

Study Guide

790G81 Religion och politik, Grundkurs, 7,5hp

790G89, Religion and Politics, Basic Course, 7.5 credits

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Course Literature

Literature

Robert N. Bellah, "Civil Religion in America." Robert N. Bellah, "Civil Religion in America." *Daedalus*, Vol. 96, No. 1, Religion in America (Winter, 1967), pp. 1-21. Available at http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm (2019-05-09) or https://www.jstor.org/stable/20027022?seq=21#metadata_info_tab_contents (2019-05-09).

Gaston Espinosa (ed.), *Religion and the American Presidency. George Washington to George W. Bush with Commentary and Primary Sources* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).

Frank Lambert, *Religion in American Politics. A Short History*. (Princeton/Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2008).

Kjell O. Lejon, "Bush Sr. and the Civil Religion Debate: A Re-Evaluation," in Kjell O. Lejon, *George H.W. Bush. Faith, Presidency, and Public Theology* (Frankfurt am Main/New York/Oxford: Peter Lang), p. 207–223. (Chapter available at Lisam)

Documents on Lisam (available under the course page)

Primary sources

Public Papers of the President. Available at <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu>

Reference Literature (examples)

David Aikman, *A Man of Faith: The Spiritual Journey of George W. Bush* (W Publishing Group, 2004).

Dan Ariail & Cheryl Heckler-Feltz, *The Carpenter's Apprentice: The Spiritual Biography of Jimmy Carter* (Zondervan, 1993).

Thomas J. Carty, *A Catholic in the White House? Religion, Politics, and John F. Kennedy's Presidential Campaign* (Palgrave, 2004).

James Cone, *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare* (Orbis, 2002)

Daniel L. Dreisbach, Mark D. Hall, and Jeffry H. Morrison, *The Founders on God and Government* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004).

Gastón Espinosa, *Race, Religion, and the American Presidency* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008)

Robert Fowler, Allen Hertzke, Laura Olson & Kevin Den Dulk, *Religion and Politics in America*. (Westview Press, 2004 or later edition).

Paul Kengor, *God and Ronald Reagan: A Spiritual Life* (Harper Collins, 2004).

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

Frank Lambert, *Religion in American Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2008)

Kjell O. Lejon, *Reagan, Religion and Politics* (Lund University Press, 1988)

Mark J. Rozell, Gleaves Whitney, *Religion and the American Presidency* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave, MacMillan, 2018)

Corwin Smidt, *In God We Trust: Religion & American Political Life* (Baker, 2001, or later edition).

Gary Scott Smith, *Faith and the Presidency from George Washington to George W. Bush* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

Gary Scott Smith, *Religion in the Oval Office: The Religious Lives of American Presidents* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Aims

Course Aims

After completed the course the student should be able to:

- (1.) - discuss modern religio-political history and debate in the political life of the USA, such as civil religion aspects,
- (2.) - show knowledge of modern U. S. presidential religio-political rhetoric in various political areas,
- (3.) - have capability to identify, analyze and problematize the religio-political phenomenon in the USA,
- (4.) - have capability to academically communicate, in writing as well as orally, results of an independent research-study in the field of religion and politics.

Aims for Religious Studies

There are also objectives shared by all courses in religions studies (hereafter RSA).

To pass a course in religious studies, students should be able to show the following general knowledge and skills.

1. Critical and Analytical Thinking

The student should be able to identify, formulate, analyze and discuss the course-specific information and problems with reference to the course aims. This is analytical thinking, which in short is to be able to identify a scientific problem, to break it down into smaller parts, and to explain the relationship between the parts in a way that clarifies the problem and thus helps us to solve it. The critical aspect of this thinking is not about a general negative attitude to what is being studied but an ability to test, and to reconsider, knowledge.

2. Theories and Key Terms

The student should be able to use relevant scientific theories and/or concepts to reflect on the course content. Using theories is a way to make visible that thinking is inevitably based on certain conditions. It is important to clarify the assumptions on which something becomes as a problem and how arguments rely on ideas about what »proof« is in a certain context. Terms/concepts are also distinctions that helps us to think clearly.

3. Clear and Factual Arguments

The student should demonstrate the ability to produce texts with a for the course relevant content and with a clear structure, as well as with an argument grounded in scientific literature. In a clear argument, it is easy to follow how the arguments lead to a particular conclusion. It is also important to be clear on what basis that argument rests. Factual arguments stick to the issue being discussed and they do not attack the person and motives of the interlocutor. If something is criticized, it is the provided arguments and their basis. Factual arguments are also founded on relevant data and on scientific literature (e.g., textbooks and lectures).

4. References To pass a written assignment

The student needs to use one of the reference systems described in Using References in Religions Studies in a consistent manner.

Course Structure, Teaching, and Schedule

The course is focused on the religio-political phenomenon in the USA, but includes a possibility to write a final paper on the subject of religion and politics in another area or field.

In order to fulfill the course aims, the course is organized in three parts and the teaching is a mixture of lectures and seminars with group discussions.

Three parts

Part 1: Religion in American Politics. A historical and a contemporary perspective with an emphasis on post WWII presidents. Lectures and seminar discussions. Book review (Aim 1, 2 and 3).

Part 2: Seminars on Religion in American Politics. Seminar papers and discussions on specific presidents. Active participation is mandatory (Aim 1, 2, and 3).

Part 3: Final Paper.

This course includes a final paper on the subject of religion and politics. Final seminar with student presentations and responses (Aim 4).

Teaching

Lectures

The function of the lectures is to complement the course literature and to help the student to read and understand the course material in order to reach the course aims. They are designed to encourage the students to a comprehensive reading and understanding the course material as well as the subject in question, i.e. the issue of religion and politics, in more general terms.

Seminars

In the seminars, we will, in dialogue with other students, practice the skill of presenting insights of one's reading, analyzing what we have read, and to problematize various positions. There is opportunity to practice the skill of formulating clear arguments and of giving constructive criticisms besides becoming familiar with a religio-political phenomenon. For instructions, see the heading »Examination and Requirements« below.

Lisam

At Linköping University, we use a platform called Lisam (lisam.liu.se) to publish the syllabus, course documents, and so on. You will also hand in all your papers here. If you have problems logging in to Lisam, please turn to Kristina Hellman (see contact information on the first page of this study guide)

Schedule

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Sept 3	13.15-16	Key 4260	Introduction to the class and the US situation	Bellah, "Civil Religion in America." Espinosa: Introduction Lambert Ch. 1–5
Sept 10	13.15-16	Key 4260	Seminar presentations: Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy	Espinosa's ch. On T, E and K. Lambert Ch 6
Sept 17	13.15-16	Key 4260	The New Christian Right Seminar presentations: Reagan, Bush Sr, Clinton	Espinosa's ch. on R, B Sr, and C Lejon, p. 207–223. Lambert ch. 7–8
Sept 27		Key 4260	Seminar presentations: Bush Jr, Obama, Trump Summary; the Civil Religion Concept	Espinosa ch. On B Jr. Documents on Lisam (on O and T)
Sept 30- Oct 25	13.15-16		Individual work on final paper	

Oct 3	12.00		At the latest 12.00 on Oct 1, send in, electronically via Lisam, a suggestion of the specific <i>subject</i> , your <i>method</i> and <i>sources</i> for the final paper to Prof. Lejon	
Oct 6	23.59		Paper on Lambert's book due at midnight (23.59). Send in electronically via Lisam.	
Oct 23	12.00		On Wednesday, Oct. 23, 12.00 is <u>the final paper due</u> . The paper should, at the latest, at 12.00, be placed electronically on Lisam <u>and</u> a hard copy turned in to Prof. Lejon's mailbox next to his office.	
oct 25	8.15-12	Key 4260	Final Seminar. Student presentations and responses.	

Examination and Grades

To pass the course you are required to do the following assignments:

Part 1: Religion in American Politics (1,5 credits/hp)

A historical and a contemporary perspective with an emphasis on post WWII presidents. Lectures and seminar discussions. Paper on Lamberts book.

Part 2: Seminars on Religion in American Politics (2,5 credits/hp)

Seminar papers and discussions on specific presidents. Active participation is mandatory (Aim 1, 2, and 3).

Part 3: Final Paper (3,5 credits/hp)

This course includes a final paper on the subject of religion and politics. Final seminar with student presentations and responses (Aim 4).

Grades

Assignments 1 and 2 (see above) have the grades pass or fail whereas assignment 3-5 (the final paper) uses grades A, B, C, D, E, or F (or Underkänd [U], Godkänd [G], or Väl Godkänd [VG] for those taking the course in its Swedish version [790G81]).

Grades will be lowered if you do not send in papers on time, because planning your time is one part of the general aims for all course in religious studies.

Paper on Lambert's Book

Send in a 2 000 words long summary of Lambert's book on the actual content of the book, according to the Aims for Religious Studies (p. 1–4, see above), and a 250 long words personal adequate and academic reflection on the content. The paper is due Monday Oct 6, at 23.59/11.59 pm.

Students accepted to the course on course code 790G81 will be able to turn in their papers in either English or Swedish.

Seminar papers (three papers)

Each student is required to send in a separate paper, about 1 200 words long (not including the references), on each of three presidents (covered in the course seminars) of your choice, before the seminar starts on the chosen presidents (i.e. at 9 am on Sept. 10 and/or Sept. 17 and/or Sept 27), summarizing your findings about the president's background, general view, arguments, political actions when it comes to religion, each followed by 250 words with (personal) academic reflections on what you have found out about the president's background, general view, arguments, political actions when it comes to religion. You may include questions you would like to explore in further studies.

In your preparation and writing, adhere to the Aims for Religious Studies (p. 1–4, see above)

The paper must include primary sources, for example from *Public Papers of the Presidents*, available at <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/>.

Each paper must include references. Obs! You need to use one of the reference systems described in Using References in Religions Studies in a consistent manner.

Students accepted to the course on course code 790G81 will be able to turn in their papers in either English or Swedish.

The Final Paper

The final paper could be on a variety of subjects, but it has to focus on a subject within the sphere of religion and politics. For example, it could be on a specific president (preferably on some not covered in the seminars, see above), on religio-political phenomena, on a situation, such as the relationship between church/religious bodies and state or religion and politics within a specific country, voting patterns among religious constituents, specific issues of special religio-political interests, or non-American related phenomena on the theme religion and politics (but with references/ comparisons to the American scenery).

It should as an introduction state the subject, thesis/questions posed, theory and method used, and what sources you have used. At the end, clearly summarize your arguments and findings.

A paper proposal is due at 12.00 on Oct 1. Send in the proposal electronically via Lisam. The proposal should include 1) a suggestion of a chosen specific subject in the area of religion and politics (What religio-political phenomenon are you going to write about?); 2) the question(s) asked (What are your main questions?); 3) the preliminary primary and secondary sources that will be used, and why; and 4) the method that will be used.

Students accepted to the course on course code 790G81 will be able to turn in their proposals and papers in either English or Swedish. However, the presentation of the paper at the final seminar needs to be in English.

The paper should be about 6 000 words long and should include references with accurate bibliographical data according to the reference systems described in Using References in Religions Studies in a consistent manner (see Lisam).

It should follow a basic structure of three parts:

- *Introduction*

You state the subject and explain why it is interesting. State your research questions (which might include a hypothesis).

Give a brief methodological reflection by answering the following: why you have chosen the primary sources that you use; what you can claim about your subject given that you use only these sources; and why the picked secondary literature is relevant. Use a proper terminology clarifying what you want to argue.

- *Main section* (make up your own headings here):

Present the findings/arguments found in your source material. Sort your findings/arguments under relevant subheadings. Acknowledge if there is data that can be taken to speak against your hypothesis. Answer counterarguments. Introduce terminology when needed.

- *Summary*

Summarize findings and arguments. State how your thesis draws on, revises, and/or challenges previous theories on the topic. Reflecting on what you found most interesting, and what questions remain to be answered.

Checklist

Before you hand in the final paper make sure to go through the following checklist:

- ☐ Have I followed basic structure of three parts?
- ☐ Have I consistently used a system of reference described in Using References in Religions Studies?
- ☐ Is the subject and questions (and hypothesis) clear and precise? (Have I provided key terms that clarify the hypothesis?)
- ☐ Do the questions (and hypothesis) match the sources used? Do not make general claims like »the influence of Christian faith on Trump's presidency is X« when you have just studied three speeches. Instead, be more specific: »on this specific issue, faith seems to be important to Trump...« or »in this specific situation/speeches, faith seems to be important to Trump...«
- ☐ Have I made a brief methodological reflection according to the instructions above?
- ☐ In the main section, do I use relevant subheadings?
- ☐ Are my arguments clear, factual (see heading »Aims for Religions Studies«) and based on my primary sources and secondary sources? Do I acknowledge possible counterarguments?
- ☐ Overall, do I use and define key terms when needed?
- ☐ Have I avoided plagiarism (see below)?

The final paper is due on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 12.00. The paper should, at the latest at 12.00, be sent in electronically to Lisam AND one hard copy placed no later than 12.00 at Prof. Lejon's mailbox next to his office in house Key. If, for any reason, papers are turned in at a later occasion, the grad will be lowered.

The Final Seminar (part 3)

At the final seminar, each student will give a 10-minute presentation that summarizes the findings from their papers.

- State the hypothesis and provide key terms that make your paper presentation clear and precise.
- Summarizes your basic argument (i.e., 3 main points and evidence).
- Conclude by reflecting on what you found most interesting about your subject, the significance of your study (your hypothesis and how your study differs from previous interpreters), and what questions remain to be answered.
- Use power point or other pedagogical aids.

Make sure to keep the time frame (maximum 10 minutes)!

Plagiarism and Code of Honor

“To plagiarize means using somebody else's work and presenting it as your own without referring to the source. It may be a text, idea, theory, image, chart, figure, music, computer program or a product. Even reformulation, paraphrasing, text to your own words, without referencing the source is plagiarism. Plagiarism may also violate Copyright laws.”

(<http://www.bibl.liu.se/plagiering-och-upphovsratt?l=en>)

Make sure to have read and understood:

The code of honor at Linköping University:

<http://www.liu.se/insidan/strategier/hederskodex?sc=true&l=en>

The rules concerning plagiarism:

<http://www.bibl.liu.se/plagiering-och-upphovsratt?l=en>

Information on disciplinary measures:

<http://www.student.liu.se/regler-rattigheter-sakerhet/lagar-reglerrattigheter/disciplinarenden?l=en>