

GENERAL INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

REL3127, Church and State, will introduce you to the key issues surrounding the interpretation and implementation of the First Amendment protection of freedom of religion. Our study will take us from the time before the American Revolution to the present. It will highlight the background of the Amendment and important cases and laws used to guarantee this most crucial of human rights.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Recite the First Amendment provision for freedom of religion and understand the complexities of its wording;
- Place consideration of the Amendment within its historical context;
- Clearly understand and discourse upon the distinction between the free exercise and establishment clauses of the Amendment
- Identify the key issues governing the adjudication of the Amendment
- Discuss key cases and laws contributing to the interpretation of the Amendment
- Discuss the major tests used by the courts to determine the constitutionality of laws under the Amendment
- Recognize the major issues relating to religion and politics.

PROFESSOR BIOGRAPHY

Rubén Garrote is an Honors College alumnus and a graduate of FIU's Department of Religious Studies. He has taught for the department for the past five years, receiving several awards for teaching and academic excellence. He is also a Fellow of the Honors College.

TEXTBOOK

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land,
[Edwin Gaustad](#),
New York, Oxford University Press, 1999, 2003

ISBN-10: 0195166876

ISBN-13: 978-0195166873

[Click here](#) to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

- E-mail: Contact me via my **personal email** at garroter@fiu.edu. **Do not use the course email. This is IMPORTANT!**
- Discussion Forum: This is **NOT** the appropriate way to communicate with me about course housekeeping or problems! Use my email (above).
- Please contact the technical support folks at FIU Online directly for questions pertaining to unavailability of course material, broken links, computer compatibility, and so on.

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weights
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Paper	10%
Discussion Forum Participation	10%
12 Quizzes	40%
TOTAL	100%

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	Range
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Grade		Grade		Grade	
A	above 93	B-	80 - 82	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 - 79	D	63 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	73 - 76	D-	60 - 62
B	83 - 86	C-	70 - 72	F	< 60

Note: This online section may require an on-campus midterm and/or final exam.

QUIZZES

There are 13 quizzes throughout the semester. **NB: There is no quiz 7.** See the course calendar for the availability dates. The availability period for each quiz starts from 12:00 am and ends 11:59 pm. Each student has 1 attempt at quizzes. Each quiz is worth 10 points. There will be 10 questions. There are more questions in each quiz database than the 10 that appear. To take a quiz, click on "Assessments" under "Course Tools." Once you open the quiz, you will have ten (10) minutes to **save** all the answers and submit it. (Remember not to touch the computer Back button within Blackboard CE6—use the arrow to scroll backward.)

Please study all course material relevant to the quizzes and be prepared prior taking the quizzes. You need to do the quizzes and exams by yourself. Any interaction of any form with others will constitute cheating, and may have serious repercussions.

The dates for the quizzes are given well ahead of time. You are responsible for making sure you are able to take the quizzes. Do so early, so that if you encounter technical problems, find yourself out of town, etc., you do not miss the quizzes. Once the quizzes close **THEY WILL NOT BE REOPENED!**

EXAMS

Exams are intended to assess your comprehension, retention, and knowledge of the materials covered in lectures and the assigned texts for a group of lessons. The midterm (Exam 1) will cover the first half of the course, the final (Exam 2) the second half only. You have only 1 attempt to take each exam. Exams will be available for a 24 hour period from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm. There will be one hundred (100) questions on each exam. Once you open the exam, you will have 2 hours to complete and submit the exam. Once the time expires, you cannot save any more answers but only submit it. Failure to take the exam in the allotted time period will result in a zero (0).

Exam questions will be taken from the quizzes, but since there are more questions in the database than the number of questions on the exam, you may get the different questions that you did on the quizzes. Multiple choice questions are randomized across students so no two students will have the same questions.

The dates for the exams are given well ahead of time. You are responsible for making sure you are able to take the exams. Do so early, so that if you encounter technical problems, find yourself out of town, etc., you do not miss the exams. Once the exams close **THEY WILL NOT BE REOPENED!**

PAPER

The paper is intended to allow you to integrate the material and apply it in a creative way. You are to write down your position on the Role of Religion in Public Life. You may chose to focus on establishment issues—i.e. how much support should religion receive from government, on free exercise issues—i.e. how much should government interfere with religious practice. Feel free to take any position whatever, but do be prepared to support your position with rational argumentation. (Merely restating beliefs, in other words, will not suffice for this assignment.)

Obviously, you will have to have to some research to complete the paper, so I suggest you begin early on in the course. The paper length should be 5-7 double-spaced pages, size 12, Times New Roman font. Remember to cite all works consulted and provide a bibliography if needed.

You are to submit the papers electronically to turnitin.com. If you have not done so already, please go to the website and create an account. You can then register for this course. The course number is: **3622880**. The password is: **cands**.

STUDENT HOMEPAGE

Every student should create his/her own student homepage using the course's Discussion Forum, which can be found on course's left navigation menu. For help on how to use the HTML Creator to develop a Student Homepage, [click here](#).

DISCUSSION FORUM PARTICIPATION

During the course of the semester, each student should go onto the Discussion Forum and participate in the conversations taking place there. All students are expected to contribute on topics related to the course material. This is a good place to ask additional questions, share observations, and/or point out interesting materials you have found. Ten percent of your final grade will reflect the extent to which you participated on the discussion board.

I will be reviewing the forums Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and sporadically at other times during the week.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Online Learning Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer is compatible with Blackboard (<http://www.webct.com/tuneup>) and that it meets the minimum hardware requirements (http://online.fiu.edu/future_whats_required.html)

EXPECTATION OF THIS COURSE

This is a fully online course, meaning that all course work (100%) will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in fully online courses are the same as for traditional courses; in fact, fully online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Fully online courses are not independent study courses. You will be expected to interact online with the professor and your fellow students; to do assignments; to meet deadlines; and in many classes, to work in virtual groups. In some fully online courses, you may be required to come to campus to take midterms and exams, but in most, you will take your tests online.

Tips for Success in your online course, [click here](#).

Online Etiquette, [click here](#).

COURSE CALENDAR

Dates	Topic	Quizzes/ Assignments
Week 1 1/10	Introduction, Historical Background Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course and site. Print and read the course syllabus and course calendar. Read section 1.	Quiz #1 Available 1/14-1/16
Week 2 1/17	The Colonists READ: Ch. 1 FILM: Growth of the English Colonies	Quiz #2 Available 1/21-1/23
Week 3 1/24	The Founders READ: Ch. 2 Film: Founding Fathers: The Need for the Wall of Separation	Quiz #3 Available 1/28-1/30
Week 4 1/31	American Civil Religion Film: Religion in the Colonies	Quiz #4 Available 2/4-2/6
Week 5 2/7	A Christian Nation? READ: Ch. 3 Film: Obama - " We are no longer a Christian Nation " Consider the video above and post your responses to the discussion board.	Quiz #5 Available 2/11-2/13
Week 6 2/14	Interpreting the Constitution READ: Ch. 4	Quiz #6 Available 2/18-2/20
Week 7 2/21	Free Exercise (1) READ: Ch. 7	EXAM 1 (Midterm) Available 2/25 ONLY
Week 8	Free Exercise (2)	Quiz #8

2/28		Available 3/1-3/3
Week 9 3/7	Establishment (1) READ: Ch. 6	Quiz #9 Available 3/11-3/13
Week 10 3/14	SPRING BREAK	
Week 11 3/21	Establishment (2) READ: Ch. 5	Quiz #10 Available 3/25-3/27
Week 12 3/28	Evolution and Creationism Films: Evolution vs. Creationism: Is Evolution Just a Theory? Biblical Literalism Teaching the Controversy BBC Report on Creationist Museum Get on the discussion board and talk about this topic. What do think about the statistics that say that almost 50% of Americans do not believe in evolution? Do you applaud or worry about this? Should we teach both evolution and creationism in public schools?	Quiz #11 Available 4/1-4/3
Week 13 4/4	Creating a Public Religious Culture	Quiz #12 Available 4/8-4/10 PAPER Friday, Apr. 8, by 11:59 pm
Week 14 4/11	Religion and Taxes READ: Ch. 8 and “The Church of Scientology: In Pursuit of Legal Recognition”	Quiz #13 Available 4/15-4/17

	Post your comments to the discussion board and discuss with your classmates. You may assume the data given is factual (I believe it is.)	
Week 15 4/18	Religion and Social Politics	
Week 16 4/25	Final Exam	EXAM 2 (Final) Available Apr. 22, 2009 ONLY

FIU ONLINE

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