

**RELIGION & POLITICS: A global perspective**  
**FALL 2010**  
**SOCI-537-01**

Professor Jose Casanova  
Tuesdays: 2:15pm-4:05pm  
Berkley Center Seminar Room  
Office Hours: Tue 1:00-2:00, 4:00-6:00  
and by appointment

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The class/seminar will serve as the forum for a systematic analysis of global religious trends, for a critical discussion of contemporary debates on religion and politics around the world, and for the presentation of student research papers on related themes. The course will begin with a critical discussion of the categories of religion and politics within the framework of standard modern theories of secularization of politics and privatization of religion. Among the topics covered will be: Religion as a global category and the religious dimension of processes of globalization, secularization and global religious trends, religious fundamentalisms and fundamentalist secularisms, Catholic and Muslim politics and *aggiornamenti* compared, transnational migrations, transnational religions and diversity, and the emerging global denominationalism. We will dedicate the first seven sessions to a discussion of these general issues. The remaining sessions will be dedicated to the presentation and critical discussion of the seminar participants' research papers.

**Course requirements:**

Students are expected to take active part in class discussions and be thoroughly conversant with the readings. In addition students are required to develop a research paper on an issue related to the course, to make an oral presentation of a written draft of the project in a seminar session, and to present it at the end of the semester as a final term paper. The written draft along with some recommended reading should be made available one week before the oral presentation.

**Required Readings:**

Almond, Gabriel, Scott Appleby and Emmanuel Sivan, *Strong Religion* (Chicago, 2003)  
Banchoff, Thomas, ed., *Religious Pluralism, Globalization, and World Politics*  
(Oxford, 2008)

Beyer, Peter, *Religions in Global Society* (Routledge, 2006)  
Beyer, Peter & Lori Beaman, eds., *Religion, Globalization, and Culture* (Brill, 2007)  
Casanova, José, *Public Religions in the Modern World* (Chicago, 1994)  
Hurd, Elizabeth Shakman, *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations*  
(Princeton, 2008)  
Mazusawa, Tomoko, *The Invention of World Religions* (Chicago, 2005)  
Roy, Olivier, *Globalised Islam* (Columbia, 2004)

## Seminar Schedule

1. (Sept 2) Organization of the seminar and scheduling of presentations  
General introduction and summary of the course

2. (Sept 7)

The Secularization Paradigm in Question

**Readings:** Casanova, *Public Religions in the Modern World*, Part 1 and Part 3  
Casanova, “Rethinking Secularization: A Global Comparative Perspective,”  
*The Hedgehog Review*, vol. 8, nos. 1-2 (Spring/Summer 2006)  
Casanova, “Rethinking Public Religions”

3. (Sept 14)

Secularism, International Relations, and Global Politics

**Readings:** Hurd, *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations*  
A. Stepan, “The World’s Religious Systems and Democracy: Crafting the  
‘Twin Tolerations’,” in *Arguing Comparative Politics* (Oxford, 2001)  
Casanova, “Religion, Politics, and Gender Equality: Public Religions  
Revisited,” in José Casanova and Anne Philips, *A Debate on the Public  
Role of Religion and Its Social and Gender Implications* Programme on  
Gender and Development. Paper No. 5. UNRISD. Geneva

4. (Sept 21)

The modern discourse on “religion” and the invention of the “World Religions”

**Readings:** Mazusawa, *The Invention of World Religions*  
Jonathan Z. Smith, “Religion, Religions, Religious,” in Mark C. Taylor, ed.  
*Critical Terms for Religious Studies* (Chicago, 1998) pp. 269-84

5. (Sept 28)

The Globalization of ‘Religion’

**Readings:** Beyer, *Religions in Global Society*  
Beyer, “Globalization and the Institutional Modeling of Religion,” and  
B.S. Turner, “Globalization, Religion, and Empire in Asia,” in Beyer and  
Beaman, *Religion, Globalization and Culture*

6. (Oct 5)

Globalization and Religion: Emerging perspectives

**Readings:** Beyer & Beaman, eds., *Religion, Globalization, and Culture*

(Essays by Robertson, Thomas, Simpson, Bouma, Spickard, Arweck, Van Pelt)  
Banchoff, "Introduction" and Marshall, "Religion and Global Development,"  
in Banchoff, ed. *Religious Pluralism, Globalization and World Politics*

October 12: **No class**

7. (Oct 19)

Global Religious 'Fundamentalisms'?

**Readings:** Almond, Appleby, Sivan, *Strong Religion*

K.A. Appiah, "Causes of Quarrel" in Banchoff, *Religious Pluralism*

Casanova, "The secular and secularisms," *Social Research*, vol 76, no. 4,  
Winter 2009, pp. 1049-1066..

8. (Oct 26)

Islam and World Politics

**Readings:** Roy, *Globalised Islam*

S. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer, 1993)

T. Michel "Peaceful Movements in the Muslim World" and

J.O. Voll, "Trans-state Muslim Movements and Militant Extremists in an Era  
of Soft Power," in Banchoff, *Religious Pluralism*

9. (Nov 2)

Student presentations

10. (Nov 9)

Student presentations

11. (Nov 11/ make-up for Nov 23)

Student presentations

12. (Nov 16)

Student presentations

**Nov 23: No class**

13. (Nov 30)

Student presentations

14. (Dec 7)

Student presentations

