

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Social Science and Humanities
Programme:	Study Abroad
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Religion in a Globalised World: Faith, Power and Politics
Course Code:	RELG POLS 5601
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US Credits

Course Description:

This course explores the profound impact of religion and faith systems on global politics since the end of the Cold War. Highlighting the role of religious social movements and non-state actors of various sorts, the course can address a range of contested themes, including fundamentalism, secularism, nationalism, and identity politics. Students then engage with a range of social, cultural, and policy responses to these themes, in the context of a range of civil and geo-political conflicts, not least the 'war on terror', while also considering the possibilities for religion to foster social cohesion and international dialogue and cooperation.

Prerequisites:

LIBA 4301 Academic Research and Writing or at least 40 credits

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the significance of religion on modern global politics
- To address cultural, social, and political themes impacted by this religiopolitical nexus
- To address both the divisive and unifying potentials of this relationship
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear- thinking individuals with a grasp of cultural, social, and historical studies.
- To foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of transferable skills through the study of particular themes in political and religious history.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of styles and sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments.

Programme Outcomes:

A5II; B5I; C5I; D5I

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrates critical engagement with main theories and concepts used in the study of world politics and how they may or may not apply to the role of religion in this regard.
- Demonstrates a critical understanding of the role of religion in world politics with reference to key themes and case studies.
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, to provide evidence, and select appropriate analytical criteria.
- Demonstrating critical reflection on ethical principles in the research process in a sensitive area of study such as religion and morality.

Indicative Content:

- Theories of secularism and their critics
- International Relations theory and religion in world politics
- Religious conceptions of world politics
- Religious fundamentalism and religious nationalism
- Religion and politics across cultural contexts
- 9/11 and the 'War on Terror'
- Counter-terrorism and counter-extremism
- Contemporary conflicts and crises and the role of religion
- Religion, ethics and world politics

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group, and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent, and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Text(s):

Haynes, J. (2013) *An Introduction to International Relations and Religion*, 2nd ed. UK: Routledge.

Haynes, J. (ed.). (2023) *A Quarter Century of the "Clash of Civilizations"*. UK: Routledge.

Sandal, N. A. and Fox, J (2015) *Religion in International Relations Theory: Interactions and Possibilities*. UK: Routledge.

Wilson, E. K. (2024) *Religion and World Politics*. UK: Routledge.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 2024	