

Spring 2017

# Religion, Law, War

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Seton Hall University

School of Diplomacy

DIPL/Core 3851: Religion, Law and War

Spring 2017                      TR 12:30-1:45 or 2:00-3:15 PM    Duffy Hall 82  
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Office Hours:                      TR 3:20-4:00 PM                      McQuaid 109

**Course Objectives:**

This course will examine wars of religion and religious views of war, focusing particularly on how religion has informed the international laws of war. We are living through an era fraught with religious warfare - wars animated by religious conflict and wars that use religious abuse as weapons to demoralize and subdue the enemy. The course will focus on three major religious traditions (primarily Judaism, Christianity and Islam) and set in dialogue their respective views of war, assess their contributions to the contemporary norms of war, and examine particular historical episodes of religious conflict notably the Crusades as well as a number of religious conflicts in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. These case studies will include the India-Pakistan conflict, the Bosnian civil war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Al-Qaeda and September 11<sup>th</sup> events and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

**Required Textbooks:**

Vesselin Popovski, Gregory Reichberg and Nicholas Turner (eds.), *World Religions and Norms of War*, New York: United Nations University Press, 2009.

Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.

**Recommended:**

Jessica Stern, *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill*, New York: HarperCollins, 2004.

Mehran Kamrava, *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

The above books, as assigned, are required reading for the course. Additional reading assignments will be added during the course of the semester.

### **Course Requirements:**

Students will be graded on the following basis:

- 1) One-hour midterm exam (Tuesday, February 21). It will be given during the regular class period and will cover the material studied thus far. Questions will be of the essay type, but there will be objective and identification questions as well. It counts 25% of the final grade.
- 2) A term paper of 12-15 pages with at least seven references (not including the textbooks), on a topic to be approved beforehand by the professor. Due April 11 and counts 25% of the final grade. Students should work in groups of three. All groups should present findings of their research in class in 15 minutes, followed by five minutes of questions and answers.
- 3) Take home final exam for which essay type questions will be provided on April 28 and must be received by May 5. It will cover the entire course, lectures and readings, counting 40% of the final grade. Students can choose three out of five questions and write a one-page essay for each.
- 4) Class participation counts 10% of the final grade.

### **Disability Services Statement**

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at [DSS@shu.edu](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

### **Academic Integrity & Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal

from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

<http://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

### **Policy on Incompletes:**

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week of 1/10	<b>Introductory Notes</b>	Popovski, “Introduction”
Week of 1/17	<b>War, Religion and the Idea of Just War</b>	Popovski, Chap. 1 President Obama’s Nobel Remarks, <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-acceptance-nobel-peace-prize">https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-acceptance-nobel-peace-prize</a>
Week of 1/24	<b>Crusades I</b>	Riley-Smith, Chaps. 1-2 Popovski, Chap. 6

Week of 1/31	<b>Crusades II</b> Riley-Smith, Chaps. 3-4 Popovski, Chap. 7
Week of 2/7	<b>Early Islamic Outlooks on War</b> Kamrava, Chap. 1 Popovski, Chap. 9
Week of 2/14	<b>Modern Islamic Interpretations of Jihad</b> Popovski, Chaps. 10-11
2/21	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
2/23	<b>India-Pakistan Conflict</b> Popovski, Chap. 2
Week of 2/28	<b>Civil War in Bosnia</b> Kalyvas and Sambanis, "Bosnia's Civil War: Origins and Violence Dynamics," <i>Understanding Civil War</i> , Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2005. Available on Blackboard.
Week of 3/7	<b>Spring Break</b>
Week of 3/14	<b>Civil War in Kosovo</b> Howard Handelman, "Chapter 4: The Politics of Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict," <i>The Challenge of Third World Development</i> , New York: Pearson, 2010, 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition. Available on Blackboard.
Week of 3/21	<b>Arab-Israeli Conflict</b> Popovski, Chap. 5 Kamrava, Chaps. 4 and 7
Week of 3/28	<b>Al-Qaeda and September 11<sup>th</sup> Events</b> <i>The 9/11 Commission Report</i> , Particularly Chaps. 1-2 <a href="http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/">http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/</a>
Week of 4/4	<b>Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)</b> Greeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants," <i>The Atlantic Magazine</i> .
4/11	<b>Student Presentations</b>
4/13	<b>Holy Thursday</b>
Week of 4/18	<b>Student Presentations</b>
Week of 4/25	<b>Student Presentations</b>
5/5	<b>Take Home Essays Due</b>