COURSE DESCRIPTION
This seminar explores the construction of “religion” and “politics” in American history from the colonial period to the 21st century.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Students will analyze major recent works in the field of American religious history
2. Students will investigate the relationship between religion and politics
3. Students will evaluate the work of their peers
4. Students will conduct research into the relationship between religion and politics.

REQUIRED BOOKS


**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Seminar Attendance and Participation**
Come to class having completed the reading and prepared to engage class discussion.

**Book Reviews**
Each week students will turn in a roughly two page double-spaced typed review of the book for that week. These reviews consist of three parts:

1. **An abstract that summarizes the book without critical commentary.** What is the main argument(s) of the book. What is its thesis? What methods, sources, theoretical approaches does it use? Where does it fit within the fields of American religious history, American history, or religious studies? How is it structured?

2. **An evaluation of the book which assess its arguments, method, theory, and use of sources.** Is the argument convincing? Why or why not? What is the book’s greatest strength(s)? What is the book’s greatest weakness(es)?

3. **An application of the book to your work.** Even if the topic/period/subjects of the book are far afield from your own interests, how might this book help you do your own work? What can you take away from it? What questions did it raise for your work?
**Article/Chapter Reports**
Each student will choose 3 of the 9 “Report” readings from the schedule and present a summary of the article/chapter to the class. These oral presentations should contain the same basic information as the book review assignment as well as connecting the article/chapter to the book discussed that day, with the understanding that other students may not have read the article.

**Term Paper**
A rough draft of your term paper for the course is due on April 17. Each student will read the others' papers and we will have a discussion/revision session on the papers the last day of class. More details on how we will review papers will come as we get closer to the end of the semester.

**GRADE SCALE**
A Satisfactory completion of all assignments
B Satisfactory completion of at least 80% of assignments
C Satisfactory completion of at least 60% of assignments
D Satisfactory completion of at least 50% of assignments
F Satisfactory completion of less than 50% of assignments

**GROUND RULES**
**Attendance**
You are expected to attend class. This is graduate school. Unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your participation grade.

**Late Work**
I do not accept late work. I do give extensions in the case of extraordinary circumstances, but I expect that you will ask for the extension promptly.

**Accommodations**
Students with a documented physical and/or learning disability should contact the professor outside of class time as soon as possible to review documentation and discuss accommodations. Also, students should familiarize themselves with the Office of Disability Services at http://www.ods.ua.edu.

**In Case of Emergency/Weather**
UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. In the event of an emergency, I will use Blackboard to provide additional course information.

**Honor Code**
Academic misconduct is a serious offense and is taken very seriously at UA and in the class. Suspected cases of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic misconduct
will be referred to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. You are bound by UA's Honor Code in this class.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Jan 9


Jan 16
Bonomi, Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America


Jan 23

Report: “Evangelicalism as a Democratic Movement,” Nathan O. Hatch. in Evangelicalism and Modern America

Jan 30
Haselby, The Origins of American Religious Nationalism


Feb 6


Feb 13
Graber, The Gods of Indian Country: Religion and the Struggle for the American West

Feb 20


Feb 27
Wenger, Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal


Mar 6
Johnson, African American Religions, 1500-2000: Colonialism, Democracy, and Freedom


SPRING BREAK

Mar 20
Griffith, Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics


Mar 27
McGreevy, Catholicism and American Freedom: A History

Apr 3
Miller, The Age of Evangelicalism: America’s Born-Again Years

Apr 10
Gordon, The Spirit of the Law: Religious Voices and the Constitution in Modern America
Apr 17
Sullivan, *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom*

Paper rough draft due

**Apr 24** Paper Presentations

**Final term papers due May 1**