

POU44272 — Religion and Politics

Module Information	
Module Code	POU44272
Module Title	Religion and Politics
Department	Political Science
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Gizem Arikan
Academic Year	2026-2027
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>This module examines the relationship between religion and socio-political outcomes from the perspective of multiple disciplines including sociology, psychology, economics, and political science to understand and explain the enduring effect of religion on political life. Religion is often a double-edged sword: On the one hand, it is associated with pro-social and cooperative outcomes; on the other hand, religion often underlies prejudice, violence, and conflict. The major goal of the module is to explain the social, institutional, and psychological dynamics that explain this dual role of religion in social and political outcomes.</i>
Module Learning Aims	<i>Critically evaluate the role of religion in public life using concepts and theories from multiple disciplines</i> <i>Assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of different approaches in the study of religion and politics</i> <i>Explain how and why religion often has contradictory effects on social and political outcomes.</i>

Module Content	
Learning Outcomes	• <i>Identify and explain the major concepts and theoretical approaches in the study of religion and politics,</i> • <i>Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different institutional, social, and psychological approaches linking religion to various social and political outcomes.</i> • <i>Discuss the dual and often complex influence of religion on various social and political outcomes.</i>
Indicative Reading / Resources	• <i>Inglehart, Ronald. 2021. Religion's Sudden Decline: What's Causing It and What Comes Next? Oxford University Press.</i> • <i>Putnam, Robert and David E. Campbell. 2010. American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us. New York: Simon & Schuster</i> • <i>Norenzayan, Ara. 2013. Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict. Princeton University Press.</i>

Assessment	
Assessment Components	<i>In-class assignments 5%, Mid-term essay 35%, Final exam 60%</i>
Assessment Details	-

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	<i>None</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>
Any other information	<i>This is an interdisciplinary module that explores religion and politics using theories and evidence from political science, sociology, psychology, and economics. Students should be prepared for a diverse and theoretically oriented reading load that extends beyond conventional political science approaches.</i>