Gods & Governments
Legal 491R – Fall 2004

Professor Thomas Hilbink
Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
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Office Hours:
Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 p.m. or by appointment.
- I cannot stress enough how important I think it is to come to office hours – to clarify questions you may have in class, to check in on progress on projects, etc.

Course requirements:
- Regular class attendance
- Timely completion of all reading assignments (i.e. before class)
- Timely completion of all reading reflections
- Informed and thoughtful class participation
• Project on religion and the election

Grading:
• 40% for class participation
  o You will be expected to write brief replies to questions distributed before class each week. These will be collected, graded on a 1 to 5 scale, and will constitute half of your participation grade.
  o I will grade your class participation for each class session on a scale of 1 to 5. A one (1) means you didn’t talk at all (or didn’t show). If you talk out of your butt and demonstrate that you didn’t do the readings, you’ll get a two. Grades go up from there. If you are afraid to talk in class, make a point of coming to office hours on a regular basis. And be sure, then, to concentrate on your reply sheets (see above).
• 30% for religion and marriage project
  o A separate handout will discuss the particulars of this assignment.
  o Due November 10th in class
• 30% for take-home examination
  o Covers all materials assigned in course
  o Distributed in final class, due Monday, December 13th at 10:00 a.m.

Schedule for Major Course Assignments:
• November 3rd: Presentation of Election Projects
• November 10th: Final Version of Election Projects due in class
• December 8th: Take-home examination distributed in class
• December 13th: Take-home examination due at 10:00 a.m.

Course readings:
As this is a senior seminar, I presume that you have mastered the skill of reading non-fiction in large amounts. The readings are demanding and your completion of readings – along with the ability to discuss and debate such readings with your seminar-mates – will constitute a major part of your class grade. If you don’t like reading, don’t take this course. Skimming the readings the morning of class will not get you by. I will be grading you after each class based on your turned-in questions and your participation in class. If you don’t think you can handle this, take another course.

You will also have to show some initiative in obtaining the readings, as they will be found in a variety of forms and locales. See the syllabus in regards to where these readings are to be found. Claiming you couldn’t find the reading is an unacceptable excuse.

• Food for Thought: Many of the books will be sold at Food for Thought Books, 106 N. Pleasant Street in downtown Amherst. You may also wish to
search for used (and cheaper) copies on the web. I tend to use abebooks.com or alibris.com.
  o The books at Food for Thought are:

• **Course Reader**: A course reader is for sale at Collective Copies, 71 S. Pleasant Street downtown. Call first to see if they have copies ready to pickup: 413-256-6425.

• **Website**: Some readings will be available on (or through) the website. You may wish to download and print them well before you need to read them, so as to assure that you can get them in time. The Faroohar article on jstor.org may only be accessed from a UMass server-based computer. If you need me to email you a copy of the .pdf files, please contact me by Monday before class.

• **Reserve**: The books, as well as copies of the reader, are on reserve at the DuBois Library.

• **Class distribution**: Where indicated in the schedule, I will distribute some readings to you in class the week (or more) before they are to be discussed. Extra copies, should you miss class, will be in the course basket in the Legal Studies office.
Class Schedule
Subject to Change

September 8th

Introduction
  - In reader
  - distributed in class
  - distributed in class
- Articles on Roy Moore and Alabama Controversy
  - distributed in class

September 15th

Courtrooms, Religion and the Law in America
  - At Food for Thought and on reserve at DuBois

September 22nd

Understanding Religion’s Role in Envisioning America
  - At Food for Thought and on reserve at DuBois

September 29th

Understanding Religion’s Role in Shaping America: Same-Sex Marriage and the Law
  - In reader
- Additional articles distributed in class

October 6th

Understanding Religion’s Role in Envisioning America
- Pat Robertson, “Road to Victory,” Washington, DC, September 17, 1994
  - In reader
• Pat Robertson, “Citizens of Character Must Get Involved,” National Religious Broadcaster’s Convention, February 5, 1986
  o In reader
  o In reader

October 20th
Religion and Constitutionalism: Introduction
  o In reader

October 27th
Religion’s Role in the Current Election
• Articles supplied by class to be distributed

November 3rd
Presentation of Election Projects

November 10th
Final Version of Election Projects Due
Understanding Religion’s Role in Envisioning Nation and World
  o Available on campus via JSTOR database:
    http://www.jstor.org/view/0094582x/di013060/01p00500/0?config=jstor&frame=noframe&userID=8077305b@umass.edu/01cc993341005014545f7&dpi=3

November 17th
Religion and Constitutionalism: Free Exercise
  o At Food for Thought and on reserve at DuBois

November 24th
Religion and Constitutionalism: Separation of Church and State
• Newdow v. U.S. Congress, 328 F.3d 466 (2003)
  o In reader
• Additional reading to be distributed in class
December 1st

**Religion and Constitutionalism: Citizenship and Faith in Israel**
  - In reader

December 8th

**Religion, Rights and the State in the Islamic World**
  - In reader
  - At Food for Thought and on reserve at DuBois