**Political Science 235: Politics of Religious Movements**
Mr. Guth
Office Hours: 9:30-11:15 MWF or by appointment

**Required Texts:**
- Christian Smith, *Emergence of Liberation Theology*
- Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*
- Putnam and Campbell, *American Grace*
- Toft, Philpot, and Shah, *God’s Century*
- Norris and Inglehart, *Sacred and Secular*
- *New York Times* (daily access required)

**REQUIREMENTS:** This course will center on class discussion of the readings and current events, along with a few lectures. To incorporate current political developments, students must read the *New York Times* articles assigned each day and any additional reading provided by the instructor. Examinations will cover these items. To assist preparation for class, the instructor will indicate each day the readings and issues to be discussed in the next session. Participation in class discussions constitutes a significant portion of the grade.

**EXAMS:** There will be four hour exams, as scheduled below. These will cover the materials in each section, but will not be cumulative. A sample will be provided before the first exam. If you miss an exam due to death or serious illness in the family, or due to your own illness, you must arrange a make-up. All such absences must be excused by the Associate Dean’s office or by a doctor. If you miss an exam without valid excuse, you will receive an "F" for that exam. If you must be absent because of participation in official University events, such as athletic or mock trial competition, you must take the exam in advance. Short quizzes may be given at any time if the class is not remaining abreast of the reading.

**REACTION PAPERS:** Each student is required to write brief reaction papers (about 2 pages) in response to six events, such as speakers, films, or other meetings. There will be ample options (in terms of time, content, and political leaning). The instructor will point out such events as announced. *In special cases, the entire class may be asked to attend an event for class discussion. Turn in as completed, all due December 6.*

**GRADES:** Each exam will count 20%, for a total of 80% of the final grade. The last 20% will be awarded on the basis of attendance, preparation, quality of reaction papers, class discussion and participation. I am very serious about this portion of the grade.

**ETHICAL CONDUCT:** Your presence in this class signifies that you accept the basic rules of academic honesty as discussed in Furman’s booklet, *Plagiarism and Academic Integrity*. You must not engage in plagiarism or cheating in any form. Such conduct will not be tolerated. You will be required to affirm at the bottom of each exam paper that you have not committed academic dishonesty.

Another aspect of ethical behavior involves **electronic devices**. Your learning and that of others is impeded by their classroom use. The basic rule here is simple: **No cell phone, PDA, or other such device may be in evidence at any time; they must be “stowed away” from the time you enter the classroom until you leave.** Nor may you leave the room during class to use them. If I see or hear a phone, I will deduct 5 points from your participation grade. If it happens a second time, you will receive an F for participation. During exams, you must put your cell phones or PDAs in a book bag or purse and leave them at the front of the room. If I see a device in your possession once the exam begins (regardless of the reason), you will fail the exam. *Laptops may be used for taking class notes, but all other applications (e-mail, internet, etc.) must be closed (not merely minimized).* If you use the laptop for any reason other than taking notes, you will lose 10 points from your participation grade and will no longer be allowed to use the device in class.

(over for schedule)
Introduction: Theoretical Approaches to Religion and Politics (August 20 to September 2)

- Theological or belief models. Class Biblical text exercise.
- Sociological models
  1. Sociological concepts: class and ethnicity
  2. Conceptualizing social change: the travails of “modernization”
  3. Interactions between religion and modernization: “secularization”?
- Organizational or institutional models
  1. Organizational interests
  2. Organizational resources
  3. Leadership incentives
- Political opportunity models

Case 1: The Catholic Church and Liberation Theology in Latin America (September 4-18)

READ: Smith, The Emergence of Liberation Theology (entire)
  a) Theological antecedents
  b) The social bases of liberation movements
  c) New structures for an old Church: Base communities
  d) Conservative reaction
  e) The Protestant challenge
  f) Pope Francis: A Future for Liberation Theology?

Required Film: Romero, Thursday, September 5, 6:30 p.m. JH 109.

Wednesday, September 18, FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION

Case 2: Islamic Militancy in the Contemporary World (September 20-October 18)

READ: Kepel, Jihad (entire)
  a) Muslim beliefs and Islamist ideas
  b) The social bases of Islamist movements
  c) New structures
  d) The future of Islamic Politics

Required Film: The Sword of Islam, Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 p.m. JH109

Friday, October 18, SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION

Case 3: Religion and Politics in a Developed Polity: The United States (October 21-November 8)

READ: Putnam and Campbell, American Grace (entire)
  a) American exceptionalism and the European model
  b) The ethnocultural model
  c) American Fundamentalism: Origins
  d) Religion, social class and political interests
  e) Institutional defense and religious politics

Friday, November 8, THIRD HOUR EXAMINATION

Comparative Perspectives: The Big Picture (November 11-December 9)

  Norris and Inglehart, Sacred and Secular.
  a) Explaining the “rise” of religion in politics
  b) The impact of religious mobilization
  c) Modernization and religious politics

Monday, December 9. FOURTH HOUR EXAMINATION

NO CLASS: To compensate for required films and event attendance, there will be no class on September 20, October 7, and October 23. As these dates come toward the beginning of new sections of substantial reading, students are advised to take advantage of the free hours to “get ahead” on the texts.