Christianity and Politics in the United States

Mark David Hall
Pennington House, 202B
Class time: MWF 2:00-2:50

PSCI 354
Spring 2015
Pennington House 102

(O) (503) 554-2674, (H) (503) 554-0324. We don’t check our home answering machine, so don’t leave a message at this number.
Email: mhall@georgefox.edu. I prefer face-to-face meetings, but I check my email regularly.
Office Hours: Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50; TTH 8:00-11:50; 2:00-3:00 [I am often but now always in my office until 5:00].

This course explores the relationship between Christianity and politics in the United States. We will look at three fundamental questions: (1) how have religion and politics been related historically? (2) how are they related today? (3) how should they be related?

Everyone is expected to prepare for each class, attend regularly, and be prepared to discuss reading assignments. I will evaluate participation every day using a rubric that I will hand out on the first day (10% of final grade). Students should read the New York Times and other media regularly for news about religion and politics/religion and society. Every Friday please bring to class a copy of an article on this subject and be prepared to discuss it. Articles can be on current events or about recent historical discoveries/arguments. Most of your articles should be about America, but some may be about other nations.

We will have four exams, each of which is worth 15% of the final grade.

Students will also write a review of a book on religion and politics and present the review to the class. Reviews should be 1,000 words long and should summarize and critique the work in question. Books must be approved by me. You may not read a book you have read or are reading for another class. Reviews will be submitted and presentations made throughout the semester at appropriate times. See below for a list of possible books.

As well, students will write a thoughtful, six-page paper about a great American Christian jurist (20%). The paper should be written as if it were a mini-chapter for a book I am co-editing entitled Great Christian Jurists in American History. I’ll provide more information about this project.

All written assignments must be printed and turned in to me (no e-mail submissions). Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be penalized 3 points every 24-hour period they are late (excluding weekends). Please double space, use a twelve point font, and include the word count with your name and date.

Required Texts:

Daniel L. Dreisbach and Mark David Hall, The Sacred Rights of Conscience.
Robert Booth Fowler et al., Religion and Politics in America, 5th ed.
Reading Assignments

The following assignments must be completed on the indicated day. I reserve the right to change any assignment or due date.

January

12. Introduction.


16. No class, I’m out of town, but read. SRC, 89-103, 110-114.

19. No class, MLK day.

21. SRC, 122, 131-132, 155-165 (both Williams and Ward).

23. Christianity and the War for Independence SRC, 173-195


30. Catch up, reviews

February

2. Test #1

4. Religious Liberty and Church-State Relations in early America: SRC, SKIM: 225-238, read 239-253

6. SRC 266, 276-78, 290-298, 307-08.


11. SRC, 366-382.

13. First Amendment, SRC 405-33.


18. SRC, 468-479, 520-528.
20. SRC, 588-597.


25. Catch-up, reviews.

27. Test #2.

March


4. Foxtale: Mark David Hall “Beyond Self-Interest”; “Seneca Falls Declaration.”


20. Fowler, chapter 5.

23-27. Spring Break

30. Catch up, reviews.

April

1. Test #3.

3. No school, Good Friday


8. Fowler 7-8

10. Fowler 9
13. Mark David Hall, Expert’s report, religious accommodations

15. Fowler 10

17. Fowler 11-12

20. Reports on jurists

22. Reports on jurists

24. Reports on jurists, reviews

Final exam: Exam #4

Possible Books [set date for presentation with me]

Selective Bibliography


Buckley, Thomas E., Church and State in Revolutionary Virginia, 1776-1787 (1977)


Davis, Derek H. Religion and the Continental Congress, 1774-1789: Contributions to Original Intent (2000)


Dreisbach and Hall, The Forgotten Founders on Religion and Public Life (2009)


Frazer, Greg. The Religious Beliefs of America’s Founders (2012)

Green, Steven K. The Second Disestablishment: Church and State in Nineteenth Century America (2010).


Hamburger, Philip. The Separation of Church and State (2002)


Hatch, Nathan O. The Sacred Cause of Liberty: Republican Thought and the Millennium in Revolutionary New England (1977)

Hatch, Nathan. The Democratization of American Christianity (1989)


Hunter, James D. Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America (1991)


Layman, Geoffrey. The Great Divide: Religious and Cultural Conflict in America (2001)


Murphy, Andrew. Conscience and Community: Revisiting Toleration and Religious Dissent in
Early Modern England and America (2001)


Niebuhr, H. Richard. Christ and Culture (1951)

Niebuhr, Reinhold. Moral Man and Immoral Society (1932)


Rauschenbush, Walter. Christianity and Social Crisis (1924)

Jonathan D. Sassi, A Republic of Righteousness (2001)


West, John G. The Politics of Revelation and Reason (1996)


Yoder, John Howard. The Politics of Jesus (1972)
The New York Times is tracking coronavirus restrictions at the state level, including what businesses are open or closed and whether officials require masks or recommend or order staying at home. Stricter local orders may also be in place, and local conditions may not always reflect state requirements. Through February, most of the state remained in the most restrictive tier, and in early March more counties, including some in the Bay Area, loosened restrictions. Read more.

Open: Bowling alleys; museums and aquariums; casinos; stadiums and arenas; movie theaters; pool halls. Outdoor and recreation: Beaches; fishing and hunting; public pools and playgrounds; outdoor zoos, botanical gardens and nature parks; gyms; ski resorts. A two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, her many books include the international bestseller These Truths and This America.

Product details: My knowledge of politics in general, U.S. history, human rights and media, has at least doubled thanks to this exceptional and mighty piece of work. But there's more. Questions of philosophy I already asked were deepened and crystallised. Mark David Hall Pennington House, 202B Class time: MWF 2:00-2:50. PSCI 354 Spring 2015 Pennington House 102. (O) (503) 554-2674, (H) (503) 554-0324. We don't check our home answering machine, so don't leave a message at this number.

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Level 3: Area effect "terrorism" that attempts to injure or murder Trump. When the criminal framing attempts fall flat, the deep state Democrats will ratchet up their plans to a "hot" phase of the civil war. In this phase, operatives run by the FBI all of whom have extensive experience fabricating fake documents, and they will put those skills to use in trying to frame Trump for criminal behavior that he didn't commit. Remember, trust nothing reported by the media. They lie about everything. They are just following orders, after all, handed to them by the CIA.

What policy did the new United States pursue in its dealings with Native Americans? The U.S. government generally left them alone because it was busy trying to restore order after the war. The U.S. government tried to protect them from encroachment by backcountry farmers, as required by the Treaty of Paris. They hoped cutting off the supply would eventually end slavery in the United States. Which of the following scenarios can potentially be seen as a violation of the First Amendment? An accused thief spends two years in jail before receiving a trial.