Course Description: This class considers the ways that religious variables can exacerbate violent conflict and/or serve as anchors for security and peace. Religious themes and spiritual leaders can mobilize adherents to defend, attack, and die for a religiously-defined cause as happened in Bosnia, the Middle East, and Rwanda. However, religious actors and ideas can also serve as catalysts for peace, security, and reconciliation such as in Mozambique, Colombia, and Northern Ireland. The class will scrutinize causal and theoretical explanations for the relationship of religion to conflict and peace, and students will develop expertise in contemporary real-world cases.

Course Objective: At the minimum, by semester’s end students will understand and be able to cogently discuss major theories of the causes of war and the interplay of religious variables to conflict and its resolution; appreciate the influence of religion on just war theory and its application to the laws of armed conflict and jus post bellum; understand how these trends are situated in related debates of international relations theory and foreign policy; and will develop academic expertise on contemporary real-world cases.

Course Requirements: The course will be run in a seminar format, which means that students will be assigned readings and must be prepared for class discussion. Students should expect an additional reading, usually on current events, each week that will complement the syllabus selections. Early work is accepted; late work will not be accepted except in documented cases of death or medical emergency.

In-depth knowledge of a real-world case is a central project of the course. Each student will write a research paper/case study of up to thirty pages on real-world case such as Afghanistan or Rwanda. Details about the paper will be discussed in our second class session. The paper topic in the form of a two-page memo must be submitted for approval to the Professor by October 7. The paper is due on or before December 9; early papers will be accepted. Students will present their peers with a one-page overview and a 15-minute presentation of their case study during our final two class meetings.

Students will write a monthly two-page paper that evaluates and synthesizes the course readings for the month. The short papers are due on or before September 30, October 21, and November 18. Late papers will not be accepted.

The course will be graded as follows: Short Papers (20%), Participation (30%), Case Study (50%). The professor reserves the right to adjust this syllabi at his discretion.

Academic Honesty: Georgetown University is committed to the education of the whole person and expects all members of the academic community to strive for excellence in scholarship and in character. Conduct that is academically dishonest, evidences lack of academic integrity or trustworthiness, or unfairly impinges upon the intellectual rights and privileges of others is prohibited and will handled in accordance with the University Honor Code (http://www12.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/regulations6.html).

Primary Texts: Scott Appleby’s *The Ambivalence of the Sacred* is required for the course. Also required, but provided as a PDF, are Eric Patterson’s new books *Politics in a Religious World* and *Ending Wars Well: Just War Thinking in Post-Conflict*. The articles will be made available via weblink and/or Blackboard.
Updated 3/29/11


September 16  Religion and Conflict: Identity, Ethnicity, Nationalism. Reading: Appleby, chaps. 1-2; Fox, Jonathan. “Ethnoreligious Conflict in the Third World: The Role of Religion as a Cause of Conflict.” Berkley Center Bosnia Case Study.


October 27  The Religious Dynamics of Post-Conflict Operations: The Afghan Scenario (professional post-conflict simulation developed for use at U.S. war colleges with support from the Berkley Center)


December 9  Student Presentations
Final Exam Time  Student Presentations