

Descriptif d'enseignement / *Course descriptions*

3^{ème} année internationale / International undergraduate program

Semestre 1

Titre du cours - *Course title*

Religion and Politics in the US: from the Founding Fathers till nowadays

Type de cours : Cours magistral

Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – *Professor(s)*

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Résumé du cours – **Objectifs** - *Course description – Targets*

This course aims at three main objectives:

- first to understand the variety and evolutions of the religious landscape in the US, both as a specific feature and as a tool to better understand our own European panorama.
- second, to examine the reasons underlying the intricacies of religion and politics in the US, from the foundation of that country to present days' politics. That will lead us to reconsider secularization in modern societies.
- Finally, by describing the complex relations between religion and society as a whole, we may understand how religion plays a decisive paper on contemporary issues such as race, gender, educational, and LGBTI topics.

Evaluation - *Assessment*

Students will be asked:

- to deliver a book report or an analysis of a set of documents, selected from a reading list/documents set issued by the professor (20%)
- to deliver a short research paper on a contemporary issue on religion and politics taken from a list given by the professor (20%)
- to take a final exam (short questions and one essay-style one) (40%)
- to participate actively in class (20%) which means being able to interact with the professor and other students during sessions, having read the documents indicated for each session in order to participate properly and to maintain one's attention throughout sessions. The use of cell phones is strictly forbidden and will lead to a lowering of that grade if observed. The use of laptops is authorized but undue and compulsory consultation of unrelated sites during sessions will also have negative consequences on the participation grade.

Plan – Séances - *Course outline*

General Outline (subject to modifications according to the professor's decision to adapt it to the students' interests and motivations)

- Session 1 : Introduction to the Course

God, the Founding Fathers and the Constitution

- Session 2 and 3 : From the 'Wall of separation' to the 'Christian Right'

Religion and Politics in the US: Elections, International relations

- Session 4 : In the name of God and the Holy Market

Religion and Economics

- Session 5: Do Black Lives Matter ?

Religion and Race in the US

- Session 6 and 7 : Culture Wars and Religion

Women, LGBTI

Education and Science

- Session 8 : Conclusions

- Session 9: Final Exam

Bibliographie - *Bibliography* :

Some quick book ideas : (students may already select one among this list for a potential book report)

- K. Kruse, One nation under God: how corporate America invented Christian America, 2015

- Ch. Lehmann, The money cult: capitalism, Christianity and the unmaking of the American Dream, 2016

- R. Fowler and ali., Religion and Politics in America (5th edition) 2013

- R.P. Jones, The end of White-Christian America, Simon and Schuster, 2016

- P. Harvey, Bounds of their habitation: race and religion in American History, 2016

- J. Meacham, American Gospel, God, the Founding Fathers and the making of a nation, 2007

- N. Hemmer, Messengers of the Right : Conservative Media and the transformation of American Politics, 2016

- D. K. Williams, God's Own Party: the making of the Christian Right, 2012

- M.A. Sutton, D. Dochuk, Faith in the new Millenium, 2015

- D. Dochuk, From Bible Belt to Sun Belt, plain-folk religion, grassroots politics and the rise of evangelical conservatism, 2010

- E. Blum, P. Harvey, The Color of Christ: the Son of God and the Saga of Race in America, 2014