

REL246/INTR 246

Religious Nationalism

LeChase 161

T&Th 14:00-15:15

Aaron W. Hughes

Office Hours (zoom): Friday, 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

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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*

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 submit –typed, double spaced—a *detailed and informed* question and an idea about the reading/documentary/movie. These will form 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.

Schedule of Classes

Week One

01/13 Introductions

Week Two

01/18 What is a nation? What is religion?

read: Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*, 1-7, 52-61, 118-136 (pdf)

01/20 read: Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-46 (pdf)

Week Three

01/25 read: (1) Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, introduction and ch. 1 (1-38)

(2) van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, preface (ix-xvi)

01/27 no class

Week Four

02/01 Religion without Nationalism

watch: "The Mission" (2.5 hours)

02/03 Nationalism without Religion

read: on Quebec (pdf)

watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHAOpGv-NQ8> (70 mins)

Week Five

02/08 read: (1) Huntington, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/system/files/c0007.pdf>
(pp. 3-27)

(2) interesting pairing: (Burg in *Haaretz*)

India

02/10 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 103-115

watch: Ram Ke Naam (75 mins)

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

Week Six

02/15 read: van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, 1-24; 56-77

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>

02/17 read: van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism*, 79-137

Week Seven

02/22 no class

02/24 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

03/01 read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 7-109

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

03/03 read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 110-185

watch: watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdsFrwJb8NM> (1 hour)

Week Nine

SPRING BREAK

Week Ten

03/15 read: Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet*, 186-268

Watch: Persepolis

03/17 no class

Week Eleven

Middle East

03/22 read: Israel's Declaration of Independence; and
 Hamas Charter

03/24 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 54-72

Watch: Forever Pure (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z9eEqctAGI>)

Week Twelve

03/29 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 193-211

watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wY_URYzvw8&bpctr=1610764550
(1 hour)

03/31 no class

Week Thirteen

America

04/05 Robert N. Bellah, "Civil religion in America" *Daedalus* 96:1 (1967): 1-21

04/07 Watch: *Hail Satan?* (Hulu)
read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 182-192
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

04/12 watch: *The Most Hated Woman in America* (Netflix)
04/14 read: Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion*, 212-243

Week Fifteen

05/19 TBA
05/21 TBA