Description:

What is the relationship between religion, state and law in modernity? Has the role of religion in society been diminished and has ‘secularization’ taken its place as the leading force in western societies? What is the secularization thesis that constitutes the ground of this argument and is it credible? If it is no longer an accurate depiction of the role of religion in the state, what is the role of religion in the state? Religion, State and Law will examine these questions and will investigate different models of the relationship between religion and the state across the global and religious spectrum.

Texts

Rod Dreher, *The Benedict Option*
Thomas Luckman, *Invisible Religion*
Peter Berger, *The Sacred Canopy*
Judith Butler, *The Power of Religion in the Public Square*
Jurgen Habermas, *An Awareness of What is Missing: Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age*
Habermas/Ratzinger, *The Dialectics of Secularization*
Olivier Roy, *Secularism Confronts Islam*
Craig Calhoun and Mark Juergensmeyer, ed. *Rethinking Secularism*
William Cavanaugh, *The Myth of Religious Violence*
Winifred Sullivan, *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom*
Assignments

Class participation 5%
Two short essays: 15% (details, forthcoming)
Mid-term 30%
Final 35%

Syllabus

I. Secularization Thesis (Weeks 1-3)
Week 1: Peter Berger, The Sacred Canopy
Week 2: Luckmann Invisible Religion

II. De-bunking/Re-considering the Secularization Thesis? (Weeks 4-5)
Peter Berger The De-Secularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics
Habermas: An Awareness of What is Missing: Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age
Habermas and Ratzinger, The Dialectics of Secularization

Essay Assignment #1: Week 5

III. Re-thinking Secularization and Secularism: (Weeks 6-7)
Judith Butler, The Power of Religion in the Public Square
(selected essays by: Habermas, Taylor and West)
Calhoun, Rethinking Secularism (first three essays in the volume by Cassanova, Taylor and Calhoun)

In-Class Mid-term: Week 7
IV. International Questions and Models (weeks 8, 9 and 10)

Calhoun *Rethinking Secularism*: all remaining essays

Optional: Tu Weiming, “The Quest for Meaning in the People’s Republic of China” in *The Desecularization of the World*

**Essay Assignment #2: Week 10**

V. Christianity and America (week 11)

Dreher, *The Benedict Option*

VI. Judaism (week 12)

Jonathan Sacks, “Judaism and Politics in the Modern World” in *De-secularization of the World*

Nomi Maya Stolzenberg, “Is There Such a Thing as Non-State Law: Lessons from Kiryas Joel” (email pdf, professor provides).

VII. Islam (week 13)

Abdullahi A. An-Na’im, “Political Islam in National Politics and International Relations” in *Desecularization of the World*

Olivier Roy, *Secularism Confronts Islam*

VIII. Religious Freedom: A Dead-End? (week 14)

Winifred Sullivan, *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom*

**Final Exam: Take-home**