

# **The End of Christendom? Christianity, Politics, and Culture in Europe since the French Revolution**

Instructor: Daniel Loss

## Course description

What happened to religion in modern Europe? On the one hand, the decline in church attendance and the increasing separation of church and state points to a story of the secularization of European society and culture. On the other hand, religious groups and religious ideas were central to the formation of new states, new social policies, and new identities throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This course will explore the changing relationships between Christianity, politics, and culture in modern Europe with an eye to answering a deceptively simple question: has Europe become secular? Topics will include church-state relations, Jews as Europe's religious minority, the role of religion in shaping new forms of identity, the rise of "permissiveness," and the impact of immigration after the Second World War.

## Course objectives

The goals of the course are as follows:

- Introduce you to the major debates on the role of religion in modern European history
- Develop your skills in evaluating, comparing, and synthesizing historians' arguments
- Improve your writing skills in a variety of genres

## Course format

As an upper-level seminar, this course will consist primarily of in-class discussions. The work of historians will form the core of the course reading, with some primary sources included throughout the semester.

## Assignments and requirements

The major expectation of the course is that you come to class every week prepared to discuss the day's readings. We will discuss the form that this preparation should take, but it is essential that you reflect on what you've read. Each student will help lead discussion at least once during the semester.

There will be three written assignments and one in-class presentation. The first paper, a review of a recent book on the history of religion in modern Europe, will be due at the end of the fourth week of class. The second written assignment, due at the end of the eighth week, is an op-ed that analyzes the historical roots of a contemporary issue in European history. The final written assignment is a 12-15 page paper on a topic of your choice. The last course meeting will be devoted to presentations on your paper topic. Guidelines for each of these assignments will be

given out throughout the semester. There will be no exams. The breakdown of your grade will be as follows:

- 20% - Participation
- 10% - Discussion-leading
- 15% - Book review - due by the end of week 4
- 15% - Op-ed - due by the end of week 8
- 40% - Final paper and presentation - due by the end of exam period

### Course policies

*Academic honesty and plagiarism* - I expect that all work you submit will be your own work and written specifically for this class. You must acknowledge the work and ideas of others through citations. I recommend that you consult a style guide: the *Chicago Manual of Style*, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> edition and available in both electronic and print version, is favored by historians.

You should familiarize yourself with the college's policy on plagiarism. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about what constitutes proper citation and attribution.

*Attendance* - I expect that you will attend every class session and take attendance each day. However, I know that unexpected things are bound to come up during the semester. So you are allowed to miss one class session without any penalty or explanation. If you expect to miss class for a legitimate reason (illness, family emergency, field trip for another class, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible so we don't wait for you to start class.

*Late papers* - Papers must be e-mailed to me by 5:00 PM on the due date. Papers will be marked down one letter grade for each day past the due date.

*Disabilities* - Students with documented disabilities should contact the office of disability services to set up necessary arrangements for this course.

### Books

The following books are required and are available at the campus bookstore:

- Daughton, J.P. *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Lodge, David. *Souls and Bodies*. New York: Penguin Books, 1980.
- Smith, Bonnie G. *Ladies of the Leisure Class: The Bourgeoises of Northern France in the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981.

Other readings (marked with an asterisk in the course calendar) will be available on the course website.

## Calendar

[Chronological overview of course here]

### *Week 1: Thinking about Religion Historically*

#### Readings:

- \* Chapter 4 in Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, 1973.
- \* Smith, Jonathan Z. "Religion, Religions, Religious." In *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*, edited by Mark Taylor, 269-284. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1998.

### *Week 2: The Legacy of the Reformation*

#### Readings:

- \* Selections from MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *The Reformation*. New York: Viking, 2004.
- \* Selections from Gregory, Brad S. *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2012.
- \* Palmer, Samuel. *The Protestant Dissenter's Catechism*. Leeds: Binns and Brown, 1795.

### *Week 3: The French Revolution and the Political Challenge to Christianity*

#### Readings:

- \* Selections from Aston, Nigel. *Religion and Revolution in France, 1780-1804*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2000.
- \* Desan, Suzanne. "The Role of Women in Religious Riots During the French Revolution." *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 22, no. 3 (Spring 1989): 451-468.
- \* *The Civil Constitution of the Clergy* (1790)
- \* *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (1789)

### *Week 4: Christianity and the Formation of New Identities*

#### Readings:

- Chapters 1-3, 5, 7 in Smith, Bonnie G. *Ladies of the Leisure Class: The Bourgeoises of Northern France in the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981.
- \* Introduction, Chapter 1 in Cohen, Deborah. *Household Gods: The British and Their Possessions*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.
- \* Introduction, Chapter 2, Conclusion in Herzog, Dagmar. *Intimacy & Exclusion: Religious Politics in Pre-Revolutionary Baden*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

**Book review due by end of week 4**

*Week 5: A New Germany, A New Italy*

Readings:

- \* Selections from Garibaldi, Giuseppe. *The Rule of the Monk; or, Rome in the Nineteenth Century*. New York: Harper Bros., 1870.
- \* Selections from Mack Smith, Denis, ed. *The Making of Italy, 1796-1870*. New York: Holmes & Meier, 1988.
- \* Papenheim, Martin. "Roma o Morte: Culture Wars in Italy." In *Culture Wars: Secular-Catholic Conflict in Nineteenth Century Europe*, edited by Christopher Clark and Wolfram Kaiser, 202-227. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- \* Anderson, Margaret Lavinia. "The Kulturkampf and the Course of German History." *Central European History* 19, no. 1 (March 1986): 82-115.

*Week 6: The Religious Roots of European Imperialism*

Readings:

- Daughton, J.P. *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- \* Chapters 1-2, conclusion in Carey, Hilary M. *God's Empire: Religion and Colonialism in the British World, C. 1801-1908*. Cambridge: Cambridge and New York, 2011.

*Week 7: The Jewish Question and the Dreyfus Affair*

Readings:

- \* Selections from Katz, Jacob. *Out of the Ghetto; the Social Background of Jewish Emancipation, 1770-1870*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1973.
- \* Hyman, Paula E. "New Perspectives on the Dreyfus Affair." *Historical Reflections / Réflexions Historiques* 31, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 335-349.
- \* Emile Zola, "J'accuse" (1898)

*Week 8: The First World War and its Aftermath*

Readings:

- \* Selections from Mathews, Basil, ed. *Christ: And the World At War*. London: James Clarke, 1917.
- \* Kselman, Thomas. "Religion and French Identity: The Origins of the Union Sacrée." In *Many Are Chosen: Divine Election and Western Nationalism*, edited by William Hutchison and Hartmut Lehmann, 57-79. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.
- \* Introduction, Chapters 3 & 4, Conclusion in Winter, J. *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Op-ed due at the end of week 8

*Week 9: The Second World War and the Holocaust*

Readings:

- \* Selections from Phayer, Michael. *The Catholic Church and the Holocaust, 1930-1965*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.
- \* Goldhagen, Daniel Jonah. "Pope Pius XII, the Catholic Church, and the Holocaust: What Would Jesus Have Done?" *The New Republic*, January 21, 2002.
- \* Faulkner, Lauren N. "Against Bolshevism: George Werthmann and the Role of Ideology in the Catholic Military Chaplaincy, 1939-1945." *Contemporary European History* 19, no. 1 (February 2010): 1-16.

*Week 10: Christian Democracy and the Cold War*

Readings:

- \* Selections from Kselman, Thomas, and Joseph A. Buttigieg, eds. *European Christian Democracy: Historical Legacies and Comparative Perspectives*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2003.
- \* Introduction, Chapter 5 in Kaiser, Wolfram. *Christian Democracy and the Origins of European Union*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

*Week 11: The 1960s: Vatican II and the Crisis of Religion*

Readings:

- \* Selections from McLeod, Hugh. *The Religious Crisis of the 1960s*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- \* *Humanae Vitae* (1968)
- Lodge, David. *Souls and Bodies*. New York: Penguin Books, 1980.

*Week 12 Immigration, Universalism, and Multiculturalism*

Readings:

- Scott, Joan Wallach. *The Politics of the Veil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010.
- \* Feldman, David. "Why the English Like Turbans: A History of Multiculturalism in One Country." In *Structures and Transformations in British History*, edited by David Feldman and Jon Lawrence. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

*Week 13: Is Europe Secular?*

Readings:

- \* Selections from Davie, Grace. *Religion in Modern Europe: A Memory Mutates*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- \* Selections from Bruce, Steve. *Secularization: In Defence of an Unfashionable Theory*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

- \* Kerry, Paul E. "The Quarrel over the Religious Roots of European Identity in the European Constitution and the Nature of Historical Explanation." In *The Religious Roots of Contemporary European Identity*, edited by Lucia Faltin and Melanie J. Wright. London and New York: Continuum, 2007.

*Week 14: Final presentations*

**Final paper due at the end of exam period**