

## Christianity and Politics in the United States

Mark David Hall  
Pennington House, 202B  
Class time: MWF 2:00-2:50

PSCI 354  
Spring 2015  
Pennington House 102

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Email: [mhall@georgefox.edu](mailto:mhall@georgefox.edu). I prefer face-to-face meetings, but I check my email regularly.  
Office Hours: Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50; TTH 8:00-11:50; 2:00-3:00 [I am often but now always in my office until 5:00].

This course explores the relationship between Christianity and politics in the United States. We will look at three fundamental questions: (1) how have religion and politics been related historically? (2) how are they related today? (3) how should they be related?

Everyone is expected to prepare for each class, attend regularly, and be prepared to discuss reading assignments. I will evaluate participation every day using a rubric that I will hand out on the first day (10% of final grade). Students should read the *New York Times* and other media regularly for news about religion and politics/religion and society. Every Friday please bring to class a copy of an article on this subject and be prepared to discuss it. Articles can be on current events or about recent historical discoveries/arguments. Most of your articles should be about America, but some may be about other nations.

We will have four exams, each of which is worth 15% of the final grade.

Students will also write a review of a book on religion and politics and present the review to the class. Reviews should be 1,000 words long and should summarize *and critique* the work in question. Books must be approved by me. You may not read a book you have read or are reading for another class. Reviews will be submitted and presentations made throughout the semester at appropriate times. See below for a list of possible books.

As well, students will write a thoughtful, six-page paper about a great American Christian jurist (20%). The paper should be written as if it were a mini-chapter for a book I am co-editing entitled *Great Christian Jurists in American History*. I'll provide more information about this project.

All written assignments must be printed and turned in to me (no e-mail submissions). Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be penalized 3 points every 24-hour period they are late (excluding weekends). Please double space, use a twelve point font, and include the word count with your name and date.

Required Texts:

Daniel L. Dreisbach and Mark David Hall, *The Sacred Rights of Conscience*.  
Robert Booth Fowler et al., *Religion and Politics in America*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

## Reading Assignments

The following assignments must be completed on the indicated day. I reserve the right to change any assignment or due date.

### January

12. Introduction.
14. Christianity and Politics in colonial America: *Sacred Rights of Conscience* (SRC), xxi-xxxiv, 83-89
16. No class, I'm out of town, but read. SRC, 89-103, 110-114.
19. No class, MLK day.
21. SRC, 122, 131-132, 155-165 (both Williams and Ward).
23. Christianity and the War for Independence SRC, 173-195
26. SRC, 202-04, 215-222.
28. Jonathan Boucher, "On Civil Liberty, Passive Obedience, and Non-Resistance," available at Online Library of Liberty, <http://oll.libertyfund.org> [please download and print entire sermon]
30. Catch up, reviews

### February

2. Test #1
4. Religious Liberty and Church-State Relations in early America: SRC, SKIM: 225-238, read 239-253
6. SRC 266, 276-78, 290-298, 307-08.
9. Religion and the Constitution: SRC, 309-316, 346-360, SKIM US Constitution
11. SRC, 366-382.
13. First Amendment, SRC 405-33.
16. Religion in the New Republic, SRC, 441-456.
18. SRC, 468-479, 520-528.

20. SRC, 588-597.

23. The use and abuse of history: Foxtale: Introduction to *The Forgotten Founders on Religion and Public Life*; Hall, “Jeffersonian Walls and Madisonian Lines.”

25. Catch-up, reviews.

27. Test #2.

### March

2. Early Nineteenth Century: SRC, 478-79, 559-561, 614-621.

4. Foxtale: Mark David Hall “Beyond Self-Interest”; “Seneca Falls Declaration.”

6. George Sawyer on slavery, in Bruce Frohnen, ed. *The American Republic*, 665-89, available at: Online Library of Liberty; Lincoln’s Second Inaugural (find online).

9. Spend 15 minutes reading about the Blaine Amendments at:  
<http://www.blaineamendments.org>; Foxtale: Garry Wills, *Under God*, 95-124.

11. Foxtale: Garry Wills, *Under God*, 127-164.

13. Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Fowler, chapter 1.

16. Fowler chapter 2-3.

18. Fowler chapter 4.

20. Fowler, chapter 5.

23-27. Spring Break

30. Catch up, reviews.

### April

1. Test #3,

3. No school, Good Friday

6. Fowler 6.

8. Fowler 7-8

10. Fowler 9

13. Mark David Hall, Expert's report, religious accommodations

15. Fowler 10

17. Fowler 11-12

20. Reports on jurists

22. Reports on jurists

24. Reports on jurists, reviews

Final exam: Exam #4

Possible Books [set date for presentation with me]

#### Selective Bibliography

Abzug, Robert. Cosmos Crumbling: American Reform and the Religious Imagination (1994)

Bonomi, Patricia. Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America (1986)

Buckley, Thomas E., Church and State in Revolutionary Virginia, 1776-1787 (1977)

Carwardine, Richard J. Evangelicals and Politics in Ante-Bellum America (1994)

Davis, Derek H. Religion and the Continental Congress, 1774-1789: Contributions to Original Intent (2000)

Dreisbach, Daniel. Thomas Jefferson and the Wall of Separation Between Church and State (2002)

Dreisbach and Mark David Hall, ed. Faith and the Founders of the American Republic (2014).

Dreisbach and Hall, The Forgotten Founders on Religion and Public Life (2009)

Dreisbach and Hall, The Founders on God and Government (2004).

Fea, John. Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? (2011).

Fisher, Louis, Religious Liberty in America: Political Safeguards (2002)

Fox, Richard. Reinhold Niebuhr: A Biography (1987)

Frazer, Greg. The Religious Beliefs of America's Founders (2012)

Green, Steven K. The Second Disestablishment: Church and State in Nineteenth Century America (2010).

Hall, David D. A Reforming People: Puritanism and the Transformation of Public Life in New England (2011).

Hall, David W. The Genevan Reformation and the American Founding (2003)

Hamilton, Marci. God vs. the Gavel: Religion and the Rule of Law (2005).

Hamburger, Philip. The Separation of Church and State (2002)

Hart, Darryl A Secular Faith: Why Christianity Favors the Separation of Church and State (2006).

Hatch, Nathan O. The Sacred Cause of Liberty: Republican Thought and the Millennium in Revolutionary New England (1977)

Hatch, Nathan. The Democratization of American Christianity (1989)

Hertzke, Allen. Freeing God's Children: The Unlikely Alliance for Global Human Rights (2004)

Heineman, Kenneth J. God is a Conservative: Religion, Politics, and Morality in Contemporary America (1998).

Hofrenning, Daniel. In Washington but Not of It: The Prophetic Politics of Religious Lobbyists (1995)

Hunter, James D. Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America (1991)

Hutson, James H. Forgotten Features of the Founding: The Recovery of Religious Themes in the Early American Republic (2003)

Kidd., Thomas. God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution (2010).

Lambert, Frank. The Founding Fathers and the Place of Religion in America (2003)

Layman, Geoffrey. The Great Divide: Religious and Cultural Conflict in America (2001)

Miller, William Lee. The First Liberty: Religion and the American Republic (1986)

Murphy, Andrew. Conscience and Community: Revisiting Toleration and Religious Dissent in

Early Modern England and America (2001)

Neuhaus, Richard. The Naked Public Square (1984)

Niebuhr, H. Richard. Christ and Culture (1951)

Niebuhr, Reinhold. Moral Man and Immoral Society (1932)

Noll, Mark. Ed. Religion and American Politics: From the Colonial Period to the 1980's (1990)

Novak, Michael. On Two Wings: Humble Faith and Common Sense at the American Founding (2002)

Penn, William. The Political Writings of William Penn. Ed. Andrew Murphy (2002)

Rauschenbush, Walter. Christianity and Social Crisis (1924)

Jonathan D. Sassi, A Republic of Righteousness (2001)

Sheat, David. The Myth of American Religious Freedom (2011).

Shain, Barry. The Myth of American Individualism: The Protestant Origins of American Political Thought (1995)

Smith, Christian. The Secular Revolution (2003)

Stewart, Matthew. Nature's God (2014)

Tinder, Glenn. The Political Meaning of Christianity (1989)

Waldman, Steven. Founding Faith (2008).

West, John G. The Politics of Revelation and Reason (1996)

Winship, Michael. Godly Republicanism: Puritans, Pilgrims, and a City on a Hill (2012).

Witte, John. The Reformation of Rights (2007).

Wood, Richard. Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America (2002).

Yoder, John Howard. The Politics of Jesus (1972)