

# GOVT 305 – RELIGION AND POLITICS IN THE U.S.

## SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Dr. Stephen C. Roberds  
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Adams State College  
208 Edgemont Ave.  
Alamosa, CO 81102.

### COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

### CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

### COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1086** to order books from Bookstore site.

### Required Textbook:

Robert Booth Fowler et al. Religion and Politics in America. Third edition. 2004.

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the many ways that religion plays a role in American politics including church-state relations, public opinion and voting , political culture, and public policy.

**AMPLIFIED COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the myriad of ways that religion has played a role in U.S. politics and government. We examine the role of religion from early colonial America to the present. Readings will discuss the main branches of Christianity as well as Judaism and other religions. Close attention is paid to public opinion and voting and how different religious groups view domestic, social, and international issues. The course examines how different groups use organized lobbying efforts to influence government and policy. Specifically, we will study the ways that groups use the courts as well as important Supreme Court decisions involving the Free Exercise Clause and Establishment Clause.

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## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The student will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of essential ways in which religion has played an historical role in American politics;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the normative issues surrounding religion and politics;
- Demonstrate an understanding of current issues involving religion, the courts and public policy;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that different religious groups tend to hold political opinions and vote;
- Write effective essays on various complex issues involving religion and politics;
- Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to see and understand the ways various religious movements and groups have engaged in political activity;
- Participate in oral discussion and analyses various issue areas.
- Write a research/analysis paper on some scholar who has written on the role of politics in America.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- The student shall stand successfully for four exams—the last of which consists of a unit four exam plus comprehensive essays and cases to identify from the previous units. You may be asked any of the questions listed below under each week's readings, or some combinations of those questions.
- The student shall produce an approved ten page research paper (pages of actual text, exclusive of bibliography and endnotes) on how religious interest groups attempt to influence elections, campaigns, legislation, and public policy

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## GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Test One	50 points
Test Two	50 points
Test Three	50 points
Test Four/Comprehensive Final	100 points
Paper Prospectus	25 points
Paper Draft	100 points
Final Revision	25 points
Total Points	400 points

A	360-400
B	320-359
C	280-319
D	240-279
F	Below 239

## ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.