Course Syllabus

Course Information

SOC 4387 Religion in International Development

Section 001

Fall 2015

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: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:45-2:30 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 explores the role religion plays in the economic and political development of nation states. This semester we will examine how Protestantism, Catholicism, and Islam encourage development in Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia. Specifically, we will study how these religions – specifically their core beliefs, reinterpretation of scripture, and women’s leadership of their religious institutions – contribute to the advancement of women’s social, economic, and political status, opportunities, and legal rights. Alongside religion, the course examines economic, educational, and political institutions and social movements (work, or employment, higher education, democracy, and the human rights movement) that also contribute to women’s advancement. The course begins with an introduction to the topic of religion in international development.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objective is to gain a sociological understanding of how religion contributes to social, economic, and political development together with economic, educational, and political institutions and the human rights movement.
Required Textbooks and Other Readings

One text is required: *Globalization, Gender, and Religion: The Politics of Women's Rights in Catholic and Muslim Contexts*, Jane H. Bayes and Nayereh Tohidi, editors (Palgrave). The book is available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Other readings will be placed on Electronic Reserve in the McDermott Library. Students will select additional readings from scholarly sources for course assignments.

Assignments and Academic Calendar

- Exams. Students will write two 3-4-page take-home exams, one a Mid-Term Exam, and the other a Final Exam. The first exam will cover the first half of the course, and the second the second half. Both exams will be short answer and essay. Exam questions will be handed out one week before the exams are due.

- Written Reports. Students also will write two 1½-page reports on a single topic related to religion in U.S. society incorporating a review of scholarly literature on the topic. Students will submit a proposed topic to the Instructor for approval.

- Class Presentations. Students will make two brief Class Presentations on their Written Reports, the first on the first report, and the second on the second report.

- Class Exercises. Students also will work together on and complete a series of Class Exercises. **Students who do not attend the day of a Class Exercise will not get credit for the exercise, unless the student has an excused absence per the attendance policy below.**

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

**August 25**

**Orientation to the Course**

**August 27**

**How Is Religion Involved in International Development?**

Read: Electronic Reserve:
Berger, “Faith and Development”

**Class Exercise #1**

**September 1**

**How Is Religion Involved in International Development? Continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve:
Wheelan, excerpt from “Introduction to Public Policy”
Class Exercise #2

Topic for Written Reports due

September 3
How Is Religion Involved in International Development? Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve:
Jones and Peterson, “Instrumental, Narrow, Normative? Reviewing Recent Work on Religion and Development”

Class Exercise #3

September 8
How Is Religion Involved in International Development? Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve:

September 10
Religion and Development Relief

Read:

This reading cannot be placed on Electronic Reserve. The link to the reading follows. You may want to copy and paste the link from the electronic course syllabus on eLearning, or go through the McDermott Library electronic database search to find the article.


Class Exercise #4

September 15
Religion and Development Relief Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve:

September 17
Religion in Economic Development

Read: Electronic Reserve:
Jawad and Yakut-Cakar, “Religion and Social Policy in the Middle East: The
(Re)Constitution of an Old-New Partnership”

September 22
Religion in Economic Development Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve:
Richter, Rapple, Modschiedler, and Peterson from Understanding Religion in a Global Society, Wadsworth, 2004

Class Exercise #5
First Written Report Due

September 24
Women and Religion in Economic Development

Read: Electronic Reserve:

September 29
Women and Religion in Economic Development Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve:

Class Exercise #6

October 1
First Class Presentations

October 6
First Class Presentations

Mid-Term Exam questions handed out

October 8
First Class Presentations

October 13
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights

Read: Ch. 1 “Introduction,” in Globalization, Gender, and Religion: The Politics of Women’s Rights in Catholic and Muslim Contexts

Mid-Term Exam due
October 15 and 20
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Ch. 2 “Women Redefining Modernity and Religion in the Globalized Context,” in *Globalization, Gender, and Religion*

Class Exercise #7

October 22 and 27
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Ch. 6 “The Politics of Implementing Women’s Rights in Catholic Countries of Latin America,” in *Globalization, Gender, and Religion*

Class Exercise #8

October 29 and November 3
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve: Hallum, “Taking Stock and Building Bridges: Feminism, Women’s Movements, and Pentecostalism in Latin America”

Class Exercise #9

November 5
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve:
Drogo, “Religious Change and Women’s Status in Latin America: A Comparison of Catholic Base Communities and Pentecostal Churches”

Class Exercise #10

November 10 and 12
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Ch. 7 “The Politics of Implementing Women’s Rights in Turkey,” in *Globalization, Gender, and Religion*

November 17 and 19
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued

Read: Ch. 8 “Women’s Strategies in Iran from the 1979 Revolution to 1999,” in *Globalization, Gender, and Religion*

Second Written Report due November 19th

November 24 and 26 No Class: Fall Break / Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1
Women and Religion in Development of Legal (Political) Rights Continued
Read: Ch. 9 “The Politics of Implementing Women’s Rights in Bangladesh,” and Ch. 10 “The Silent Ayesha: An Egyptian Narrative,” in Globalization, Gender, and Religion

December 3
Second Class Presentations

December 8
Second Class Presentations

Final Exam questions handed out December 8th

December 15th
Final Exam due

Note: Students will turn in their exams in the instructor’s office (GR 2.532) during the regularly scheduled class time (2:30 p.m.).

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

25%: the two Exams combined
25%: the two Written Reports combined
25%: Class Exercises combined
15%: the two Class Presentations combined
10%: Attendance

Note: Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss more than two classes will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide proper documentation.

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 two classes; no documentation is required if students miss only two classes. Students who miss more than two classes 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 the 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://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies