Christianity and Politics in the United States

Mark David Hall           PSCI 354
Pennington House, 202B   Spring 2015
Class time: MWF 2:00-2:50    Pennington House 102

(O) (503) 554-2674, (H) (503) 554-0324. We don’t check our home answering machine, so
don’t leave a message at this number.
Email: 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, 5th 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.


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


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.


11. SRC, 366-382.

13. First Amendment, SRC 405-33.


18. SRC, 468-479, 520-528.
20. SRC, 588-597.


25. Catch-up, reviews.

27. Test #2.

March


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


20. Fowler, chapter 5.

23-27. Spring Break

30. Catch up, reviews.

April

1. Test #3,

3. No school, Good Friday


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


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


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


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


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


Murphy, Andrew. *Conscience and Community: Revisiting Toleration and Religious Dissent in*
Early Modern England and America (2001)


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

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


Rauschenbush, Walter. Christianity and Social Crisis (1924)

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


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


Yoder, John Howard. The Politics of Jesus (1972)
in the United States. Robert L. Clark, Lee A. Craig, and Jack W. Wilson. Pension Research Council. The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. University of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia. 00front.qxd 2/27/03 9:20 AM Page iii.Â 1845/1968. The Funding System of the United States and of Great. Britain. U.S. House of Representatives Executive Document 15, 28th Cong., 1st. Sess. Reprint New York: A.M. Kelley. Employee BeneWt Research Institute (EBRI). 1997. EBRI Databook on Employee. BeneWts. Washington, D.C.: EBRI. The United States, he explained, was fighting for its very survival as an independent country because the conquests of Germany and Japan raised the specter of our geopolitical encirclement by hostile forces controlling the power centers of Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. Spykman warned that the United States could not safely retreat to a defensive position in the Western Hemisphere.Â Less than a year after the United States entered the Second World War, Nicholas Spykman wrote a book that placed the war effort in the broader context of the 1940s global balance of power. In America's Strategy in World Politics, Spykman examined world politics from a realist geopolitical perspective. Mark David Hall Pennington House, 202B Class time: MWF 2:00-2:50. PSCI 354 Spring 2015 Pennington House 102. (O) (503) 554-2674, (H) (503) 554-0324. We donâ€™t check our home answering machine, so donâ€™t leave a message at this number.Â 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).