



POIX3050

Religion and Politics

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above OR (20cp in MHIX or POIX units at 2000 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Since the eighteenth century Enlightenment philosophers have predicted that religion would vanish as capitalism, science and state separation from religion progressed. To some extent this has happened in some European countries, but on the whole, the 'secularisation thesis' has not come true. Not only is religion still with us, but in many regions of the world it has grown and its impact has become more intense. This unit examines the nature of the relationship between religion and politics by analysing the history of political thought, as well as recent developments in global and national politics.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: analyse and express arguments about the relationship between religion and politics in oral and written form.

ULO2: show familiarity with, and critically interpret, some classic and contemporary texts on the relationship between religion and politics.

ULO3: form a critical and systematic argument about concepts related to politics and religion, including secularism and secularisation, religious freedom, religious nationalism,

religious pluralism, and civil religion.

ULO4: articulate a reasoned response to contemporary controversies about religion and politics in the light of the controversies' broader philosophical and historical contexts.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Article review	20%	No	Week 4
Essay	40%	No	Week 9
Test	40%	No	Week 13

Article review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 4**

Weighting: **20%**

Write a critical summary of one or more articles

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse and express arguments about the relationship between religion and politics in oral and written form.
- show familiarity with, and critically interpret, some classic and contemporary texts on the relationship between religion and politics.
- form a critical and systematic argument about concepts related to politics and religion, including secularism and secularisation, religious freedom, religious nationalism, religious pluralism, and civil religion.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **40%**

An essay of 2500 words, on a topic distributed during the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse and express arguments about the relationship between religion and politics in oral and written form.
- show familiarity with, and critically interpret, some classic and contemporary texts on the relationship between religion and politics.
- form a critical and systematic argument about concepts related to politics and religion, including secularism and secularisation, religious freedom, religious nationalism, religious pluralism, and civil religion.
- articulate a reasoned response to contemporary controversies about religion and politics in the light of the controversies' broader philosophical and historical contexts.

Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

An online test covering all of the content in the Unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse and express arguments about the relationship between religion and politics in oral and written form.
- show familiarity with, and critically interpret, some classic and contemporary texts on the relationship between religion and politics.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Readings will be available through the ilearn site.

All lectures are recorded and available on ilearn.

Participation is through the online discussion page.

Unit Schedule

Week 1. A Secular Age?

Week 2. Inventing 'Religion' and the 'Secular'

Week 3. The Two Cities: Augustine to Luther and Beyond

Week 4. The Enlightenment(s) and Religion

Week 5. Toleration and the Separation of Church and State

Week 6. A Secular State? Religion and Secularism in Australian History

Week 7. Reading Week.

Week 8. Religious Liberty in the Modern World, part 1.

Week 9. Religious Liberty in the Modern World, part 2: Faith in the Public Sphere

Week 10. Revolt against Modernity? Fundamentalism

Week 11. Migrations of the Holy: Nationalism and Human Rights

Week 12. Conclusion: Can religion and politics be separated?

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)

- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.