



University
of Victoria

POLI 382 Politics and Religion

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Andrew Wender

Course delivery: POLI 382 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Prerequisites: None.

Course description:

POLI 382 uncovers revealing points of overlap between the two vital dimensions of human experience and social life denoted by the course's name. More than this, though, POLI 382 is dedicated to critical reflection on what is signified by, and at stake in the peculiar, modern conceptualizing of "politics" and "religion" as distinct entities, each consigned to its own proper domain of existence.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Critique the supposed division between politics and religion;
- Examine how "religion" and "secular" have been molded in relation to one another through diverse historical and contemporary instances, worldwide;
- Explore how discourses and significances of religion are deployed within the context of political interests;
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion

Topics may include:

Intersecting concepts of religion, politics, and secularity

Civil religion and political religion

Worldwide instances of supposed, contemporary religious resurgence

Critiques of so-called fundamentalist movements

Religion and global colonial, postcolonial, and neocolonial transformations

Religion and policy considerations surrounding social and scientific dilemmas like climate change and COVID-19

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.