

Sabancı University  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
**SOC 408/508: Religion and Politics**  
**Fall 2020**

Mondays 10:40-11:30 a.m. | Tuesdays 12:40-2:30 p.m.

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/94487087481>

**Instructor:** Ateş Altınordu (atesaltinordu@sabanciuniv.edu; meeting by appointment)

**Course description:** This course explores interactions between religious and political authorities, discourses, and organizations from historical, comparative, and normative perspectives. Topics covered include religious movements and parties, religious nationalism and political violence, political identities and religious affiliation, secularism as political movement and cultural formation, and public religions in liberal democracies. Readings and discussions will refer to cases from Europe, North America, South Asia, and the Middle East.

**Requirements:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and actively participate in class discussions.

For *undergraduate* students, the course requirements include a take-home midterm exam (to be distributed at 10:00 a.m. and uploaded by 4:00 p.m. on November 24) and a take-home final exam (to be distributed at 10:00 a.m. and uploaded by 4:00 p.m., date TBA).

For *graduate* students, the course requirements include an in-class presentation (~20 minutes) and a final exam (14-16 pages to be completed outside of class, due January 14). The presentation should briefly summarize the most important points from the readings and conclude with two critical questions. We will discuss final exam topics in class on Week 12 (December 21-22).

**Evaluation:**

For *undergraduate* students, the course grade will be composed of class participation (20%), the take-home midterm exam (40%), and the take-home final exam (40%).

For *graduate* students, the course grade will be composed of class participation (20%), the presentation (20%), and the final exam (60%). Late submission of final exams is allowed up to five days after the deadline. Late final exams will be subject to a 4-point (out of 100) reduction for each day late.

Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

93-100	A	83-86	B -	73-76	C	60-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+		

**Attendance Policy:** Students who miss more than seven class meetings will receive N/A as their course grade. (Each 50-minute Monday session counts as one class meeting & each 1-hour-and-50-minute Tuesday session counts as one class meeting). Those who enter class more than 20 minutes after its start will be considered absent on that date. Please do not ask for exceptions.

**Academic integrity:** Cases of plagiarism, cheating, and fraud will result in an F as the course grade and will be referred to the relevant Faculty Dean for potential disciplinary action. For Sabancı University's Academic Integrity Statement, see <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement> (ENG) or <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/akademik-durustluk> (TR).

**Readings:** All readings are available as pdf files under the 'Resources' section of the course page at SuCourse+.

### **Week 1 | Introduction to the Course | October 5-6**

- Anna Grzymala-Busse. 2012. "Why Comparative Politics Should Take Religion (More) Seriously." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 421-442.

### **Week 2 | The Sociology of Religion | October 12-13**

- Marx, Karl. 1978. Selection from "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction." Pp. 53-54 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition. Edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York and London: W.W. Norton.
- Clifford Geertz. 1973. "Religion as a Cultural System." Pp.87-125 in *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
- José Casanova. 1994. *Public Religions in the Modern World*. Chicago University Press. (11-39).

### **Week 3 | Religion in Social Movements | October 19-20**

- Christian Smith. 1996. "Correcting a Curious Neglect, or Bringing Religion Back In." Pp. 1-25 in Christian Smith. Ed. *Disruptive Religion: The Force of Faith in Social Movement Activism*. Routledge.
- Aldon Morris. 1996. "The Black Church in the Civil Rights Movement: the SCLC as the Decentralized, Radical Arm of the Black Church." Pp. 29-46 in *Disruptive Religion*.

### **Week 4 | Religion and Nationalism | October 26-27**

- Geneviève Zubrzycki. 2010. "Religion and Nationalism: A Critical Reexamination." Pp. 606-626 in Bryan S. Turner. Ed. *The New Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- Philip Gorski. 2017. "Why Evangelicals Voted for Trump: A Critical Cultural Sociology." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 5: 338-354.

### **Week 5 | Religion and Political Violence | November 2-3**

- Rogers Brubaker. 2015. "Religious Dimensions of Political Conflict and Violence." *Sociological Theory* 33(1): 1-19.
- Michael A. Sells. 1996. *The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. (29-70).

### **Week 6 | The Rise of Religious Parties | November 9-10**

- Stathis N. Kalyvas. 1998. "From Pulpit to Party: Party Formation and the Christian Democratic Phenomenon." *Comparative Politics* 30 (3): 293-312.
- Ateş Altınordu. 2010. "The Politicization of Religion: Political Catholicism and Political Islam in Comparative Perspective." *Politics & Society* 38 (4): 517-551.

### **Week 7 | The Transformation of Religious Parties | November 16-17**

- Cihan Tuğal. 2009. *Passive Revolution: Absorbing the Islamic Challenge to Capitalism*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (1-56).
- Ateş Altınordu. 2016. "The Political Incorporation of Anti-System Religious Parties: the Case of Turkish Political Islam (1994–2011)." *Qualitative Sociology* 39 (2): 147-171.

### **Week 8 | Take-Home Midterm Exam (Undergraduate Students) | November 24**

### **Week 9 | Secularism as Movement and Culture | November 30-December 1**

- Christian Smith. 2003. "Introduction: Rethinking the Secularization of American Public Life." Pp. 1-96 in Christian Smith. Ed. *The Secular Revolution: Power, Interests, and Conflict in the Secularization of American Public Life*. University of California Press.
- Esra Özyürek. 2006. *Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey*. Duke University Press. (1-27; 93-124).

### **Week 10 | Multiple Secularisms | December 7-8**

- Alfred C. Stepan. 2011. "The Multiple Secularisms of Modern Democratic and Non-Democratic Regimes." Pp. 114-144 in Craig Calhoun, Mark Juergensmeyer, and Jonathan VanAntwerpen. Eds. *Rethinking Secularism*. Oxford University Press.
- Rajeev Bhargava. 2010. "The Distinctiveness of Indian Secularism." Pp. 99-119 in Aakash Singh and Silika Mohapatra. Eds. *Indian Political Thought: A Reader*. Routledge.

### **Week 11 | Religion and Populism in Europe | December 14-15**

- Shadi, Hamid. 2019. "The Role of Islam in European Populism: How Refugee Flows and Fear of Muslims Drive Right-Wing Support." Brookings Institution Policy Brief.
- Nilüfer Göle. 2017. *The Daily Lives of Muslims: Islam and Public Confrontation in Contemporary Europe*. London: Zed Books. (xvii-xxx; 75-123).

### **Week 12 | Presentation of Final Paper Topics (Graduate Students) | December 21-22**

**Week 13 | Religion & Liberal Democracy | December 28-29**

- Alfred C. Stepan 2000. "Religion, Democracy, and the 'Twin Tolerations'." *Journal of Democracy* 11 (4): 37-57.
- Jürgen Habermas. 2008. "Notes on Post-Secular Society." *New Perspectives Quarterly* 25 (4): 17-29.

**Week 14 | Documentary Screening & Discussion | January 4-5**

**\* Take-Home Final Exam (Undergraduate Students) | Date TBA**

**\* Final Exam Due (Graduate Students) | January 14 (Thursday)**