The Race of the Hindu in *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*,” in *Race, Nation, and Religion in the Americas* by Henry Goldschmidt and Elizabeth McAlister (NY: Oxford University Press, 2004).

October 16: The Depression and the Origins of the Religious Right

**** Preliminary Annotated Bibliography Due ****

- Darren Dochuk, *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plainfolk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism*, Introduction and Parts I and II.
- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Chapter 5

October 23: Grassroots Activism

- Darren Dochuk, *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plainfolk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism*, Parts III and IV.
- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Chapter 6

Primary Sources:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. "Give Us the Ballot" (1957)
- John C. Bennett, "A Roman Catholic for President?" (1960)

October 30: Business and American Religious Culture

- Kevin Kruse, *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America*, Introduction and chapters 1-4.
- Lambert, *Religion in American Politics*, Chapter 7

November 6: One Nation Under God?

**** First Draft of Research Paper Due ****

- Kevin Kruse, *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America*, Chapters 5-8, epilogue.
- Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America," *Dædalus, Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* 96, no. 1 (Winter 1967): 1-21.

November 13: Formal Presentations and Peer Review

November 20: NO CLASS MEETING – work on revising your drafts!

November 27: The Cold War and the Battle for the Soul of Mankind

- Jonathan Herzog, “America’s Spiritual Industrial Complex and the Policy of Revival in the Early Cold War,” *Journal of Policy History* 22, no. 3 (2010): 337-365.
- Ahmed Khalid al-Rawi, “The Campaign of Truth Program: U.S. Propaganda in Iraq during the Early 1950s,” *Religion and the Cold War: A Global Perspective* (pp. 113-131).
- Lauren Turek, “To Support a ‘Brother in Christ’: Evangelical Groups and U.S.-Guatemalan Relations during the Ríos Montt Regime,” *Diplomatic History* 39, no. 4 (September 2015): 689-719.

Primary Sources:

- Declassified documents packet

December 4: Religion in Contemporary American Politics

- Andrew Preston, “The Last Crusade?” in *Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy*
- Insan Bagby, “Isolate, Insulate, Assimilate: Attitudes of Mosque Leaders toward America,” in *A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multireligious America*, edited by Stephen Prothero (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2006).
- James Davison Hunter and David Franz, “Religious pluralism and civil society,” in *A Nation of Religions*.

December 11: RESEARCH PAPER DUE