

## Descriptif d'enseignement

2ème année / 2nd year

Semestre 1

### Titre du cours

---

**Religion and Politics in the US : from the Founding Fathers to contemporary issues**

**Type de cours** : Séminaire d'ouverture

**Langue du cours/Language of instruction** : English

### Enseignant(s)

---

Thierry MAIRE

PhD candidate in Sociology

*Contact* : thierry.maire@sciencespo.fr

### Résumé du cours – Objectifs

---

To state that Religion is of importance in the US is quite an understatement. It is arguably essential. From the very foundations of the US, by european religious outcasts who did consider the liberty of faith as one key liberty, to the protestant groups of the XIX who chose to perceive the US as God's own country with a Manifest Destiny to fulfil, religion has been at the core of its political life. But the relation between religion and politics has been more problematic in the 20th century, from the right of women to vote to the question of abortion, not to mention the LGBTI rights. The surge of a new radical right, especially in the Bible Belt, but more widely spread since the Reagan's election is reshaping american politics, both on the interior front and with international consequences.

This course aims at three main objectives:

- first to understand the variety and evolutions of the religious landscape in the US, both as a specific feature and as a tool to better understand our own European panorama.
- second, to examine the reasons underlying the intricacies of religion and politics in the US, from the foundation of that country to present days' politics. That will lead us to reconsider the secularization of modern societies.
- Finally, by describing the complex relations between religion and society as a whole, we may understand how religion plays a decisive paper on contemporary issues such as race, gender, educational, and LGBTI topics.

### Evaluation

---

The Assessment will be based on :

- a short research paper, with clear references to the books form the list indicated by the profesor and the articles mentioned during sessions (30%)
- a final exam (MCQ, short questions and one short essay) (50%)
- class participation (10%)

## Plan – Séances

---

- Session 1 : God, the Founding Fathers and the Constitution
  
- Session 2 : From the 'Wall of separation' to the 'Christian Right'  
Religion and Politics in the US
  
- Session 3 : In the name of God and the Holy Market  
Religion and Economics
  
- Session 4: Do Black Lives Matter ?  
Religion and Race in the US
  
- Session 5 : Culture Wars and Religion  
Women, LGBTI, Education and Science
  
- Session 6 : Conclusion and Exam

## Bibliographie :

---

### Bibliography:

- K. Kruse, One nation under God: how corporate America invented Christian America, 2015
- Ch. Lehmann, The money cult: capitalism, Christianity and the unmaking of the American Dream, 2016
- R. Fowler and ali., Religion and Politics in America (5th edition) 2013
- P. Harvey, Bounds of their habitation: race and religion in American History, 2016
- J. Meacham, American Gospel, God, the Founding Fathers and the making of a nation, 2007
- N. Hemmer, Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the transformation of American Politics, 2016
- D. K. Williams, God's Own Party: the making of the Christian Right, 2012
- Matthew A. Sutton, American Apocalypse, Belknap, 2014
- M.A. Sutton, D. Dochuk, Faith in the new Millenium, 2015
- D. Dochuk, From Bible Belt to Sun Belt, plain-folk religion, grassroots politics and the rise of evangelical conservatism, 2010
- E. Blum, P. Harvey, The Color of Christ: the Son of God and the Saga of Race in America, 2014
- R.P. Jones, the End of White America, ed: Simon and Schuster, 2016
- Frances FitzGerald, The Evangelicals, Simon and Schuster, 2017
- Timothy Beal, American Religion, a very short introduction, Oxford University Press, 2008
- Eddie S. Glaude jr., African American Religion, a very short introduction, Oxford University Press, 2014
- Vincent P. Munoz, God and the Founders, Cambridge University Press, 2009
- R. Finke, R. Stark, The churching of America, 1776-2005, Rutgers University Press, 2005
- S. Prothero, A nation of Religions: politics of religion in multireligious America, University of North Carolina Press, 2006
- Robert D. Putnam, American Grace, How religion divides and unites us, Simon and Schuster, 2012
- K. Wald, A. Calhoun-Brown, Religion and politics in the US, Rowan and Littlefield, 2014
- J. Matthew Wilson, From pews to polling places, Georgetown University Press, 2007

Articles will be mentioned during class; a list will be provided on the first session.

Descriptif d'enseignement. Etudiants internationaux uniquement / Only international students Semestre 1. Titre du cours. Society, Values and Identity in Europe. Type de cours : Cours magistral Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English. Enseignant(s). Caroline CLAIR PRAG en Sciences Economique et Sociales. Méthode d'enseignement : The teaching approach will combine theoretical lectures with practical work. In addition to software implementation, these will include various types of data analysis supported by independent search for relevant information, reading, writing and presentation preparations. Responsable de module : Alexandros Kalousis. Descriptif validé par le responsable du module, le 13/03/2019. Descriptif validé par le responsable du Master IS, le 04/09/19. ID.MJ.EP\_VP. 2018. Translations in context of "unit d'enseignement" in French-English from Reverso Context: unit d'enseignement et de recherche. These examples may contain rude words based on your search. These examples may contain colloquial words based on your search. Translation of "unit d'enseignement" in English. Noun. course unit. Les établissements d'enseignement de la gestion ont-ils manqué la révolution numérique de l'intégration des TIC ? Dans un contexte de réalisation et de Dans ce cas, les modalités de l'apprentissage et du développement de dispositifs pédagogiques peuvent être interrogés afin de collaborer de nouveaux usages et de nouvelles méthodes d'enseignement et de formation des enseignants, pour promouvoir l'innovation technologique dans les institutions et pour en valider la qualité.