REL 3067

Christianity and Politics

Section: U01

Hybrid/Certified

Spring Term 2027

Course Meeting Information

We 2:00PM - 3:15PM ~ Ocean Bank Convoc Center 119

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course offers an overview of the Christian political theology and practice, from the times of Jesus to the contemporary period. It is intended to provide students with knowledge of the history of Christian political thought, the major schools of thought on political theology, emphasizing its diversity and complexity of approaches to Christian attitudes political involvement.

Christianity and Politics will also encourage the study of the entire body of the Christian thinking regarding about politics through history, as well as a critical examination of a variety of contemporary Christian approaches to political involvement and influence. This course includes both an historical examination the Greek and Hebrew precedents in political theory and study of current issues of Christianity in the public square. It gives a historical overview of various branches of Christianity such as Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, mainline Protestantism, as well as a variety of nonconformist sects and evangelical denominations such as Quakers, Baptists and Methodists, and the global Pentecostal movement both within Protestantism and the Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In addition, with the rise of politicized religious movements in many, if not most, of world religions, it becomes more important than ever to provide balanced, academic analysis in the study of Christian political influence.

In summary, the course will cover the following topics:

- The development of political theory in the Greco-Roman civilization.
- A brief survey of politics in Hebrew political thinking and practice.
- The politics of Jesus of Nazareth.

- The early practice of Christians prior to Constantine.
- Christianity thinking in the Roman Empire and the Greek-speaking world.
- St. Augustine and the City of God.
- The imperialization of Christianity and rise of 'Christendom.'
- Western Christianity and the Middle Ages.
- Martin Luther and the Two Kingdoms.
- The Anabaptists and the Peace tradition.
- The Wars of Religion and the rise of the modern secular Nation State.
- The rise of the ideology of Nationalism.
- The Enlightenment and rise of the ideology of liberalism.
- Catholic Social Teaching.
- The Crisis of the Twentieth Century and Liberation Theology.
- Christian Nationalism and MAGA.
- Leo Tolstoy, Dorothy Day and Christian Anarchism

Textbook and Course Materials

Christianity and Politics

Subtitle: A Brief Guide to the History

Required/Recommended: Recommended

Authors: Pecknold, C. C.

Publisher: Wipf and Stock Publishers

Publication Date: 2010

Copyright Date: 2010

ISBN 10: 1621892204

ISBN 13: 9781621892205

Notes: Selected readings Pecknold will be provided in Canvas.

Chapters/Pages: 196

Political Visions & Illusions

Subtitle: A Survey & Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Koyzis, David T.

Publisher: InterVarsity Press

Publication Date: 2019

Copyright Date: 2019

ISBN 10: 083087206X

ISBN 13: 9780830872060

Chapters/Pages: 330

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for $22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the Panther Book Pack information

page on FIU OneStop.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- • Describe, evaluate, and analyze a variety of significance political philosophies within the Christian tradition.
- • Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of at least two Christian political theologies.
- • Demonstrate professional or scholarly writing regarding the role of Christian political involvement.

Expectations of this Course

This is a hybrid course, meaning half of the coursework will be conducted in class, on campus, with the remaining half conducted out of class, including in this Canvas course. Expectations for performance in hybrid courses are the same as in a traditional course. Hybrid courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;

- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact online** with the instructor and peers;
- **review and follow the course calendar** and weekly outlines;
- **Attend class sessions** in person as scheduled;
- **log in** to the course **5 times** per week;
- **respond to discussions** by the due date specified;
- **respond to emails** within **2 days**;
- **submit assignments** by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- **log in** to the course **5 times** per week;
- **respond to emails** within **24 hours**;
- **grade assignments** and/or provide feedback within **3 days** of the assignment deadline.

Assignments & Assessments

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Available dates (unlimited or for a specific time)
- Criteria for evaluating the originality and quality of students' comments and grade credit expected (Rubric is highly encouraged)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades.

Assignments

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Provide due dates and late assignment policies
- Define if it is an individual or group assignment (groups: Let the students know how the groups will be formed)
- Specify and describe how to submit assignments
- State the criteria for evaluation (Rubric or list of criteria)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with

mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- List all assessments (i.e. graded or practice)
- Provide the dates and times when assessments will become available (i.e. From Monday 10:00 am – Tuesday 11:59 pm)
- Provide assessment duration (i.e. 30 minutes, 1 hour)
- Provide details for results
- When will students be able to see the results (i.e. Immediately after the exam, after the availability period has ended, or not at all)
- What will they be able to see the results (i.e. Total score only, all of the questions and answers, etc.)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Grading

Sample Tables

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Total	**34**	**—**	**1,000**	**100%**

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Class discussions	10	20	200	20%
Discussion Forums	10	10	300	30%
Weekly Reading Quizzes	10	10	100	10%
Exams	2	100	200	20%
Writing Assignments	2	100	200	20%
Total	**34**	**—**	**1,000**	**100%**

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
A	95 to 100
A-	90 to 94
B+	87 to 89
B	83 to 86
B-	80 to 82
C+	77 to 79

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
C	70 to 76
D	60 to 69
F	59 or less

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our Student Proctored Exam Instructions webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

1. Politics and the Common Good
2. The Hebrew Context.
3. The Politics of Jesus.
4. St. Paul and the State.
5. Politics and the Early Christians.
6. Constantine and Christendom.
7. St. Augustine and the City of God.
8. Martin Luther and "Two Kingdoms"; Nationalism.

9. Anabaptist Political Theology; "Liberalism."
10. Calvin and Kyper; "Democracy."
11. Catholic Social Teaching. Jacques Maritain.
12. Socialism as an Ideology; Liberation Theology.
13. Christian Nationalism.
14. Common Good Capitalism.
15. American Civil Religion.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using the Canvas Inbox.

I will respond to all correspondence within 2 days.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies, such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette

- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the Zoom Student Tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your

screen.

- Access the Zoom Test Meeting Room to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the FIU Canvas Help Team. Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.

Syllabus Desclaimer

This syllabus may be subject to change without prior notice. The latest changes will be announced via Canvas announcement.