



Meeting Times: Mon, 4-5pm Seminar, Samuel Alexander WG20b

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Stanley, timothy.stanley@manchester.ac.uk, Samuel Alexander WG20b

Readings: All of the readings for the course have been compiled in a course reader provided here. The assigned readings should be read in advance and you should be prepared to discuss the readings in each seminar. As well, we recommend that you purchase two recent books, *Religion and Political Thought* and *The New Visibility of Religion*. Both of these texts are edited by the Centre for Religion and Political Culture staff members Dr. Michael Hoelzl and Professor Graham Ward and have been published by Continuum Press. They provide a host of key sources for this course and further bibliographical suggestions to aid your research.

Course Requirements: 1 x 6000 word essay (100%)

Online Resource: <http://blackboard.manchester.ac.uk>

Course Content: At one time there was a radical division between religion and public life, but today there is enormous interest in the role of religion in the public sphere. The relationship between religion and politics is receiving much attention in the social sciences. This course aims to furnish students with a critical understanding of key concepts and themes in the field of religion and political life. Students will explore various approaches to studying the various relationships between religion and political life (e.g. theoretical, historical, anthropological, ethnographic, and sociological methods). Students will acquire knowledge of the historical and continuing involvement of religion in various forms of political culture, and the ability to analyze critically religious traditions or aspects thereof from the standpoint of their involvement with political life. The course will also provide the necessary foundations for further research in the field of religion and political life.

Course Aims:

1. To understand the history of contemporary issues in religion and politics
2. To examine the political aspects of various religious traditions
3. To gain awareness of potential conflict and cooperation between religions and political cultures

- To appreciate the theoretical return of religion in continental philosophy, theology and political theory today

Learning Outcomes:

- Have a basic understanding of key political ideas and theories
- Have developed a critical understanding of the research area of religion and politics
- Have undertaken independent research
- Have developed your academic writing skills

Programme

Week 1	Welcome and Introduction to the Course Hoelzl, Michael and Ward, Graham. <i>Religion and Political Thought</i> . London: Continuum, 2006, pp. 1-20
Religion and Political Life in Europe	
Week 2	Theories of Society Hoelzl, Michael and Ward, Graham. <i>Religion and Political Thought</i> . London: Continuum, 2006, pp. 102-118.
Week 3	Types of Authority Weber, Max. "Politics as Vocation." In <i>From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology</i> . London: Routledge, 1991, pp. 77-128
Week 4	Liberalism and Democracy Bobbio, N. <i>Liberalism and Democracy</i> . London: Verso, 2005, pp. 1-39, 67-73
Week 5	Revising Secularisation Theory Hoelzl, Michael and Ward, Graham. <i>The New Visibility of Religion</i> . London: Continuum, 2008, pp. 15-29, 45-58
Week 6	Reading Week
Week 7	Legality and Legitimacy Langton, Daniel R. <i>Children of Zion: Jewish and Christian Perspectives on the Holy Land</i> . Special edition for the 2008 Lambeth Conference. Cambridge: The Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, 2008.
Religion and Political Life in the United States of America	
Week 8	Alexis de Tocqueville Hoelzl, Michael and Ward, Graham. <i>Religion and Political Thought</i> . London: Continuum, 2006, pp. 149-160.
Week 9	Civil Religion Bellah, R. "Civil Religion in America." Available at http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm
Current Debates	
Week 10	Guest Lecture by Professor Graham Ward, Director of the Centre for Religion and Political Culture
Week 11	The Political Relevance of Christianity Habermas, J. "A Conversation about God and the World." In <i>Religion and Rationality. Essays on Reason, God, and Modernity</i> , edited by E. Mendieta. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002. pp. 147-167.
Week 12	Political Theology Bell, D. "State and Civil Society." In <i>The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology</i> , edited by P. Scott and W. Cavanaugh. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, pp. 423-438.

Further Online Resources:

Sociological data of Religion in Europe
<http://eurel.u-strasbg.fr/EN/>

Religion and the public sphere in the US
<http://pewforum.org/>

Religion and international politics
<http://www.project-syndicate.org/>

Cultural and spiritual dimension of Europe
http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/links/article_3336_en.htm

