# Course Syllabus

## Course Information
SOC 6347 Religion in Public Life  
Section 001  
Spring 2016

## Professor Contact Information
Bobby C. Alexander, Ph.D.

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**PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.**

Office: GR 2.532  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:45-1:00 p.m., and 6:45-7:00 p.m., and by appointment if these times do not fit your schedule

## Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
None

## Course Description
This course examines the engagement of religion in public life, specifically ways in which religious institutions, their beliefs, and moral values help to shape public institutions and their policies. Attention is directed to religion and policy in the economy/workforce, government/legislation, education/science, healthcare, and other social institutions.

## Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
- To develop a sociological understanding of how religious institutions, views, and values influence public institutions.
- To develop a policy understanding of religion in public life.

## Required Textbooks and Other Readings
No books are required. Students will select readings from a list of illustrative scholarly sources and/or from an electronic database search through the McDermott Library. Readings may be placed on Electronic Reserve.
Assignments and Academic Calendar

- Class Presentations. Students will make two Class Presentations on scholarly sources treating religion’s engagement in one of the above public institutions. Students will choose the institution they want to work on and provide other students bibliographic information on their source ahead of class dates for their presentations.

- Written Report. Students will write a 17-20-page report using their scholarly sources from their Class Presentations and other new scholarly sources.

The Instructor will provide and go over all instructions. All instructions will be posted on eLearning.

Course Calendar

January 11
Orientation to the Course

Distribution of Illustrative List of Readings by Institutional Area and Selection of Institutions for Class Presentations and Written Report

January 18 NO CLASS: University Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 25
Dr. Alexander (Government/law) and
Angela (healthcare)

February 1
Jennera (Education/science) and
Maria (Government/Law)

February 8
Erin (Government/law)

February 15
Charis (Faith-Based Organizations)

February 22
Chukwudi (the Economy/workforce/corporations)
February 29
Ron (Government/law)

March 7
Elena (Education/science)

March 14 NO CLASS: Spring Break

March 21
Angela (Healthcare) and
Maria (Government/law)

March 28
Chukwudi (the Economy/workforce/corporations

April 4
Ron (Government/law) and
Elena (Education/science)

April 11
Jennera (Education/science) ?

April 18
Erin (Government/law)

April 25
Charis (Faith-Based Organizations)

May 4

Written Report due

Note: Students will turn in their Written Report in the Instructor’s office (GR 2.532) at 4:00 p.m. during the scheduled Final Exam period.

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.
40%: the two Class Presentations combined
30%: Written Report
20%: Participation in Class Discussion
10%: Attendance

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100
A   = 94-96
A-  = 90-93
B+  = 87-89
B    = 84-86
B-   = 80-83
C+   = 77-79
C    = 74-76
C-   = 70-73
D+   = 67-69
D    = 64-66
D-   = 60-63
F    = 59 and below

Course and Instructor Policies

Attendance is required. Students automatically will be excused from one class; no documentation is required if students miss only the one class. Students who miss more than one class will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide documentation.

The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.

Students must submit hard copies of all assignments on the due dates. Electronic submissions will not be accepted, unless the student has a legitimate reason for being absent from class to turn in assignments. Late papers will not be accepted without prior approval of the instructor, with the exception of emergencies.

This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness among students who submit their work on time.

University Policies

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.

http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies