

REL 111: RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN MODERN AMERICA

“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

(William Faulkner)

Instructor: Dr. Ryan T. O’Leary

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Office: Rooms 162 in Marshfield & 311 in Wausau

Office Hours: Wednesday in Marshfield & Friday in Wausau, 10:00 – 10:50 AM,
& by appointment

Schedule: Rooms 130 in Marshfield & 220 in Wausau

Lecture: Monday, 9:00 – 9:50 AM in Marshfield & Wausau

Discussion Sections:

- M01: Wednesday, 9:00 – 9:50 AM in Marshfield
- W01: Friday, 9:00 – 9:50 AM in Wausau

Description: This course surveys the religious landscape of modern America, with emphasis on issues of pluralism, tolerance, and inclusion.

Learning Objectives: Having taken this course, you will be able to:

1. Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts and other cultural artifacts that reflect on the meaning of American identity and the struggle for equality and human dignity.
2. Describe and evaluate the influence of important people and texts at the intersection of American religion and culture.
3. Apply analytical ideas like authority, nativism, pluralism, and religious freedom to texts, current affairs, and your own experiences.
4. Analyze how people or institutions in the United States have constructed and negotiated diverse identities based on ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, and religion.

Note on Electronic Items: Computers, tablets, and cellphones are not permitted in this class. Exemptions to this rule will be made only with official documentation of a disability requiring the use of electronic devices. Recording devices are permitted.

READING LIST

Textbook

Edwin S. Gaustad, et al, *A Documentary History of Religion in America*, Fourth Edition

Course Pack

John L. O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity"

Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address" and "Gettysburg Address"

Selected Anti-Catholic Political Cartoons from the 19th & 20th Centuries

Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America"

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (excerpt)

Recommended Readings (On Canvas)

Cesar A. Chavez, "The Mexican-American and the Church"

W.E.B. Du Bois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings"

Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" & *Nonviolence and Racial Justice* (excerpt)

Douglas O. Linder, "The Trial of Anne Hutchinson (1637): An Account" and "The Examination of Anne Hutchinson"

Kera Lovell, "Girls Are Equal Too: Education, Body Politics, and the Making of Teenage Feminism"

James Madison, "Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments"

Daniel K. Williams, "Jerry Falwell's Sunbelt Politics"

EVALUATION & GRADING

The definition of an A student is one who not only does A work on the final project, but who also comes to class prepared at least 90 percent of the time. In other words, each category of course work is important. To earn a particular grade, you must meet or exceed the standard for every category, as listed on the table below.

Course Grade	Attendance	Discussion Assignments	Current Affairs Project
A	≥ 90% average	≥ 90% average	≥ 90% average
B	≥ 80% average	≥ 80% average	≥ 80% average
C	≥ 70% average	≥ 70% average	≥ 70% average
D	≥ 60% average	≥ 60% average	≥ 60% average
F	< 60% average	< 60% average	< 60% average

Attendance: In this class attendance and participation are necessary to achieving our learning outcomes. However, I know that sometimes absences are unavoidable. As such, you have three “free” absences before your grade is affected. (Each absence will cost 3.33% of your grade in the category.) If for any reason you need to miss a significant part of the course, it is your responsibility to work out appropriate accommodations with the instructor.

Discussion Assignments: Academic excellence requires coming to class prepared and ready to take responsibility for one’s own learning. Each week that “Discussion Assignment” is listed on the schedule there will be a discussion assignment due before your discussion section. You will need to bring two copies with you to your discussion section: one that you will turn in to receive credit and the other that you keep.

Current Affairs Project: Throughout the semester, you will use the newspaper databases available through the UWSP Library to write short essays analyzing how concepts like authority, nativism, and pluralism apply to contemporary American life. For the end of the semester, you will write a final essay reflecting on how your research and analysis helped shape, change, or deepen your thinking about how people or institutions in the United States continue to negotiate issues of ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, and/or religion.

Extra Credit: Throughout the semester you will have opportunities to earn extra credit by attending events or workshops, doing additional reading, et cetera. Each extra credit opportunity you complete will add one-half of a grade level in your lowest category.

REL 111 COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Mississippian Culture and Society,” pgs. 6 – 7;
“New Spain” (read “Ponce de León,” and “Franciscans in New Mexico”), pgs. 13 – 14,
16 – 19

Week 2

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Anti-Catholicism,” “A Model of Christian
Charity,” and “William Penn and the Liberty of Conscience,” pgs. 29, 34 – 35, 42 – 43

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Consensus and Conflict in the Postwar Era –
The World and Its Wars: Legacy of World War II,” pgs. 483 – 495

Discussion Assignment

Week 3

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Religion and Social Order in the Colonies,”
pgs. 49 – 54

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Fighting Communism: Hot Wars and Cold,”
pgs. 501 – 518

Discussion Assignment

Week 4

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Justifying and Challenging Slavery,” pgs. 70 –
76

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Fighting for Liberation – African Americans,”
pgs. 568 – 579

Discussion Assignment

Week 5

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Awakening the Colonies,” (read “Awakening,”
“Jonathan Edwards,” “George Whitfield,” and “Sarah Osborn”), pgs. 77 – 83, 89 – 91

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Aftermath of Revolution: Religious Liberty
Guaranteed,” (read “Thomas Jefferson’s Bill,” “James Madison Memorial and
Remonstrance”), pgs. 103 – 110

Discussion Assignment

Week 6

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Evangelical Empire: Rise and Fall,” “Nativism – Religious Know-Nothings,” pgs. 119 – 124, 176 – 181

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Latinos” Native Americans,” pgs. 593 – 598, 604 – 609

Library of Congress, “Primary Source Set: Native American Boarding Schools”

Current Affairs Paper

Week 7

John L. O’Sullivan, “The Great Nation of Futurity”

A Documentary History of Religion in America, review “Nativism,” pgs. 176 – 181

Selected Editorial Cartoons from the 19th & 20th Centuries

Discussion Assignment

Week 8

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Progress and the Perfect Society,” pgs. 186 – 197

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “A Resurgent Right,” (read “Ronald Reagan,” “Promise Keepers,” and “Anti-Feminist Women?”) pgs. 636 – 639, 642 – 646

Discussion Assignment

Week 9

Robert Bellah, “Civil Religion in America”

Discussion Assignment

Week 10

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Millennialism,” and “Spiritualism,” pgs. 202 - 210

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Reinventing the ‘Old-Time Religion’” (read “Revivalism” and “Millennialism”) pgs. 394 – 410

Current Affairs Paper

Week 11

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Human Rights and American Religion: Black Religion and Slavery,” pgs. 211 – 222

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Native American Rights: the Cherokee,” pgs. 229 – 237

Discussion Assignment

Week 12: (Thanksgiving Break)

Abraham Lincoln, “Second Inaugural Address” and “Gettysburg Address”

Week 13

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Feminists,” pgs. 580 – 593

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (excerpts)

Discussion Assignment

Week 14

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Into the New Millennium,” pgs. 655 – 658

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Sexuality and the Churches,” pgs. 678 – 690

Current Affairs Paper

Week 15

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “The Rise of Megaministry,” pgs. 699 – 714

A Documentary History of Religion in America, “Religion and National Upheaval” pgs. 714 – 728

Discussion Assignment

Week 16: Finals Week

Current Affairs Reflection

CONCERNS & RESOURCES

Academic Concerns

Being a Pointer means going to class regularly, doing your work outside of class, and asking for help if there are questions or concerns.

Academic Misconduct: Copying off someone's test, plagiarism, claiming credit for work that is not yours, and all other forms of academic misconduct are not tolerated at UW-Stevens Point. If a student is confused about what exactly academic misconduct is, there is information available regarding rules and procedures for the [process](#). You can also visit with your faculty or learn how to cite the work of others at the [Writing Lab](#).

Academic Success: Your full-time job at UW-Stevens Point is *to be a student*. Being successful depends a lot on how much effort and time you invest. It also asks questions or finding support if you feel lost. We have an amazing [Tutoring-Learning Center](#) if you want to learn how to be a better student or need subject-specific help.

Disability Services: UW-Stevens Point is committed to supporting students with disabilities the academic and other accommodations, plus the auxiliary aids necessary to ensure your success. To learn more, check out their [site](#) or visit them in Albertson Hall, room 609 (library building).

Other Concerns and Resources

Responding to student concerns with care, concern, and resources is critical in supporting the success of our students and campus community. Here is a brief list of helpful resources.

Absence from Class

Contact faculty directly or if a crisis/emergency
Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Academic Difficulty

Academic & Career Advising Center
715-346-3226, uwsp.edu/acac

Disability Services & Assistive Technology
715-346-3365, uwsp.edu/dtac

Tutoring-Learning Center
715-346-3568, uwsp.edu/tlc

Students should visit with faculty of the course in which they are having trouble.

Add/drop Class; Withdrawal Questions

Office of the Registrar
715-346-4301 uwsp.edu/registrar

Students should visit with their Academic Advisor.

Academic Misconduct

Faculty for the specific course or Office of the Dean of Students to discuss process
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Alcohol or Drug Use

Center for Prevention
715-346-3121, uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv

Bias or Hate Incidents

Office of the Dean of Students to report
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Diversity and College Access
715-346-4076, uwsp.edu/dca

Concerning Behavior

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Employment

Campus Activities and Student Engagement
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case

Family Crisis or Emergency

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Financial Insecurity

Enrollment Services Center/Financial Aid
715-346-3300; uwsp.edu/enrollmentservices

Emergency Grants

Office of the Dean of Student
715-346-2611; [Grant Application Form](#)

Financial Coaching Program
UW-Stevens Point School of Business and Economics
[Website](#) or email: fincoach@uwsp.edu

Financial Literacy - Online
[GradReady Program](#)

Financial Literacy - In Person
Financial Literacy Association (Student Org.)
College of Professional Studies, finlit@uwsp.edu

Food Resources

The Cupboard - Stevens Point campus
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case
[List of food resources in the community in Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wausau](#)

Housing/Roommate Concerns

Residential Living (your Hall Director first)
715-346-3511 (central office), uwsp.edu/resliving

Identity and Difference

Diversity and College Access
715-346-4076, uwsp.edu/dca

Involvement

Campus Activities and Student Engagement
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case

Legal Questions

Student Legal Services
715-346-4282, uwsp.edu/dos/sls

Loss of Family Member or Friend

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, uwsp.edu/counseling

Mental Health Concerns

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, uwsp.edu/counseling

Mental Health Crisis Line (outside agency)
866-317-9362 for after hours mental health support

Missing Student

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

University Police
715-346-3456, uwsp.edu/protsv

Non-academic Misconduct

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Physical Health / Injury

Student Health Service (confidential resource)
715-346-4646, uwsp.edu/stuhealth

Procedural Issue or Conflict

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Harassment

Office of the Dean of Students to report

715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

CAP Services - Stevens Point (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)
715-340-7882, 715-346-4039, 800-472-3377 (toll free), kpétrick@capmail.org, capservices.org

PDC - Marshfield (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)
715-421-1509 or 844-210-8899 (toll free)

The Women's Community - Wausau (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)
715-842-8323 or 888-665-1234 (toll free)

Center for Prevention (confidential services)
715-346-3121, uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, uwsp.edu/counseling

University Police and Security Services to report
715-346-3456, uwsp.edu/protsv

Title IX

Haeryon Kim, 116 Old Main, 715-346-3020, hakim@uwsp.edu, [Title IX site](#)

Transportation

[UWSP Rideshare Facebook Page](#)
[Stevens Point Bus Route](#)
[Bus connections from Stevens Point](#)

Questions or Concerns Not Listed Here

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

