

REL246/INTR 246
T&Th 14:00-15:15
Aaron W. Hughes
Office Hours: Thursday, 13:00-14:00
aaron.hughes@rochester.edu

Course Description

Recent years have seen a renewed sense of nationalism, only this time tinged with an underlying and powerful religious dimension. This class seeks to illumine this religious nationalism from a comparative perspective. Using an analytical frame, we will examine the historical rise of religious nationalism, its key elements and defining features, before examining a set of particular case studies (e.g., India, Pakistan, Iran, the United States).

Textbooks:

Mark Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*
Peter van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism: Hindus and Muslims in India*
Roy Mottahedeh, *Mantle of the Prophet*

Note 1

Though this course will be conducted online, my goal is to create a genuine community, including active Zoom discussions. Since this course is a seminar, I expect everyone to be an active participant. To this end, we have to show our faces on the screen or the conversation will not work.

Note 2

On those days when we only have one class because of excess reading/watching, I will have individual meetings with a group of 3-4 students during class time. This will not only allow us to get to know each other a little better (something that zoom has taken away from us this semester), and just as importantly allow us to check in with one another regarding the course, and talk about issues that have come up. I will let you know who the “lucky” people are the class before.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental university value. Through the honest completion of academic work, students sustain the integrity of the university while facilitating the university’s imperative for the transmission of knowledge and culture based upon the generation of new and innovative ideas

Grading

This is a discussion-based seminar that is geared towards conversation. To facilitate discussion, final grades will be divided as follows:

Attendance and Participation

25%

Class IQs** (SUBMIT THROUGH BLACKBOARD)	25%
Reflection Papers (x2)	50%

**IQ= idea and question. Each class you are required to bring in –typed, double spaced—a *detailed and informed* question and an idea about the reading. These will be the basis of our conversation. Both the idea and the question should emerge from the particular text we are reading that day and should try to connect the reading to the documentary or movie that we will watch for that class.

Note 3

Unlike last semester, I want these to be done before class, **BUT** submitted after class. I will encourage you to raise your ideas and questions in class.

Schedule of Classes

Week One

- 02/02 Introductions
- 02/04 What is a nation? What is religion?
read: Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, 1-7, 52-61, 118-136 (pdf)

Week Two

- 02/09 read: Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-46 (pdf)
- 02/11 read: (1) Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, introduction and ch. 1 (1-38)
(2) van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, preface (ix-xvi)

Week Three

- 02/16 Religion without Nationalism
watch: “The Mission” (2.5 hours)
- 02/18 no class (dermatology appointment)

Week Four

- 02/23 Nationalism without Religion
read: on Quebec (pdf)
watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHAOpGv-NQ8> (70 mins)
- 02/25 read: (1) Huntington, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/system/files/c0007.pdf>
(pp. 3-27)
(2) interesting pairing: (Burg in *Haaretz*)

Week Five

India

03/02

no class: read and watch for Thursday
BUT office hours during class time
Meeting with Group 1

03/04

read: (1) Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 103-115
(2) van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, 1-24; 56-77

watch: Ram Ke Naam (75 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMT18TMNQbY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0ovbh4M003ZSL4mKSfLa2HivVSH0R46vbJTmZg3mB6wN20anOSPJRk1p4>

Week Six

03/09

no class: read and watch for Thursday
BUT office hours during class time
Meeting with Group 2

03/11

read: van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, 79-137

watch: *The World Before Her* (amazon)

interesting pairing: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/11/us/how-white-evangelical-christians-fused-with-trump-extremism.html?fbclid=IwAR2v1rrAJKBeYp5P4JR9HwcWjPSbnAnu0g7ju7N8HeBskMABqsFz1jT2dY0>

Week Seven

03/16

no class: read and watch for Thursday
BUT office hours during class time
Meeting with Group 3

03/18

read: van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, 138-191

watch: Final Solution (2.5 hours)

https://cjp.org.in/final-solution/?fbclid=IwAR1TOPWO3_iGYzyB9XcQum4YMpcVfi3B_SwV6TOTMWEgoX1F9BLv_rwm74Q

Week Eight

Iran

03/23

read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 7-109

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJzuRf3Pyjk> (43 mins)

03/25 read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 110-185
watch: Rhino Season

Week Nine

03/30 no class/ "spring break" day

04/01 read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 186-268
watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdsFrwJb8NM> (1 hour)

Week Ten

04/06 no class: read and watch for Thursday
BUT office hours during class time
Meeting with Group 1

04/08 read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 269-end
Watch: Persepolis

Week Eleven **Middle East/Israel**

04/13 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 54-72
Watch: Forever Pure (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z9eEqctAGI>)

Transnational religious "nationalisms"
04/15 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 193-211
watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wY_URYzvw8&bpctr=1610764550
(1 hour)

Week Twelve **America**

04/20 Robert N. Bellah, "Civil religion in America" *Daedalus* 96:1 (1967): 1-21
Watch: *Hail Satan?* (Hulu)

04/22 read: Sam Haselby, *The Origins of American Religious Nationalism*, selections\
watch: tbd

Week Thirteen

04/27 no class: read and watch for Thursday
BUT office hours during class time

Meeting with Group 2 and 3

- 04/29 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 151-192
watch: Jesus Camp (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG1o95oqkqI>)
pairing: <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/jul/06/jesus-camp-christian-documentary-kids-10-years-later>

Week Fourteen

- 05/04 watch: *The Most Hated Woman in America* (Netflix)
- 05/06 Finale
read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 212-243