# School of Continuing Studies Spring 2024

**Georgetown University LSHV 6002-01**



# Classroom Course: 3 Credits

# Mondays, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Course Description**

There is no question that we are witnessing a revival of political theology as an academic disci- pline; a theology that has, through the ages, adapted to exigencies like secularization, moderni- zation, globalization, *et al.* As an academic discipline, political theology addresses questions such as, the relationship between theology and politics; the relationship between Church and State; the role of religion in public life; and, to what extend religious belief might/should shape our political discourse.

Introduction to Political Theology is a graduate course that explores the historical roots of political theology, while examining the philosophical, theological, and sociological relationship between religious faith and political life in civil society. Class readings will highlight some of the primary sources that influenced religious and secular practices and the ordering of society through the ages. We look at the first generation of political theologians (Johann Baptist Metz, who started it all) and the second generation of political theologians (Cavanaugh, Hauerwas, Mil- bank, O’Donovan, Yoder). Our class discussions will focus on the age-old tension between the transcendent and secular, the sacred and the profane, and how this on-going oscillation has shaped and continues to shape public discourse.

The pedagogy of this course is designed to bring students up to date in the growing field of polit- ical theology. The CANVAS course site will assist students throughout the semester.

# Instructor

Gregory C. Havrilak, Ph.D.

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571-237-8946

Office Hours: TBD

# Course Goals

To provide an intellectual framework and analytical tools for students to discuss, reflect upon and understand the foundations and major players in the development of political theology, and the interaction between politics and the church.

# Learning Objectives

The following objectives are built into the pedagogy of this course syllabus:

1. To provide an awareness, knowledge & understanding of the primary historical, philosophical and ecclesial sources of political theology
2. To help students recognize the interaction between politics and religion
3. To critically examine how secular and religious discourse critique each other
4. To present the major players in the development and influence of political theology
5. To help students formulate personal positions on the role of theology in public life

# Evaluation

Students are expected to read assigned texts, watch weekly lecture slides, submit written as- signments, participate in discussion, as well as display an ability to absorb, comprehend, and analyze the course material.

# Course Requirements

* + Attend class
  + Reading Assignments
  + Bi-Weekly Discussion Board Posts & Responses
  + Submit three short analytical essays (3 pages each, max) on assigned readings. Topics will be announced one week in advance
  + Study Group Project
  + Submit one 20-page research paper; DLS has additional requirements

No exams are given in this course.

# Grading Policy

Final grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. Discussion Board Postings 24% (8 posts X 3 points each)
2. Analytical Essays 30% (3 X 10 points each)
3. Study Group Project 16%
4. Final Research Paper 30%

# Grade Table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 100-93 |
| A- | 92.99-90 |
| B+ | 89.99-88 |
| B | 87.99-83 |
| B- | 82.99-80 |
| C | 79.99-70 |
| F | 69.99-0 |

**Disabilities Statement**

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite

335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing accommoda- tions in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies

# Reading Assignments

# Required readings for each week are listed below, and should be completed before class. All others are highly recommended. Shorter articles will be uploaded to CANVAS. Additional web- sites and recently declassified government documents will be made available online.

# Analytical Essays

Three analytical essays based on course readings and slide lectures are spaced throughout the course. Students can choose from a selection of questions to respond in a 500–750-word essay (3 pages max, doubled spaced). Questions will be posted one-week in advance.

# Discussion Board Posting

Students may respond to course readings and class lectures by posting their comments on the course’s Discussion Board. You will also be responding to classmate’s postings. In many ways this bi-weekly discussion becomes the lifeblood of the course.

**Study Group Project**

Study groups will be formed to work on a 15-minute class presentation. Depending on class size and local social distancing requirements, students will have the opportunity to work together on a special project for presentation to the class.

# Required Texts

* William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. Bailey, Craig Hovey, eds. *An Eerdmans Reader on Con- temporary Political Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012). ISBN: 978-0-8028-6440-6. Pbk. $32.99.
* Johann Baptist Metz, *Faith in History and Society,* Trans. by J. Matthew Ashley (New York: Crossroads, 2011). Pbk. ISBN: 10:08245-2554-X. $34.00.
* , *A Passion for God: The Mystical-Political Dimension of Christianity*

(New York: Paulist Press, 1998). Pbk. ISBN: 0-8091-3755-0. $19.95.

* Elizabeth Phillips, *Political Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2012). Pbk. ISBN: 978-0-567- 26354-4. $21.39.
* John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus,* 2nd Ed., (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994). Pbk. ISBN:13:978-0-8028-0734-2. $16.60.
* **Recommended, not required**

*The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology,* eds. Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh (Ox- ford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004). Pbk. ISBN: 13:978-0-631-22342. $43.62.

Eduardo Mendieta, Ed., *The Frankfurt School on Religion: Key Writings by the Major Thinkers*

(New York: Routledge, 2005).

John Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* (Oxford: Blackwell Publish- ers, 2006). Pbk. ISBN:0-631-18948-3. $43.96.

Oliver O’Donovan and Joan Lockwood O’Donovan, *From Irenaeus to Grotius: A Sourcebook in Christian Political Thought* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans, 1999).

Thomas R. Rourke, *The Social and Political Thought of Benedict XVI* (Lantham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011). ISBN: 978-0-7391-4280-6. $26.99.

Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, *et al.* Ed., *Political Theology: Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2013).

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**Week One**

**Jan 10 (Wednesday is a Monday)**

# Introduction to the Course; What is Political Theology?

**Enlightenment Roots of Political Theology; The Four Approaches to Political Theology**

Readings: Elizabeth Phillips, *Political Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2012), 1-40.

William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. Bailey, Craig Hovey, “Introduction,” in William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. , Craig Hovey, eds, *An Eerdmans Reader on Contemporary Political Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012), *1-XXIV,* listed hereafter as ER.

Judith Butler, *The Power of Religion in the Public Square* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), sections posted on CANVAS.

# Week Two

# Jan 15 No Class: Rev Martin Luther King Observance

# Week Three

# Jan 22

**The Frankfurt School: Theodore Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Walter Benjamin, Ernst Bloch, Jürgen Habermas**

***Discussion Board Posting 1*** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM; response by Sunday, 11:59 PM)

Readings: Phillips, 42-50.

Heinz Duthel, *The Frankfurt School* (Germany: 2011), sections posted on CANVAS.

Theodore Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Ernst Bloch, Bertolt Brecht, *Aesthetics & Politics: Radical Thinkers* (London: Verso Publishing, 2007), sections posted on CANVAS.

Jürgen Habermas, Joseph Ratzinger, *The Dialectics of Secularization* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2010), sections posted on CANVAS.

**Week Four**

# Jan 29

**The First Generation of Political Theologians *Discussion Board Posting 2*** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM) **Carl Schmitt**

# Johann Baptist Metz

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology II* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2008), sections posted on CANVAS.

J.B. Metz, “Theology in the New Paradigm: A Political Theology,” ER, 316-326.

, *Faith in History and Society* (New York: Crossroads, 2011), English Trans. by J. Mat- thew Ashley.

, “’Politische Theologie’ als fundamentale Theologie der Welt,” in *Zum Begriff der neuen Politischen Theologie: 1967-1997* (Munich: Matthias-Grünewald, 1997). Optional.

M. Xhaufflaire, *La ‘theólogie politique’: Introduction à la théologie politique de J.B. Metz* (Paris: 1972). Optional.

# Week Five

# Feb 5

*First Analytical Essay Distributed*

# The First Generation of Political Theologians Johann Baptist Metz, Con’t

***Discussion Board Posting 3*** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

J.B. Metz, *The Passion for God* (New York: Paulist Press, 1998), English Trans. by J. Matthew Ashley.

J. Michael Ashley, “Johann Baptist Metz,” *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology,* eds. Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004), 241-255. Optional.

, “’Politische Theologie,’ in der Diskussion,” in *Discussion zur “Politischen Theologie”,*

ed. Helmut Peukert (Mainz: Matthias-Grünwald, 1968). Optional.

# Week Six

# Feb 12

*First Analytical Essay Due*

# The Second Generation of Political Theologians

**Post Liberalism, Radical Orthodoxy, “Contextual” Theologies**

Readings: Phillips, 50-54.

James K.A. Smith, *Introducing Radical Orthodoxy: Mapping a Post-Secular Theology* (Grand Rap- ids: Baker Academic, 2004). Sections posted on CANVAS

Angie Pears, *Doing Contextual Theologies* (Oxford: Routledge, 2010), sections posted on CANVAS.

# Week Seven

# Feb 19 No Class

# Presidents’ Day

**Week Eight**

**Feb 26**

**Liberation Theology: Gutiérrez, Sobrino**

***Discussion Board Posting 4*** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM) Weekly Slide Presentation

Gustavo Gutiérrez, *A Theology of Liberation* (New York: Maryknoll, 2010). Sections posted on CANVAS.

Jon Sobrino, “*The* Central Position of God in Liberation Theology, ER, 194-216. Phillips, PT 127-140.

Roberto S. Goizueta, “Gustavo Gutiérrez,” in Peter Scott & William Cavanaugh, eds., *The Black- well Companion to Political Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2005), 288-301. Optional.

# Week Nine

# March 4 Spring Break: No Class

**Week Ten**

**March 11**

*Second Analytical Essay Distributed* **Second Generation of Political Theology The Politics of Jesus**

Anabaptism, Yoder, R. Niebuhr, David Tracy Readings: Phillips, 72-88.

John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994).

Reinhold Niebuhr, “The Grace to Do Nothing,” ER, 254-258.

William Werpehowski, “Reinhold Niebuhr,” in *Blackwell,* 180-193. Optional.

David Tracy, *Pluralism and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994), sections posted on CANVAS.

# Week 11

# March 18

*Second Analytical Essay Due*

# The Church and the Political

***Discussion Board Posting 5*** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Barth, Bonhoeffer Readings: Phillips, 57-71.

John Howard Yoder, “Sacrament as a Social Power: Christ the Transformer of Culture,” ER, 643- 546.

Karl Barth, “Church and State,” ER, 303-315. “Augustine,” IG, 104-163.

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer,” by Stanley Hauerwas, Blackwell, 136-149; William T. Cavanaugh,

“Church,” in Blackwell, 393-406. Optional.

# Week 12

# March 25

**TOPICS FOR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER APPROVED BY TODAY**

# Violence and Peace

***Discussion Board Posting 6*** (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Readings: Phillips, 89-106

Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho,* sections posted on CANVAS.

Clement of Alexandria, *Protrepticus,* sections posted on CANVAS.

Tertullian, *On the Crow,* sections posted on CANVAS; “Tertullian,” IG, 23-29. Augustine, *Reply to Faustus the Manichaean,* sections posted on CANVAS.

William Cavanaugh, *The Myth of Religious Violence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009). Optional.

# Week 13

# April 1

# NO CLASS: Easter Break

**Week 14**

**April 8**

**Liberalism and Democracy** Stanley Hauerwas, John Milbank Readings: Phillips, 111-126.

John Milbank, “The Last of the Last: Theology, Authority & Democracy,” ER, 674ff

Stanley Hauerwas, “The Politics of the Church: How We Lay Bricks and Make Disciples,” ER, 657- 673.

Posting on CANVAS from *The Hauerwas Reader.*

# Week 15

# April 15

*Third Analytical Essay Distributed*

# Secularism, Religion and Society

# The Modernist Crisis

# *Discussion Board Posting 7* (by Thursday, 11:59 PM)

Readings: Phillips, 126-140.

David Colbert, *Ten Days That Shook the World* (New York: Aladdin Publishing, 2008), sections posted on CANVAS.

Robert W. Jenson, “Eschatology,” *Blackwell,* 407-420. Optional.

# Week 16

# April 22

# *Third Analytical Essay Due*

**Creation, History and Eschatology**

St. Thomas Aquinas & Dino Bigongiari, *The Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas* (New York: The Free Press, 1997), sections posted on CANVAS

“Recent Catholic Tradition,” in James W. Skillen, Rockne M. McCarthy, eds. *Political Order and the Plural Structure of Society* (Atlanta: Emory University Press, 1991), 137-142, hereafter cited PO. Sections posted on CANVAS.

Jacques Maritain, “Man and the State,” PO, 175-196. Phillips, 141-152.

“Thomas Aquinas,” IG, 320-361.Richard John Neuhaus, *Catholic Matters* (New York: Basic Books, 2007); or *The Naked Public Square: Religion & Democracy* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988). Optional.

Charles Taylor, “Why We Need a Radical Redefinition of Secularism,” in Eduardo Mendieta, Jonathan Vanantwerpen, eds., *The Power of Religion in the Public Sphere*

**Week 17**

**April 29: Last Class**

**Religion and Conflict**

**The War in Ukraine**

Readings posted on CANVAS

**Final Research Paper Due: NLT May 5** by 11:59 PM EST.

# SUGGESTED READING LIST

St. Thomas Aquinas and Dino Bigongiari, *The Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas* (New York: The Free Press, 1997).

William Bain, *Political Theology of International Order* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2020.

B. B. Bauer, *Christliche Hoffnung und menschlichter Fortschritt: Die politische Theologie J. B. Metz als theologische Begründung gesellschaflicher Verantwortung des Christen* (Mainz: 1976).

John Berkman and Michael Cartwright, eds., *The Hauerwas Reader* (Durham, NC: Duke Univer- sity Press, 2001).

Stephen B. Bevans, *Models of Contextual Theology* (New York: Orbis Books, 1992).

, *An Introduction to Theology in a Global Perspective* (New York: Orbis Books, 2009).

Ernst Bloch, *Atheism in Crisis* (New York: Herder & Herder, 1972).

William T. Cavanaugh, *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011).

. *The Myth of Religious Violence* (Oxford: 2009).

William T. Cavanaugh, Jeffrey W. Baily, Craig Hovey, eds., *An Eerdman’s Reader on Contempo-*

*rary Political Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012).

William T. Cavanaugh, *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011).

Paul S. Chung, *Critical Theory and Political Theology* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

David Colbert, *Ten Days that Shook the World* (New York: Aladdin Publishing, 2008).

Crestan Davis, John Milbank and Slavoj Žižek, eds., *Theology and the Political: The New Debate*

(Durham: NC: Duke University Press, 2005).

John K. Downey, ed., *Loves Strategy: The Political Theology of Johann Baptist Metz* (Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 1999).

Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, *et al.* Ed., *Political Theology: Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2013).

Gustavo Gutiérrez, *A Theology of Liberation* (New York: Maryknoll, 2010).

Jürgen Habermas, Joseph Ratzinger, *The Dialectics of Secularization* (New York: Ignatius Press, 2010).

Michael Hoelzl and Graham Ward, eds*. Religion and Political Thought* (London: Continuum, 2006).

Max Horkheim, *Critical Theory: Selected Essays* (New York: Continuum, 2003).

Catherine Keller, *Political Theology of the Earth* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018).

Michael Jon Kessler, *Political Theology for a Plural Age* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).

Michael Kirwan, *Political Theology: A New Introduction* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2008).

Johann Baptist Metz, all books.

Johann Baptist Metz, with Dorothee Sölle, *Welches Christentum Hat Zukunft? Dorothee Sölle und Johann Baptist Metz im Gespräch mit Karl-Josef Kuschel* (Stuttgart: Kreuz Verlag, 1990).

Eduardo Mendieta, ed., *The Frankfurt School on Religion* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward, eds., *Radical Orthodoxy* (London: Routledge, 1999).

John Milbank, *The Future of Love: Essays in Political Theology* (Norwich: SCM Press, 2009). Eduardo Mendieta, Ed., *The Frankfurt School on Religion: Key Writings by the Major Thinkers*

(New York: Routledge, 2005).

Richard John Neuhaus, *Catholic Matters* (New York: Basic Books, 2007).

, *The Naked Public Square: Religion & Democracy,* 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: 1988).

Saul Newman, *Political Theology: A Critical Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2019.

H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture* (New York: Harper, 1951).

Oliver O’Donovan, *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the Roots of Political Theology*

(Cambridge: 1996).

. *The Ways of Judgment* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).

Oliver Donovan and Joan Lockwood O’Donovan, eds., *From Irenaeus to Grotius: A Sourcebook* in

*Christian Political Thought* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999).

. *Bonds of Imperfections: Christian Politics, Past and Present* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004).

C.C. Pecknold, *Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010).

Carl Raschke, *Neoliberalism and Political Theology* (Edinburgh: University Press, 2021).

Thomas R. Rourke, *The Social & Political Thought of Benedict XVI* (Latham,, MD: Lexington Press, 2011).

Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh, Eds. *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology* (Ox- ford: Blackwell, 2004).

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters of the Concept of Sovereignty* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago, 1985).

, *Political Theology II* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2008).

James K.A. Smith, *Introducing Radical Orthodoxy: Mapping a Post-Secular Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004).

Peter Scott & William T. Cavanaugh, eds., *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology* (Ox- ford: Blackwell, 2004).

James W. Skillen & Rockne M. McCarthy, eds., *Political Order and the Plural Society* (Atlanta: Emory University Press, 1991).

Max Stackhouse, “Civil Religion, Practical Theology and Public theology: What’s the Differ- ence?” *Political Theology* 5.3 (2004): 275-293.

J. Milburn Thompson, *Introducing Catholic Social Thought* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010).

David Tracy, *Pluralism and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994).

David VanDrunen, *Politics After Christendom* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020).

M. Xhaufflaire, La ‘theólogie politique’: Introduction à la théologie politique de J.B. Metz (Paris:

1972).

# Georgetown Honor System

All students are expected to follow Georgetown’s honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at [www.georgetown.edu/honor,](http://www.georgetown.edu/honor) and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, “What is Plagiarism?”, “Sanctioning Guidelines”, and “Expedited Sanctioning Process.” Submitting material in fulfillment of the re- quirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

“In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.”

This Syllabus may be corrected and/or updated.