Fall 2020

Church, State, and Politics in Latin America

Benjamin Goldfrank

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Seton Hall University: Fall 2020  
DIPL 3850 / Core 3850: Church, State, and Politics in Latin America  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 (AA) and 11:00 - 12:15 (AB); Online

Professor: Benjamin Goldfrank  
Student Hours via Zoom: Wednesdays 10:30-12 & 2-5:30, and by appointment  
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Course Summary:  
This course has two central objectives: 1) to provide students with an understanding of the evolving role of religion in Latin American politics, with a primary emphasis on the role of Catholicism and the Catholic Church from the period of the Second Vatican Council until the present; and 2) to provide students an opportunity to reflect on the normative questions of how religious beliefs and religious institutions should affect politics and of how different political systems and state policies should affect the practice of religion. The major themes, to be examined through both Catholic and non-Catholic perspectives, include the institutional relationship between the Catholic Church and the state, the different political expressions of Catholicism (from those inspired by Liberation Theology to supporters of Christian Democratic or Conservative political parties), the persecution of the Church under certain authoritarian regimes and the Catholic response, the rise of religious and political pluralism, and the role of religion in contemporary politics and public policy.

Requirements and Grading:  
1. Class Participation (25 percent of course grade): Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to read the assigned materials prior to class, and to take part actively in class discussions and activities to the best of their ability and current circumstances. The quality of the discussion will largely depend on your preparation.  
2. Two essays based on the readings (20 percent each), each 4-5 pages.  
3. In-class presentation (15 percent) and essay (20 percent) on a topic of your choice, 5-7 pages, after consultation with the professor.  
Evaluation of assignments will be based on the students’ abilities to convey their understanding and critical analysis of the course material and to present their own ideas.

Important Notes:  
Academic Integrity  
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. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:  
<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>  
Resources for academic integrity are on the course Blackboard page.  
((From another era, but keeping for future use when things get better: Use of electronic devices for non-class purposes is not appropriate during class time. It distracts other students and the professor and will result in a lowered grade.))
Citation Style
Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date (highly preferable) or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

Late or Incomplete Assignments
Students who anticipate not being able to complete an assignment on time should inform me as soon as possible. Absent prior communication, failure to complete an assignment on its due date will result in a grade penalty by one-third letter grade per day (i.e., an A assignment turned in one day late is an A-, two days late a B+, etc.) except in cases of medical/family emergency or COVID-related issues. See COVID Ground Rules.

COVID Ground Rules
We’re in a global pandemic. These are scary times. If you tell me you are struggling or anxious, I will understand. No judgment. If you have to miss a class, need extra help, or more time on an assignment, please let me know and I will work with you. You do not owe me personal information about your health (mental or physical) or living circumstances. If I can’t help you, I may know someone who can. There are lots of campus resources (both virtual and in-person) available; please use them. More than ever, communication is key this semester, so I have extended student hours. I will try my best and I hope you will be able to try your best as well. I will cut you some slack, provided you communicate with me. And I expect you to cut me some slack, too.

CAPS
As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychologicalservices/index.cfm

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.
Required Readings:
All readings are on Blackboard. Readings marked with * are recommended.

Week 1: Tue, 8/25, Thu 8/27 - Religion and Politics until the 1960s (and Today)
Eduardo Campos Lima, “Black Lives Matter is inspiring demonstrations all over Latin America,” *America Magazine* (June 22, 2020)
https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2020/06/22/black-lives-matter-movement-latin-america-protests
Eduardo Campos Lima, “As Covid-19 crisis grows, Latin America’s basic ecclesial communities step up to help,” *America Magazine* (June 8, 2020)
Sharon Kuruvilla, “Catholicism’s Civil War Spills Into Bolivia,” *Foreign Policy* (Dec. 1, 2019: 4 pgs.).

Week 2: Tue 9/1, Thu 9/3 - Vatican II, Medellín, and Evolving Catholicism

Week 3: Tue 9/8, Thu 9/10 - Christian Democratic Political Parties
Week 4: Tue 9/15, Thu 9/17 - Liberation Theology and its Detractors
Hosffman Ospino and Rafael Luciani, “How Latin America influenced the entire
Catholic Church,” America Magazine (September 3, 2018).
George Weigel, Selections from Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II
*Gustavo Gutiérrez, “Notes for a Theology of Liberation,” Theological Studies, 31:2
*Jean-Bertrand Aristide, “The Church in Haiti – Land of Resistance,” Caribbean

Week 5: Tue 9/22, Thu 9/24 - Father Camilo Torres and “Revolutionary Priests"
**Essay #1 is due on Thursday for Peer Review**
Gerald Theisen, “The Case of Camilo Torres Restrepo,” Journal of Church & State 301
Camilo Torres, “Crossroads of the Church in Latin America,” “Platform of the United
Front of the Colombian People,” “Why I Am Not Participating in Elections,”
“Message to Christians,” “The Platform and the Revolution,” “Message to the
Students,” and “Message to Colombians from the Mountains,” and Latin American
Priests, “Latin America: Lands of Violence,” in Revolutionary Priest: The Complete
Writings and Messages of Camilo Torres (1971: 327-334, 306-310, 364-369, 400-
405, 425-427, 442-446).
Daniel Levine and Alexander Wilde, “The Catholic Church, ‘Politics,’ and Violence: The
Interamerican Studies and World Affairs (Feb 1979: 45-68).

Week 6: Tue 9/29, Thu 10/1 - Dictatorships and Human Rights Abuses
Mario Aguilar, “Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez, the Catholic Church, and the Pinochet
Anthony Gill, “Rendering Unto Caesar?: Religious Competition and Catholic Political
Benjamin Goldfrank and Nicholas Rowell, “Church, State, and Human Rights in Latin
*María Soledad Catoggio, “Religious Beliefs and Actors in the Legitimation of Military
Dictatorships in the Southern Cone, 1964–1989,” Latin American Perspectives (Nov
Week 7: Tue 10/6, Thu 10/8 - Archbishop Romero and El Salvador’s Civil War
(Movie: “Romero”)
Melissa Vida, “One year after his canonization, is St. Óscar Romero still ‘the people’s saint’ in El Salvador?” *America Magazine* (Oct. 14, 2019: 6 pgs.).

Week 8: Tue 10/13, Thu 10/15 - The Rise (or Rebirth) of Religious Pluralism
Cody Weddle, “Latin American Catholics say ‘personal’ experiences boost evangelicals” *America Magazine* (May 2, 2018: 5 pgs.)
Pick one (or more!) of the following:
Week 9: Tue 10/20, Thu 10/22 - Religion and Contemporary Politics #1

Week 10: Tue 10/27, Thu 10/29 - Religion and Contemporary Politics #2
**Essay #2 is due on Thursday for Peer Review**

Week 11: Tue, 11/3, Thu 11/5 - Religion and Contemporary Politics #3
Week 12: Tue 11/10, Thu 11/12 - Religion and Contemporary Politics #4
*Any of the other articles noted by Biroli and Caminotti on the backlash against gender.

Weeks 13-15: Tue 11/17, Thu 11/19, Tue 11/24, Tue 12/1, Thu 12/3 - Student Presentations

**Essay #3 is due Thursday, 12/10 by noon via email**

More Important Notes:

Potentially Useful Websites
Seton Hall Library Resource Guide (excellent): http://library.shu.edu/latam
Lots of Latin America links: http://lanic.utexas.edu/
Latin American News (focus on security and migration): https://adamisacson.com/

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.