

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**  
**POS 407K**  
**Comparative Religion and Politics**  
**Dr. Jelen, Fall, 2008**

**Contact Information:**

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**Office Hours:**

MW: 1:30-3:00 pm  
Tuesday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

**Required Texts:**

Mark Juergensmeyer (editors) *Global Religions: An Introduction*  
Ted Gerard Jelen and Clyde Wilcox *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective: The One, the Few, and the Many*

**Objective:**

This course is intended to provide the advanced student with a theoretically informed understanding of religious politics in various nations and regions of the world. An important theme of the course is whether a general theory of religious politics is intellectually feasible or desirable.

**Grading:**

There will be an essay midterm exam, given on Monday, October 20. There will be a final exam, given on Monday, December 8, at 10:10 am. Each exam counts for 30% of student's final grade.

In addition on or before November 19, each student will submit an annotated bibliography, consisting of 100 word abstracts on 20-30 *scholarly* publications on a topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Examples of topics might include religious politics in a particular (non-US) country, a comparison of religious politics in two or more countries, or the political aspects of a religious tradition across national or regional settings. The topic should be chosen and accepted by the instructor on or before September 17. The annotated bibliography will count for 30% of student's final grade.

In addition, there will be several out of class assignments throughout the semester. Collectively, these assignments will count for 10% of student's final grade.

**Policies:**

Any attempt at academic dishonesty results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to the final exam schedule will only be granted in cases of **documented** medical or bereavement considerations. Make-ups for the midterm will be administered on December 3.

Grade appeals will be submitted in writing no less than 48 hours after the return of a graded assignment. Responses to such appeals will also be written.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

**A Useful Website:** For a variety of services to assist students in their academic endeavors, log on to [http://tlc.unlv.edu/student\\_success.htm](http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm)

**Order of Events, with Approximate Dates:**

- I. Introduction and Overview (August 25-September 17)  
Juergensmeyer, 1, 9, 10; Jelen and Wilcox 1.

**Wednesday, September 17: Topics for Annotated Bibliography Due**

- II. The Politics of Christianity
  - A. Political Religion in the United States (September 24-October 1)  
Juergensmeyer, 2; Jelen and Wilcox, 13.
  - B. Politics and Religion in Europe (October 6-8)  
Jelen and Wilcox, 2-4, 8
  - C. Religion and Politics in Latin America (October 13-15)  
Jelen and Wilcox, 9-10

**Monday, October 20: Midterm Exam**

- III. Religious Politics in the Middle East (October 22-November 3)  
Juergensmeyer, 3-4; Jelen and Wilcox, 5-7

**November 5: Election Analysis: Did Religion Matter? If So, How?**

- IV. The Politics of Non-Western Religious Traditions (November 10-26)  
Juergensmeyer, 5-6; Jelen and Wilcox, 12-13

**Wednesday, November 19: Annotated Bibliographies Due**

- V. Conclusion (December 1)  
Juergensmeyer, 11, Jelen and Wilcox, 14.

**Wednesday, December 3: Make-up Midterms**

**Monday, December 8: Final Exam (10:10 am)**