1. Course Description & Objectives

Religion has played a role in America’s foreign policy since its very beginnings. Although largely ignored by the post-WWII foreign policy establishment and frequently misunderstood by those that superficially engage the issue, religion has remained a constant foreign policy variable that is once again generating serious discussion in the halls of power in Washington, DC. For many contemporary Americans, September 11, 2001 was the event that shook us out of our cultural apathy and slumber, but for some scholars and specialists in the field of foreign policy and religion, the convergence of forces on that day were not surprising.

This course is an introduction to the historical roots and contemporary relevance of religion as a variable within American foreign policy. The course employs a chronological historical approach to examine the details, themes and relevancies of religion as an input to the foreign policy process and object of American foreign policy practice. But the goal of the course is not merely to exegete history; rather, it is to grapple with the policy implications of religion for the complex decisions that foreign policy professionals are confronted with every day.

Some of the key themes of this course include:

- The role of religion in the formation of America and in the earliest foreign policy actions of the new nation-state.
- The uniquely American conceptualization of religious freedom, the First Amendment, and its influence on American foreign policy.
- The influence of the mythos of American Exceptionalism on American identity.
- The role of religion in American expansion and empire.
- Religion as a cause, complication and casualty of both hot and cold wars.
- Morality, ethics and humanitarian intervention in times of war and peace.
- Religion and U.S. diplomacy.
- The International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) and its impact on American foreign policy.
- Re-examining the impact and ongoing influence of 9/11.
2. Course Requirements & Grading

This course will employ both lecture and a Socratic methodology. It is designed to stimulate significant classroom discussion, critical inquiry, and creative scholarship.

The weekly reading assignments will average 100 pages. The professor’s presentations each week will build on, rather than simply summarize, the readings. Additionally, student class presentations, guest speakers and special class presentations will augment the weekly readings and discussion topics by providing additional perspectives.

Consequently, the overall success of the class depends significantly on the students’ active, informed participation in class discussions. Specifically, students are expected to thoroughly read and digest each week's readings before class and to demonstrate their command of the readings through regular, thoughtful participation in each week’s class discussion.

Class grades will be based on a combination of student participation, completion of assignments, and tests.

A. Work and grade distribution

The work and grades for the class will be distributed and calculated among five component parts, as follows:

1. Weekly class participation (20%) *
2. Pop Quizzes (15%)
3. Site Visit Narrative (20%)
4. Paper on Irony of American History (20%)
5. Final exam (25%)

* Class participation includes (1) weekly attendance, (2) engagement in class discussions, and (3) participation in break-out groups.

Grades are calculated on a 100-point scale, converted to letter grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100 – 94 = A</th>
<th>93 – 90 = A-</th>
<th>89 – 87 = B+</th>
<th>86 – 83 = B</th>
<th>82 – 80 = B-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79 – 77 = C+</td>
<td>76 – 73 = C</td>
<td>72 – 70 = C-</td>
<td>69 – 60 = D</td>
<td>Below 60 = F</td>
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</table>

Late submission of assignments will penalize your grade by incurring a half-grade deduction per day beginning with the assignment deadline.

Please pay careful attention the different work requirements, grade distributions, and deadlines, and plan your workflow for the semester accordingly. Although graduate students assignments are weighted differently, all students are expected to exert the highest level effort on each assignment. A lack of effort on any assignment will be reflected in a student’s grade.

All of the class work elements are designed to provide the maximum learning experience for the students.

B. Reading Materials

The weekly reading assignments will average 100 pages. The professor’s presentations each week will build on and interrogate, rather than simply summarize, the readings.

Students are expected to thoroughly read and digest each week's readings before class and to demonstrate their command of the readings through regular, thoughtful participation in each week’s class discussion.
Required Books – The following books are required for the class and may be purchased at the BU Bookstore or online. Additionally, these books have been placed on reserve at the library.


Current Events Readings – On a daily and/or weekly basis, students should be reading major newspapers, scanning foreign policy journals, and reading online foreign policy blogs which address religion and American foreign policy current events. (See list of suggested sources in the “Links” section at the end of this syllabus.)

Each week, as a part of the class, the professor will pick one major religion and foreign policy story from the past week for discussion, debate, and policy application. Through the current events readings, students are expected to be conversant about current events relating to religion and American foreign policy, and to be able to contribute to the discussion in a meaningful manner.

Additional Readings – All other reading assignments will be posted and available for download on the Blackboard class site at [http://blackboard.bu.edu](http://blackboard.bu.edu).

C. Work assignments

Reading Assignments (see list below) – As described above, all students are expected to do the readings listed each week and be prepared to fully discuss them in class. The final exam and the class participation grade will be based, to a large degree, on the weekly readings.

Pop Quizzes – Three short pop quizzes will be given during the course of the semester to test the students’ familiarity with the reading assignments.

Site Visit Narrative – As a way of gaining exposure to and, hopefully, understanding various religious traditions that appear in the readings and discussion during this course, students will be required to make a site visit to a local religious institution of their choice, drawing from one of the world’s five major religions or their sub-sets. Students should choose a religious tradition for a site visit that is different from their own regular religious practice, if applicable.

The Greater Boston area is home to a plethora of religious traditions and institutions, so students can select their site depending on accessibility by foot, public transportation and/or car. By these modes of transportation, there are sites for all of the world’s five major religions – Christian (varieties of Catholic traditions, multiple Protestant denominations, charismatic and Pentecostal groups, various Orthodox jurisdictions), Jewish (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist), Muslim (Shi’ite, Sunni, Sufi, various ethnic and minority sects), Hindu and Buddhist sites.

Students should make every effort to visit the site during a time of worship and community gathering. Students should try to speak with members of the community and, if possible, with the religious leader(s) responsible for the community in order to learn more about the community.

Students will write a 5-7 page essay [double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font] that narrates and analyzes their site visit and the elements that were the most compelling to the student. The essay should be an analytic reflection that explains how the site visit illuminated and informed, either positively or negatively, the ideas explored in this course. The essay can be written in nearly
any style, but it should be a clear, clean narrative that makes the religion represented accessible and understandable to the reader.

Site assignments are due no later than **Tuesday, 25 February 2014 @ 6 p.m.** via email to the professor at jcw53@bu.edu. Essays must be a WORD or PDF document. Late submissions will be penalized by a half-grade deduction per day beginning promptly at 6:01 p.m. Papers will be graded by the professor and returned electronically with comments and a grade.

**Paper on Irony of American History** – Reinhold Niebuhr’s classic work has been praised as “the most important book ever written on U.S. foreign policy” (Andrew Bacevich). It has been cited by politicians as diverse as President Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton and Senator John McCain.

Students will read the book (174 pages) in its entirety. Each student will write a 5 page (1,500 word) essay [double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font] that examines two or three key themes from the book that are most compelling to the student. The essay should succinctly describe and critically analyze the themes, and make a case for why (or why not) they are still relevant to American foreign policy today.

The narrative should be written in the style of a serious academic essay. Footnotes are not necessary unless citing outside resources. The paper should be carefully edited for grammar, spelling and typos. Significant grade deductions will be made for un-edited, un-proofed, poorly-written essays.

Papers will be due at the beginning of class **Monday, March 24.** Papers should be submitted in hardcopy format, stapled in the top left corner only. (Do not use a cover folder or binders. Provide a cover sheet with name, date and class information only.)

**Final Exam** – The final exam will be comprehensive. It will cover class readings, discussions, and presentations by the professor from throughout the course.

The goal of the exam is to ensure that students have mastered basic concepts, theory, history, and policy applications necessary to successfully complete the course.

**D. General class information**

**Key Class Dates**

- Jan. 15 Classes begin
- Jan. 20 Holiday | MLK Jr. Day (no class)
- Jan. 27 First class session (Please Note: Class readings are assigned for the first class)
- Feb. 17 Holiday | President’s Day (no class)
- Feb. 19 Wednesday | Substitute Monday of classes
- Feb. 25 Site Visit Narrative due
- Mar. 8-16 Spring Break
- Mar. 24 Irony of American History Paper due
- Apr. 21 Holiday | Patriot’s Day (no class)
- Apr. 24 Thursday | Substitute Monday of classes
- May 1 Last Day of classes
- May (TBA) Final Exam

**Class time and breaks**

Class sessions will be once a week on Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (13 class sessions total). A ten minute break will be provided in the middle of each class.
Class attendance and absences

Students are expected to attend all class sessions.

Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official or personal reasons, if permission is received from the professor in advance via email at jcw53@bu.edu. Do not send an email requesting an excused absence after the class has begun on the day you are absent (unless you are in an accident on the way to class and are now on the way to the hospital!).

Documentation may be required by the professor to validate the request for an excused absence. In the case of a genuine medical or personal emergency, the student must notify the professor as soon as possible as to the nature of the emergency and the reason for the absence.

Likewise, if a student has to be late to class because of a conflict, work, or other personal reason, they should inform the professor via email, text or phone call before the beginning of class. If the excuse is reasonable, consideration will be given by the professor. If the excuse is unreasonable or the student is guilty of repeated tardiness, a deduction will be made on the student’s class participation grade.

In the case of assignment deadlines or exams, post-deadline requests for dispensation (except in the case of a genuine emergency) will result in a reduced grade for that assignment.

Unexcused absences will penalize your grade. Excessive absences (more than three) may, in accordance with University policy, necessitate withdrawal from the course without credit.

Students are responsible for all classwork when absent – excused or unexcused – including lecture notes, class discussion notes and class presentations.

Code of Conduct and Plagiarism

Students are reminded of their responsibility to know, understand and follow the provisions of the BU Academic Conduct Code http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/.

Cheating and plagiarism not only represent a very serious violation of academic ethics, they also breach the essential trust between the student, teacher and class members which is foundational to a successful learning environment. Students should take care to assure that they are fully informed about the different types of cheating and plagiarism – including “loosely borrowing” or failing to properly cite sources – so as not to violate in any way their trust relationship with the professor and their fellow classmates.

All papers and presentations should contain appropriate citations and documentation for material, quotes, and illustrations used from outside sources. It is better to have too many citations rather than too few. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please speak with the professor.

3. Weekly Classes & Readings

Jan. 15 Classes Begin

Jan. 20 Holiday | MLK Jr. Day (No Class)

Jan. 27 Week 1 | Introduction to Course

  o Ch. 2: “The Eyes of All People Are Upon Us” (15-32).

**Feb. 3**  
**Week 2 | “Colonial America, the Revolutionary War and the Barbary Wars”**

  o Ch. 1: “Defenders of the Faith” (19-30).
  o **Part 2 Intro**: “The American Revolution” (71-75)
  o Ch. 4: “The Harmony of the World Confounded” (77-87).
  o Ch. 5: “Liberation Theology” (88-101).

  o Ch. 1: “A Mortal and Mortifying Threat” (17-40).
  o Ch. 3: “A Crucible of American Identity” (51-79).
  o Ch. 4: “Illuminating and Emancipating the World” (80-97).

**Feb. 10**  
**Week 3 | “The First Amendment and American Religious Freedom”**

  o Ch. 3: “The Essential Rights and Liberties of Religion” (41-69).
  o Ch. 4: “Forging the First Amendment Religion Clauses” (71-105).

  o Ch. 7: “Jefferson and the Baptists: Separation Proposed and Ignored as a Constitutional Principle” (144-189).

**Feb. 17**  
**Holiday | President’s Day (No Class)**

**Feb. 19**  
**Wednesday | Substitute Monday of Classes**

**Week 4 | “American Expansionism, Exceptionalism and Imperialism”**

  o Ch. 7: “The Benevolent Empire, at Home and Abroad” (122-134).
  o Ch. 8: “Manifest Destiny and Its Discontents” (135-153).
  o Ch. 10: “Missionaries and the Imperialism of Human Rights” (175-197).

  o Ch. 6: “Manifest Middle Eastern Destiny” (122-148).
Feb. 24  Week 5 | “America, the Middle East and the Great War”

  - Ch. 13: “The Idealistic Synthesis” (239-252).
  - Ch. 15: “The Wilsonian Creed” (275-290).
  - Ch. 16: “A Region Renamed and Reordered” (307-321).
  - Ch. 17: “Spectators of Catastrophe” (325-339).
  - Ch. 21: “The First Middle East Peace Process” (376-397).

Mar. 3  Week 6 | “Operationalizing Religion as a Tool of War – FDR, Hitler and Stalin”

  - Ch. 18: “The Holocaust and the Moral Meaning of War” (327-341).
  - Ch. 19: “Spiritual Diplomacy” (342-364).
  - Ch. 2: “Stalin’s Holy War Begins, 1941-43” (51-89).
  - Ch. 3: “A Holy Hatred toward the Enemy, 1942-43” (93-121).

Mar. 8-16  Holiday | Spring Break (No Class)

Mar. 17  Week 7 | “Reinhold Niebuhr and Christian Realism”

  - Ch. 16: “Prince of Peace and Prophets of Realism” (297-314).
  - Ch. 2: Gary Dorrien, “Christian Realism: Reinhold Niebuhr’s Theology, Ethics, and Politics” (21-36).
Mar. 24  Week 8 | “Reinhold Niebuhr and the Irony of American History”


Mar. 31  Week 9 | “The Cold War Crusade” (Part 1)

  - Introduction: (1-25).
  - Ch. 1: “Hopes Deferred: Protestants and Foreign Policy, 1945-1952” (29-62).


Apr. 7  Week 10 | “The Cold War Crusade” (Part 2)

  - Ch. 7: “Prophet, Priest, and President: Dwight D. Eisenhower and the New American Faith” (257-309).

  - Ch. 4: “Security Institutions” (109-134).


Apr. 14  Week 11 | “Religious Persecution, IRFA, and the Campaign for Religious Freedom”


  - Ch. 4: “The Legislative Campaign against Religious Persecution” (111-133).
  - Ch. 5: “The Lion’s Den at Foggy Bottom” (135-160).

**Apr. 21**  **Holiday | Patriot’s Day (No Class)**

**Apr. 24**  **Thursday | Substitute Monday of Classes**

**Week 12 | “The Impact of 9-11”**

- Huntington, Samuel P. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 22-49.
  - Ch. 9: “War for the Imperium” (225-244).

**Apr. 28**  **Week 13 | “The Post 9-11 Response to Religion as a Foreign Policy Variable”**

  - Ch. 3: Michael Walzer, “Can There Be a Moral Foreign Policy?” (34-52).
  - Introduction: (1-6).
  - Ch. 1: “The Myth of the Reluctant Superpower” (7-31).
  - Ch. 19: “Summoning the Better Angels” (283-292).
  - Afterword: (293-302).

**May (TBA)**  **Final Exam | regular assigned final exam day**
4. **Links & Sources**

**Media**

New York Times  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

The Washington Post  
[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

Boston Globe  
[www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)

The Los Angeles Times  

BBC  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/)

Haaretz  

Xinhua  

Reuters  

Foreign Policy  
[www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com)

Foreign Affairs  
[www.foreignaffairs.com](http://www.foreignaffairs.com)

Real Clear Religion  

Real Clear World  

Al Jazeera  
[http://www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)

Common Ground News Service  

Patheos  
[http://www.patheos.com](http://www.patheos.com)

Reuters Faithworld  

Washington Post On Faith  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/on-faith](http://www.washingtonpost.com/on-faith)

CNN Belief Blog  

National Post Holy Post Blog (Canada)  

PBS Religion & Ethics Newsweekly  
[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/)
PBS – God in America Video Series
http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/

Bill Moyers & Company
http://billmoyers.com/

Government


White House / Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ofbnp

State Department / Office of International Religious Freedom http://www.state.gov/j/drl/irf/


U.S. Institute of Peace http://www.usip.org/


European Union / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights / Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System http://tandis.odihr.pl/

Academic

Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs – Boston University http://www.bu.edu/cura/

Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs – Georgetown University http://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding – Georgetown University http://acmcu.georgetown.edu/

Mellon Initiative on International Relations and Religion – Notre Dame http://rmellon.nd.edu/working-groups/international-relations-and-religion/

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies – Notre Dame http://rmellon.nd.edu/working-groups/international-relations-and-religion/

Initiative on Religion in International Affairs – Harvard University http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/project/57/religion_in_international_affairs.html

Center for Faith and Culture – Yale University http://www.yale.edu/faith/index.htm

Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life – Boston College http://www.bc.edu/centers/boisi/
Center for World Religions, Diplomacy & Conflict Resolution – George Mason University
http://crdc.gmu.edu/

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society - University of Victoria
http://csrs.uvic.ca/index.php

Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life - University of Alberta
http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/research/centres/ronningcentre/

Research Programs / Think Tanks

Council on Foreign Relations Religion and Foreign Policy Initiative
http://www.cfr.org/about/outreach/religioninitiative/index.html

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life
http://www.pewforum.org/

Gallup Center for Muslim Studies
http://www.gallup.com/se/127907/gallup-center-muslim-studies.aspx

Carnegie Council for Ethics & International Affairs
http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/index.html

Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs
http://www.hluce.org/hrlucerelintaff.aspx

Center for Strategic and International Studies
http://csis.org/

Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy
https://www.csidonline.org/

Global Centre for Pluralism
http://www.pluralism.ca/

British Council | Our Shared Future

Tony Blair Faith Foundation
http://www.tonyblairfaithfoundationus.org/

Freedom House
http://www.freedomhouse.org/

International Center for Religion & Diplomacy
http://icrd.org/

International Crisis Group
http://www.crisisgroup.org/

Institute for Global Engagement
http://www.globalengage.org/