HON 369
Select Contemporary Problems: Religion and Politics

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor.
Examination of current issues involving the interaction and conflict of religious beliefs and practices with the political process. Topics addressed include, but are not limited to: gay marriage, physician assisted suicide and religious expression and practice in the context of school, government or public settings. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Course Learning Outcomes:
- Attain an understanding of the full parameters of contemporary issues involving law, politics and religion via reading and discussion of related materials including (but not limited to) texts covering relevant science, history, religious scriptures, and legal case opinions, statutes and scholarship.
- Learn how to engage with these materials in a critical and analytical manner, and assemble these materials (along with additional research where appropriate) in order to formulate their own opinions in a thoughtful, active and creative manner.
- Learn about, distinguish, and apply scholarly, legal and scientific heuristics to effective and actively assess related problems and issues affecting our political landscape.
- Demonstrate skill and ability in articulating and presenting actively formulated views on these issues in an effective, persuasive, and engaging manner.

Honors Program Learning Outcomes:
- Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:
- Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
- Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
- Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
- Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.
Content:

- In depth examination of 2-4 issues involving the interface, and sometimes conflict between religion and our political process
- The issues addressed may included, but are not necessarily limited to:
  - Gay marriage,
  - Physician Assisted suicide
  - Capital Punishment
  - Religious Expression and/or practice in or around:
    - Public schools
    - Government buildings
    - Public Spaces
- Discussion of these issues will cover, where applicable, reading and discussion of applicable scientific, scholarly, religious and legal materials

Current Required Texts (Preliminary):

**Books (to Purchase)**

Gay, Straight and the Reason Why – Simon Levay
What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality -- Daniel A. Helminiak
The Chrysanthemum and the Sword – Ruth Benedict
History of Suicide: Voluntary Death in Western Culture -- Georges Minois
For Capital Punishment -- Walter Berns
Against the Death Penalty: Christian and Secular Arguments Against Capital Punishment
Gardner C. Hanks

**Articles/Books (Supplied)**

"A History of Same-Sex Marriage". Virginia Law Review 79 -- William N.Eskridge
Passions of the Cut Sleeve -- Bret Hinsch
A Commentary on the Old Saw that Same-Sex Marriage Threatens Civilization, Moral Argument, Religion, and Same-Sex Marriage: Advancing the Public Good -- Ron Steiner
DOMA (http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c104:H.R.3396:) or
Bushido, the Soul of Japan-- Inazo Nitobé
Hagakure: Book of the Samurai --Yamamoto Tsunetomo
Comparative Study about Methods of Suicide between Japan and the United States -- Toshiyuki Ojima, Yisikazu Nakamura and Roger Detels
Karojisatsu in Japan: Characteristics of 22 Cases of Work-Related Suicide -- Takashi Amagas, Takeo Nakayama and Yoshitomo Takahashi
Morals, Suicide, and Psychiatry: A View From Japan -- Jerome Young
Why is Suicide Rampant in Japan? -- Dustin Dye
DO WE OWN OUR BODIES?--Guido Calabresi
City of God – Book 1, Ch. 20 – St. Augustine
Summa Theologica, 1271, part II, Q64, A5 -- Thomas Aquinas
Stanford Encyclopedia of philosophy: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/suicide/#ChrPro
Spur Industries v. Del E. Webb Development
Co 108 Ariz. 178.494 P.2d 700 (1972)
DO WE OWN OUR BODIES?--Guido Calabresi
Hippocratic oath
Oregon Public Health Division http://public.health.oregon.gov/Provide
Against the Death Penalty: Christian and Secular Arguments Against Capital Punishment
Gardner C. Hanks
Washington Death with Dignity Act (http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70.245)
Washington v. Glucksberg, 521 U.S. 702
Baxter v. Montana--- P.3d ----, 2009 WL 5155363
Lynch v. Donnelly (465 US 668),
County of Allegheny v. ACLU (492 US 573)
Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board v. Pinette, Carr, and Ku Klux Klan
(515 U.S. 753)
Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States, 143 U.S. 457, 470 (1892)
ACLU of Kentucky v. Mercer County, 432 F.3d 624 (6th Cir. 2005)
McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky
Van Orden v. Perry
Engel v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421 (1962)
Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602 (1971)
BAEHR v.MIIKE No. 20371, 1999 HAw.LEXIS391(HAw.DEC.9,1999)
DOMA Public Law 104-199
In re Kandu, U.S. Bankruptcy Court (2004)
"Assembly Bill 19 (2005-2006) http://leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?
bill_number=ab_19&sess=0506&house=B&author=leno
Proposition 107, Arizona November 7, 2006
ELIZABETH KERRIGAN ET AL. v. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ET AL.
(Connecticut Case 2008 289 Conn. 135, 957 A.2d 407
In re Marriage Cases (2008) 43 Cal.4th 757 [76 Cal.Rptr.3d 683, 183 P.3d 384],
California Proposition 8, 2008
Varnum v. Brien, 763 N.W.2d 862 (Iowa 2009)
AS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE S.115 2009 Page 1www.leg.state.vt.usS.115An act relating to civil marriage
Instructional strategies:
1. Discussion of required reading, using Socratic approach
2. Lectures by instructor
3. Presentations by guest speakers
4. 1-2 thought papers to be submitted each week

Methods of Evaluation:
1. 10 thought papers. These papers should be:
   a. 1-4 pages long
   b. An opportunity to articulate your ideas about the material presented that week in a thoughtful manner, evidencing not only comprehension of material, but also synthesis with other material covered to date and your prior studies.
2. Active participation in classroom discussion
3. In-class presentations
4. Final term paper
   a. 10-15 pages
   b. Using either footnotes or endnotes
   c. Bibliography
   d. Footnotes and bibliography should conform with the Chicago Manual of Style format.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university

Students with Disabilities Policy:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Unit: Gay Marriage</th>
<th>Introduction to class: goals, expectations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 3-7</td>
<td><strong>Biology and SSA</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Reading:</strong> Gay, Straight and the Reason Why – Simon Levay</td>
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<td><strong>Suggested topic for thought paper</strong> (due by Sun. Feb 9): “Do you agree with the author’s conclusions? Why or why not? Cite sources.”</td>
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| February 10-14 | **History/Sociology of SSA**  
"A History of Same-Sex Marriage". Virginia Law Review 79 -- William N. Eskridge  
Passions of the Cut Sleeve -- Bret Hinsch  
A Commentary on the Old Saw that Same-Sex Marriage Threatens Civilization, *Moral Argument, Religion, and Same-Sex Marriage: Advancing the Public Good* -- Ron Steiner  
*Suggested topic for thought paper* (due Sun. Feb. 16): “Which of these articles do you dis/agree with? Why or why not? Provide sources in support or opposition.” |
| February 17-21 | **Theology:**  
*Reading:* Assigned passages from Bible;  
What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality -- Daniel A. Helminiak  
| February 24-28 | **American Law**  
(American case law and statutory law are rapidly developing on this topic. Some of the following cases may be out of date by the time the class is offered, and major, important cases are expected shortly. The following list is only indicative, and will be subject to amendment. Major cases/statutes will be assigned on the previous Friday):  
Baehr v. Miike No. 20371, 1999 HAw.LEXIS391(HAw.DECEMBER 9, 1999)  
DOMA Public Law 104-199  
In re Kandu, U.S. Bankruptcy Court (2004)  
In re Marriage Cases (2008) 43 Cal.4th 757 [76 Cal.Rptr.3d 683, 183 P.3d 384], California Proposition 8, 2008  
Varnum v. Brien, 763 N.W.2d 862 (Iowa 2009) |
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<tr>
<td>March 3-7</td>
<td><strong>Summing up: Gay Marriage – arguments for and against</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Begin New Topic: Physician Assisted Suicide</strong></td>
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<td>Comparative Study about Methods of Suicide between Japan and</td>
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<td>Karojisatsu in Japan: Characteristics of 22 Cases of Work-Related</td>
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<td>Suicide -- Takashi Amagas, Takeo Nakayama and Yoshitomo</td>
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<td>Takahashi</td>
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<td>Morals, Suicide, and Psychiatry: A View From Japan -- Jerome Young</td>
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<td>Why is Suicide Rampant in Japan? -- Dustin Dye</td>
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<td>Do We Own Our Bodies?--Guido Calabresi</td>
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<td>Suggested topic for thought paper: “Does the Japanese view of</td>
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<td>suicide surprise or confound you? Why or why not? What</td>
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<td>arguments would you present for/against it?”</td>
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<td>March 10-14</td>
<td><strong>Reading (selected passages): Bushido, the Soul of Japan--</strong></td>
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<td>Inazo Nitobé</td>
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<td>Hagakure: Book of the Samurai --Yamamoto Tsunetomo</td>
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<td>Suggested topic for thought paper: Has this week’s readings given</td>
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<td>you more clarity on the Japanese views on this topic?  Do you</td>
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<td>agree with their viewpoint? Why or why not?”</td>
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<td>March 17-21</td>
<td><strong>Reading (selected passages):</strong></td>
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<td>City of God – Book 1, Ch. 20 – St. Augustine</td>
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<td><a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/suicide/#ChrPro">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/suicide/#ChrPro</a></td>
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<td>Christian Perspectives on Suicide by William E. Phipps</td>
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<td>Suggested topic for thought paper: “Which makes more sense to</td>
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<td>you: the Japanese or Christian views on suicide? Why or why not? Cite</td>
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<td>sources.”</td>
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<td>March 24-28</td>
<td><strong>Reading: Hippocratic Oath</strong></td>
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<td>Oregon Public Health Division</td>
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<td>Baxter v. Montana</td>
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<td>Gonzales v Oregon 368 F. 3d 1118 (2004)</td>
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| March 31 – April 4 | **Begin New Topic:** Capital Punishment  
For Capital Punishment -- Walter Berns  
*Suggested topic for thought paper:* “Do you find Bern’s argument persuasive? Why or why not?” |                                                                                                  |
| April 7 -11   | Against the Death Penalty: Christian and Secular Arguments  
Against Capital Punishment  
Gardner C. Hanks  
*Suggested topic for thought paper:* “Do you find Hank’s argument persuasive? Why or why not?” |                                                                                                  |
| April 14-18   | **Begin New Topic:** Religious Expression in a Public Setting  
Holiday Displays  
Lynch v. Donnelly (465 US 668),  
County of Allegheny v. ACLU (492 US 573)  
Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board v. Pinette, Carr, and Ku Klux Klan (515 U.S. 753)  
(May be supplemented by additional, more recent, caselaw)  
*Suggested topic for thought paper:* “Were you surprised by the findings in any of these cases? The City of Orange puts up a display every Christmas that includes a Crech. Are they operating within the law? Why or why not?” |                                                                                                  |
| April 21-25   | **Ten Commandments:**  
Van Orden v. Perry, 545 U.S. 677 (2005)  
McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky, 545 U.S. 844 (2005)  
(May be supplemented by additional, more recent, caselaw)  
*Suggested topic for thought paper:* “In one case, the Court found in favor of keeping a display of the Ten Commandments, and in one case, they found against it. How did they distinguish the one case from the other? Does the ruling make sense to you?” |                                                                                                  |
| April 28 – May 2 | **School Prayer:**  
Engel v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421 (1962)  
Lemon v. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602 (1971)  
(May be supplemented by additional, more recent, caselaw)  
*Suggested topic for thought paper:* “What do you think of the courts findings in these cases? Do you agree with the Court’s reasoning? Why or why not?” |                                                                                                  |
| May 5-9           | (Depending on size of class) Student Presentations |                                                                                                  |
| May 12-16        | Student Presentations |                                                                                                  |

**Prepared by: Lorin Geitner**