

Department: Government and Public Affairs

Course Number: Areas of Inquiry GOVT 210

Course Name: Religion and Politics in Latin America

Check box for Honors course consideration –YES: X

AREA OF INQUIRY

GLOBAL AND MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

This form must be submitted to the Liberal Learning Council as part of the submission process.

Please attach a proposed syllabus for this course and the Undergraduate Curriculum Course Proposal Form, if new course.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 1 October 2006

Please answer the following questions:

Check Only One:

☐ This course is an existing course (in the current curriculum) that we are now proposing for this Area of Inquiry.

☒ This is a new course that we are now proposing for this Area of Inquiry.

1. Name and contact information of the curriculum point person for the department administrating this course.

Professor Peter Carlson. He can be reached at the following email address: pcarlson@cnu.edu; and by telephone at this number: 757-594-7874.

2. In any given semester, how many sections of this course is your department willing to offer?
Two sections of this course – either Fall or Spring semester

3. Why is this course being offered/what is it designed to achieve (Course purpose/goal)?

The Department of Government does not offer a course in this area. Our course offerings in comparative politics in general are very modest. Specifically,

we do not have any courses that address the interaction of religion and politics outside the United States. This course therefore will provide new offerings to the University and the Department. Moreover, the issues and tasks that make up this course are matters of increasing importance. They help us to explore the world around us in a time of increasing tensions surrounding religion and its political manifestations. They help us to understand the way religion and politics interact in the United States through a comparative analysis. And they enable students to think critically about such contemporary political issues as the debates concerning legal and illegal immigration from Latin America.

4. Check the objectives below that the course will address. The first objective is required and every proposal must include at least two more objectives from the list below.

X a.) Understand and examine the complex issues that result from interactions between different cultures

whose relationships are characterized by privilege and vulnerability, dominance and subversion, or assimilation and resistance. These interactions may take place either within or across national boundaries. **(required)**

X b.) Compare communication styles among cultures

X c.) Assess how culture impacts and informs the development of creative expression/movements, politics,

economics, or philosophy

X d.) Analyze how concepts of “self” and individuals in various cultures differ and/or intersect

X e.) Articulate how culture influences languages, societies, and institutions

5. Briefly explain how this class addresses each objective checked in #4. Be sure to indicate the objective by its letter. A course may cover more than three objectives.

Objective a: **We shall explore in this course the way individuals from various faith communities interact. For example, we shall study the way Catholics and Protestants have related to each other in an area that was once almost entirely Catholic. Doing so will require us to see how religious minorities have faced oppression; how they have overcome their oppression; and how religious groups have served to upset established political systems and transform political and social opportunities. Also we shall address the way social and political privilege has shaped religious identity.**

Objective b: **We shall study how missionary activity varies from culture to culture in Latin America, and the way that differing religious communities express their theological perspectives. Doing so will enable us to study the way that certain forms of rhetoric and persuasion have implications for politics.**

Objective c: **We shall explore how culture has an influence on religion and how religion has an influence on culture. We shall be especially interested in the concept of political culture and its relationship to religion.**

Objective d: **We shall examine how various religious communities understand the self and its relationship to God and the political order. Is it true to say that some forms of Protestantism tend to direct attention to the individual and some forms of Catholicism to the community? Is this true in Latin America? We shall explore such questions.**

Objective e: **We shall address how religiously inspired political cultures have shaped political institutions. As part of this, we shall have occasion to explore the role of literacy in religion and how areas with low literacy respond to religion and to political events in ways different than literate communities do.**

6. Course Assessment: **Check below how this course will accomplish the objectives in #5 (choose at least one):**

☒ Participating in class discussion and debate—The course will do this.

☒ Engaging in teamwork and other collaborative exercises—The course will prize respectful debate and dialogue in a group setting.

☒ Writing analytical or evaluative papers, perhaps incorporating original research—The course will do this.

☒ Making oral presentations—The course will do this.

☐ Creating an artistic product or a performance

7. Attach a proposed syllabus, which includes a statement of purpose, course objectives, and how these objectives will be accomplished.

8. Explain how this course connects to Vision 2010 – the CNU Strategic Plan.

(<http://www.cnu.edu/Vision2010> The links are down the left side of the page.)

This course will help to advance the strategic vision of the University in several important ways. First, this course, through its comparative perspective, will help to broaden the experiences of students and thus serves an essential function in an institution dedicated to liberal learning. Liberal learning requires students to be able to understand issues from a multiplicity of points of view and to marshal arguments and evidence from sources which with they may previously have been unfamiliar. Exposing students to the developments in Latin America will therefore provide a fitting complement to the goal of forging broadly literate and widely trained undergraduates.

Secondly, the course addresses issues of basic human value—the role of religion in life, the role of politics in shaping human meaning, and the position of religion in public discourse. Students in a liberal learning environment should be encouraged to address basic questions of value and the meaning of life, and to explore such issues through reasoned debate and constructive dialogue. Moreover, this course will expose students to controversial issues; having students address matters of religion in a civilized and respectful--though honest and critical--manner will help them to develop as citizens who are capable of addressing honorably and in a way benefiting engaged and informed citizens the profound differences that are hallmarks of contemporary social and political life. Lastly, this course will help students to grow as informed citizens capable of facing concrete political issues facing the Commonwealth. Virginia has a large number of immigrants from Latin America. Understanding the religious orientation of the communities from which so many in the Commonwealth come will help students to develop as individuals capable of providing informed leadership on issues that have tended to spark unthinking reactions by political actors across the spectrum.

Moreover, this course will require students to engage in a substantial (though appropriate to their grade level) degree of independent research. This aspect of the course fits in well with the University's clear commitment to student research and to forming strong professional ties between students and faculty. Also, the course will require that students provide an in-class presentation. This requirement will help students to sharpen their skills for leadership in the community and Commonwealth, and will provide an opportunity for them to receive feedback on their professional demeanor—thus enabling them to grow as women and men of poise and self-control.

DRAFT SYLLABUS
Area of Inquiry – Global and Multicultural Perspectives
Religion and Politics in Latin America

Dr. Joseph Prud'homme

211 Ratcliffe Hall

757-594-8491

joseph.prudhomme@cnu.edu

Office Hours: M, W, F: 12-1, 3-5:30, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we shall explore the relationship between religion and politics in Latin America. We shall begin by exploring the support religion historically afforded authoritarian state structures in the region. We shall then address the development of anticlericalism in Latin America during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Subsequently, we shall examine how theological developments within Latin American Catholicism gave rise to movements for radical social change by addressing the emergence of Liberation Theology. We shall chart the concrete political manifestation of Liberation Theology in countries such as El Salvador and Mexico. In exploring these issues we shall come to ask the question, Is Liberation Theology still a vital force in Latin America? This in turn will lead to an examination of the rise of more conservative forms of Catholic theology and how these movements are influencing Latin American political development. We shall then turn to the remarkable growth of Protestantism in the area. We shall address such questions as, Does Protestantism serve to catalyze economic and political growth? Does the growth of Protestantism tend to decrease or increase political participation? Do an increasing number of Latin Americans face a kind of religious free market, with competition both between conservative and progressive forms of Catholicism and Catholicism and Protestantism? If so, does this religious competition have political consequences? And can we accurately view religious belief as a factor inclining individuals to either a “conservative” or “liberal” orientation? We shall end the semester by exploring new syncretic religions that have emerged in areas such as Brazil, Mexico, and Guatemala and how these new forms of spirituality have begun to shape the political culture of the regions. Finally, we shall explore the rise of secularism in countries such as Chile and Argentina and its impact on politics.

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND TEXTS:

Course Packet:

Includes selections (often fairly brief) from the following:

- Angeles, Conde. "The Legion of Christ: A History" (Circle Press, 2004).
- Ardao, Arturo. "Positivism in Latin America" in Nuccetelli, *Latin American Philosophy: An Introduction with Readings* (Prentice Hall, 2003).
- Berryman, Philip. "El Salvador: From Evangelization to Insurrection" in Levine (ed.), *Religion & Political Conflict in Latin America* (Chapel Hill, 1986).
- Brown, Degroat Diana. *Umbanda: Religion and Politics in Brazil* (Columbia, 1994).
- Camp, Roderic. *Crossing Swords: Religion and Politics in Mexico* (Oxford, 1997).
- Daudelin, Jean. "Churches and Politics in Latin America: Catholicism at the Crossroads" in *Third World Quarterly* vol. 16 (1995).
- Franceschet, Susan. *Women and Politics in Chile* (Lynne Rienner, 2005).
- Gill, Anthony. "Weber in Latin America: Is Protestant Growth Enabling Democratic Capitalism?" in *Democratization* vol. 2 no. 4.
- Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, Salvation* (Orbis, 1988).
- Iasi-Diaz. "Defining our *Proyecto Historico: Mujerista* Strategies for Liberation" in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* vol. 9 (spring/fall 1993).
- Iasi-Diaz. "*Mujeristas*: Who We Are and What We Are About" in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* vol. 8 (fall 1992).
- Kebealy, William. *Mexican Religious Persecution* (American Press, 1935).
- Kiefer, J. E. *Bartolome de Las Casas, Missionary, Priest, Defender of the Oppressed*.
- Lane, Ruth. "Political Culture: Residual Category or General Theory" in *Comparative Political Studies* vol. 25 (1992).
- Mecham, J. Lloyd. *Church and State in Latin America: A History of Politico-Ecclesiastical Relations* (1966).
- Petrella, Ivan. *Latin American Liberation Theology: The Next Generation* (Orbis, 2005).
- Pottenger, John. *The Political Theory of Liberation Theology* (SUNY, 1989).
- Reich, Peter. *Mexico's Hidden Revolution: The Catholic Church in Law and Politics since 1929* (Notre Dame, 1995).
- Ricard, Robert. *The Spiritual Conquest of Mexico* (Berkeley, 1974).
- Salgado, Enrique. *The Political Culture of the Extreme Right in Contemporary Mexico*.
- Smith, Brian H. *Religious Politics in Latin America: Pentecostal vs. Catholic* (1998).
- Stoll, David. *Is Latin America Turning Protestant? The Politics of Evangelical Growth* (Berkeley, 1990).

The Statesman's Book of John of Salisbury. Translated by John Dickinson (Alfred A. Knopf, 1927).
Wiarda, Howard. *Latin American Politics and Development* (Westview, 2007).
Winn, Peter. "The Power and the Glory" in *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean* (Berkeley, 2006).

Texts:

Dussel, Enrique. *The Church in Latin America: 1492- 1992* (Orbis, 1992).

Gill, Anthony. *Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America* (Chicago, 1998).

Martin, David. *Tongues of Fire: The Explosion of Protestantism in Latin America* (Blackwell, 1990).

Please purchase these materials. Each book is available at the CNU bookstore, as is the course packet. Please have the exact edition of the texts that I have ordered so that we can all reference the same page numbers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class Participation: 10%

Quiz: 10%

Exam One: 20%

Oral Presentation: 10%

Comprehensive Final Exam: 25%

Ten Research Paper: 25%

There will be two major exams--a midterm and a final; a quiz; a research paper of approximately ten pages; and a requirement to perform one in-class presentation that provides a clear and professional summary of your research paper. In addition, part of your grade will be based on class participation. This portion of your class grade will be determined by the degree to which you demonstrate to me that you have closely and carefully read each day's assignments, and the extent to which you have made meaningful contributions to class discussion. One way to approach this is to come to class with a short list of questions drawn from an intense examination of the day's material and then communicate those questions clearly in class.

Concerning the research paper, you must meet with me individually before the midterm to discuss a paper topic. You must then meet with me one month before the end of the term to go over your progress. The paper must address an issue relating to religion and politics in Latin America, and you will have to develop your argument by making

reference to at least one chapter, book or article assigned for the class and at least three secondary sources not addressed in the class. We shall discuss the term paper at length several times throughout the semester. Also, feel free to come to my office to discuss the paper project with me as often as you would like.

The class presentation will require you to present a clear and professional articulation to the class of your research paper.

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT MY GRADING POLICY:

You must perform each major exam and the oral presentation in order to pass the course. I will NEVER use such a thing as a “curve.” Each grade for each assignment will be determined by the intrinsic merits of the work.

I shall take attendance at every class.

If your class attendance has been very good—by which I mean if you have had no more than TWO unexcused absences—you will be able to perform an extra credit assignment at the end of the semester. This opportunity will take the form of a substantial (4 page minimum) essay, which you will perform at home. The assignment will allow you to earn UP TO 2 points on your overall grade for the semester.

You will NOT be able to make up any quiz or test that you miss due to unexcused absence.

ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER:

Please feel free to contact the Academic Advising Center early in the semester if you feel that you are falling behind in your studies or, more generally, if you feel that you need to discuss issues that are impacting negatively your success in college. The Academic Advising Office is located in the Administration Building, Room 125. Their number is as follows: 757-594-8763.

A NOTE ON DISABILITIES:

Please contact the Advising Office as soon as possible concerning any disabilities. Failure to discuss this matter with the Advising Office within the first weeks of the semester could result in the waiver of any rights to special accommodation.

OUTLINE OF THE TERM:

The reading are here broken down into broad sections. You are required to do all the reading for the course.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

Week one: The History of Latin American Politics: Colonization to 1900

Latin America: Politics and Development, "The Latin American Tradition": pp. 1-95

Week two: The Role of Religion in Latin American Politics from Colonization to 1900

Paul, "Letter to the Romans"

The Church in Latin America 1492- 1992: Chapters 1-2

Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America: Chapter 1: "Caesar and the Church;" Chapter 2: "A Brief History of Church-State Relations in Latin America"

Crossing Swords: Religion and Politics in Mexico: Chapters 2-3

The Spiritual Conquest of Mexico: Part III: "Conclusions"

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Week Three: Religion and Authoritarianism in Latin American Politics in the 20th Century

Church and State in Latin America: A History of Politico-Ecclesiastical Relations

Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America: Chapter 6: "Argentina: Complicity with the Devil"

The Catholic Church and Politics in Brazil: Part I

Week Four: Anticlericalism and Free-Thought in Latin American Politics

Mexican Religious Persecution

Mexico's Hidden Revolution: The Catholic Church in Law and Politics Since 1929: Chapters 1-2

Arturo Ardao: "Positivism in Latin America" in *Latin American Philosophy: An Introduction with Readings*

*****IN CLASS QUIZ: EXACT DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED*****

CATHOLICISM AND POLITICAL CHANGE

Week Five: Religion as Force for Political Change: I

Kings I

Selections from Gregory VII, from *Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300*

Selections from John of Salisbury, from *The Statesman's Book*
Bartolome de Las Casas: Missionary, Priest, Defender of the Oppressed

Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean:
"The Power and the Glory" pp. 378-382

Week Six: Religion as Force for Political Change: II

A Theology of Liberation, excerpts

The Political Theory of Liberation Theology, excerpts

"Liberation Theology: A Documentary History," selections

"El Salvador: From Evangelization to Insurrection", in *Religion & Political Conflict in Latin America*

Latin American Liberation Theology: The Next Generation: Chapter 1

Week Seven: Neo-Conservative Catholicism in Latin American Politics

The Legion of Christ: A History, selections

"The Political Culture of the Extreme Right in Contemporary Mexico"

"Churches and Politics in Latin America: Catholicism at the Crossroads"

*****IN-CLASS MIDTERM: EXACT DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED*****

PROTESTANTISM AND POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA

Week Eight: Protestantism in Latin America

Tongues of Fire: The Explosion of Protestantism in Latin America:
Chapters 2-4

Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean,
"The Power and the Glory"

Week Nine: The Politics of Protestantism in Latin America

"Weber in Latin America: Is Protestant Growth Enabling Democratic Capitalism?"

Is Latin America Turning Protestant? The Politics of Evangelical Growth, selections

Religious Politics in Latin America: Pentecostal vs. Catholic

"POST-PROTESTANT" CATHOLICISM AND ITS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

**Week Ten: A Third Path, New Catholic Directions in Politics,
Traditional Limits**

Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America: Chapter 3: “An Economic Model of Church-State Relations”

Pope John Paul II’s address in Mexico: “The New Christian Millennium”

Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America: Chapter 7: “The Institutional Limits of Catholic Progressivism”

**NEW RADICAL TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICAN THOUGHT ON RELIGION
AND POLITICS**

Week Eleven: New Theologies, New Ideologies

“*Mujeristas*: Who We Are and What we Are About”

“Defining our *Proyecto Historico*: *Mujerista* Strategies for Liberation”

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: A FEW CASE STUDIES:

Week Twelve: Chile and the Rise of Women in Politics

Women and Politics in Chile, selections

Week Thirteen: Brazil, Syncretism, and the Politics of Toleration

Umbanda: Religion and Politics in Brazil, selections

*****IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS LAST WEEK OF THE TERM*****

*****PAPER DUE LAST DAY OF CLASS*****

*****COMPREHENSIVE FINAL: DAY ASSIGNED BY THE REGISTRAR*****

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

Is the course being proposed for the Liberal Learning Core? Yes ☒ No ☐

1. Title of Course: Religion and Politics in Latin America

Proposed Course Number (cleared with Registrar): Govt 210

Prerequisite Courses: None

Catalogue Description (including credits, lecture, and lab hours):

3-3-0

This course will focus on the role of religion in Latin American politics. Emphasis will be placed on current trends in Latin America as they are influenced by religious belief and the role of religion in social and cultural development.

Is the course cross-listed? If so, what is the number of the other course?

No

**A proposed syllabus, including complete text and/or reference information, as well as any relevant information to this decision, must be appended.

NOTE: All affected department chairs must sign approval on last page.

2. For whom is the course primarily intended? Explain why it should be added to the curriculum.

This course will be available for all CNU students seeking to fulfill an Area of Inquiry course requirement and will be open to all students seeking an elective. The course may be especially appropriate for Government majors interested in international and comparative politics.

The course will redress a deficiency in course offerings within the Department of Government in comparative politics in general and Latin American politics in particular. The department is in need of more comparative courses, and it has no course addressing Latin American politics. The course, therefore, will improve the opportunities available to students to study an important subfield in Political Science and to explore an important area of the world.

3. If this course is required, append a description of how the course fits into the curriculum.

Indicate how

it affects hours required for graduation. N/A

4. Has this course been offered previously as a special topics course? If so, when? What course number was used? No

5. Has this course, or one closely related to it, been offered at CNU previously? No

If so, is that course currently being offered? How does the proposed course differ? When is the last term the old course will be offered?

6. What is the anticipated enrollment per offering for the next three years? 26-30 students
During which term will this course first be offered?
Fall 20__ Spring 2008 Summer 20__

During which semesters will this course regularly be offered?
Fall 20__ Spring X Summer 20__

Print in the 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog.
7. How will the course be staffed?
This course will initially be taught by Dr. Joseph Prud'homme.
8. Does the course involve a particular classroom, special equipment, or costs beyond those usually associated with a course at CNU? If so, please explain. No
9. Is the course repeatable for additional credit? If so, is there a limit to the number of times the course can be repeated? (e.g., applied music courses) The course cannot be repeated.
10. If this course is for an Area of Inquiry
 - a. Identify the Area of Inquiry Global and Multicultural Perspectives
 - b. Demonstrate how your course will meet the objectives of this Area of Inquiry: The course will expose students to a set of issues impacting an area outside the United States. It will address also how minority groups are able to establish their voice within Latin America. In doing so, the course will require students to develop the skills of imagining lives that are often quite different than their own. Students will have to see how cultural and religious developments shape understandings of self-identity and political activism. Students will also be asked to explore the role of privilege in political life by addressing the influence that entrenched majorities have over religious minorities. Lastly, the issues of religion and politics in Latin America are increasingly relevant to the United States as immigrants from Latin America continue to shape American political culture. Understanding the impact that religion has on political life in areas south of the United States border can help us to appreciate how segments of the Hispanic population in the United States address and influence various political phenomena in this country.

This course was approved by:

(Liberal learning core courses must be reviewed by BOTH academic Deans.)

Concur

Do Not

Concur**

Department(s): (1)	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2)	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liberal Learning Council:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLAS Curriculum Committee:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LSoB Curriculum Committee:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Changes to the Liberal Learning requirements must be reviewed by the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate President:	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provost	_____	Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Distribution by Provost Office following approval:

Department Chair(s), UCC Chair, Deans, Registrar

**** If “Do Not Concur” is checked, please attach a statement of explanation.**

