

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

**SOC 4387 Religion in International Development**

**Section 001**

**Fall 2015**

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### **Professor Contact Information**

**Bobby C. Alexander, Ph.D.**

**Office Phone: 972-883-6898**

**E-mail: [bcalex@utdallas.edu](mailto:bcalex@utdallas.edu)**

**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**

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

None

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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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:  
Lunn, "The Role of Religion, Spirituality and Faith in Development: A Critical Theory Approach," and  
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:

DeTemple, "Imagining Development: Religious Studies in the Context of International Economic Development"

September 10

### **Religion and Development Relief**

Read:

Kaplan, "Faith and Fragile States: Why the Development Community Needs Religion"

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.

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&sid=74cd4ab-f191-48f1-b820-444f308ead98%40sessionmgr198&hid=126>

## **Class Exercise #4**

September 15

### **Religion and Development Relief Continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve:

DeCordier, "The 'Humanitarian Frontline: Development and Relief, and Religion: What Context, Which Threats and Which Opportunities?'," and Atia, "A Way to Paradise': Pious Neoliberalism, Islam, and Faith-Based Development"

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”  
Barker, “Charismatic Economies: Pentecostalism, Economic Restructuring, and Social Reproduction”

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:  
Bayanpourtehrani and Sylvester, “Female Labour Force Participation and Religion: A Cross-Country Analysis,” and  
Feldmann, “Protestantism, Labor Force Participation, and Employment Across Countries”

September 29

**Women and Religion in Economic Development Continued**

Read: Electronic Reserve:  
Bordat, Willman, and Kouzzi, “Women as Agents of Grassroots Change: Illustrating Micro-Empowerment in Morocco”

**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:  
Drogus, “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 19<sup>th</sup>**

**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 8<sup>th</sup>**

December 15<sup>th</sup>

**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.).**

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### **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

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## **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.

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## **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>

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