Faith and Politics
GTHTEO 7241/3 050
Fall 2015, Thursdays, Sept 10 – Nov 26
Time 6 to 9p.m. Room: 1MS25

Instructor
Bill Blaikie, Professor of Theology and Politics, United Centre for Theological Studies
Telephone 295-6339 Email b.blaikie@uwinnipeg.ca Office hours: By appointment.

Introduction
In this course, we will explore the way that the Christian faith has informed various political movements, parties, and politicians in the 20th and 21st centuries, primarily in Canada, but also in the United States, and how these differing faith perspectives have engaged society, each other, and contentious public policy issues.

Learning Outcomes
Students will have the ability to:
1. express an in depth knowledge of how a particular faith perspective has informed the politics of participants in a particular public policy debate.
2. articulate how a particular faith perspective informed the politics of a significant public figure or political party in North America.

MDiv Programme Outcomes
The above learning outcomes contribute to the following MDiv Programme Outcomes:
• Articulate the contextual nature of theology using critical tools to discern the social signs of the times both locally and globally with the awareness of the pluralistic, inter-religious, secular and Indigenous contexts of Winnipeg and Turtle Island
• Demonstrate through reflection and practice, the capacity to proclaim and practice the Gospel with integrity and sensitivity in a variety of contexts, especially given the pluralistic and largely secular context of twenty-first century Canada, and the Christian imperative to social justice as an inherent Gospel value.

Course Requirements
Essay on a political theologian, 10 to 15 pages, due week of October 22nd
Topic determined by mutual agreement between professor and student 30%

Essay, 10 to 15 pages, on an issue that was politically controversial, and elicited various faith, or faith inspired contributions to the debate, due week of Nov. 19th
Topic to be determined by mutual agreement between professor and student 30%

Class presentation on a Canadian political party or politician with faith inspired roots and/or a faith informed perspective.
Topic to be determined in consultation with professor 20%

Book Review. 5-10 pages Due week of Oct 8th.
- Book determined by mutual agreement between student and professor. 15%
Class participation 5%

Grading Scale

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Book Review should include:

1. A complete citation of the book under review in proper form (Chicago Style).
2. Introductory statement.
3. Information about the author.
5. Summary of content—this is an overview stressing the main ideas and arguments employed by the author (these first 5 items should be 2-3 pages).
6. Critique—an assessment of the work in terms of its content and style, and an evaluation of its relevancy or usefulness in relation to the course topic. You should point out both positive and negative aspects of the book. The review should also set the book in the context of other books written on the subject.
7. Concluding statement.

Research Essay should include:

1. Evidence of thorough research (8-10 books and several articles, normally including the courses’ Required Textbooks and Recommended Readings).
2. Evidence of understanding, critical thought and originality.
4. Must be related to the focus of the course.
5. Good organization, i.e., Intro, Body (possible with sections), and Conclusion.
6. Correct form: Title page, footnotes, bibliography (Chicago Style).
7. Proof read for grammatical and spelling errors.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that consists of presenting either someone else’s words, including paraphrasing, or someone else’s ideas as your own. REFERENCE YOUR SOURCES CONSISTENLY THROUGHOUT.
Form and Style in Academic Writing

Normally papers submitted for evaluation should be produced with a word processing program, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font, and include a title page, footnotes and bibliography in Chicago Style.


Inclusive Language

The United Centre for Theological Studies encourages the use of inclusive language for human beings and God in both classroom discussions and in academic writing. Inclusive language is that which does not discriminate based on characteristics of gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, or minority. Students are expected to take seriously the underlying theological and pastoral issues related to inclusive language. Further explanation of the significance of this aspect in communication can be found in The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing (available at UofW e-books) and The United Church’s inclusive guidelines, which affirm the use of a variety of human and other metaphors, images and pronouns for God in church documents, worship and liturgy.

Required Reading

-students are expected to read Christianity and the Social Crisis, by Walter Rauschenbusch, 1907 by Week Two – copies of book available from instructor, subject to number of students registered

“Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis,” New Year’s Day Statement 1983 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – needs to be read before Week Four – copies available from instructor

Tentative Schedule of Classes and Weekly Readings (all topics listed on the outline may not be covered)

Week One
Overview of Faith and Politics in the North American context
Week Two  
The Social Gospel Tradition in Canadian Politics  
Readings:  
*The Social Passion-Religion and Social Reform in Canada*, Richard Allen, pp. 3-17  

Week Three  
The Evangelical Tradition in Canadian Politics  
Readings: *The New Canada*, Preston Manning, pp. 6-28, 94-110  
*From the Tower of Babel to Parliament Hill*, Brian Stiller, pp. 60-74

Week Four  
Liberation Theology, Catholic Social Teaching, and Pope Francis  

Week Five  
Ecumenical Convergence and Coalitions for Justice

Week Six  
The Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-Vietnam War Movement.  
Reading: *An Ethic for Christians and Other Aliens in a Strange Land*, William Stringfellow, pp. 67-94  
*God in Public – Four Ways American Christianity and Public Life Relate*, Mark G. Toulouse, pp 89-96, 155-164

Week Seven  
The Religious Right, Culture Wars, Ecumenical Re-alignment, Barack Obama  
Readings: *Thy Kingdom Come–An Evangelical’s Lament*, Randall Balmer, pp. 1-34  
*The Audacity of Hope*, Barack Obama, pp. 195-226

Week Eight  
Class Presentations

Week Nine  
Class Presentations

Week Ten  
Globalization, Free Market Fundamentalism, and The Religious Right  
Readings: *The Great Economic Debate–An Ethical Analysis*, J.Philip Wogaman, pp. 77-9  
*Caritas in Veritate*, Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, Chapter Three

Week Eleven  
Faith and the Politics of the Environment

Week Twelve
Post-Christendom Faith and Politics

Academic Policies
Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Winnipeg’s policies on appeals and academic misconduct such as plagiarism or cheating.
(United Centre for Theological Studies Calendar - Academic Regulations and Policies)

Withdrawal
A student who is considering withdrawing from the course is requested to speak with the instructor and check the last date to withdraw without academic penalty in the United Centre for Theological Studies Calendar or by contacting the United Centre for Theological Studies Theology office at (204) 988-7685. To withdraw from a course, students must notify the United Centre for Theological Studies office in person (form available), in writing or by facsimile as a signature is required.

Security and Community Ambassador Services
The phone number for UW security guards is 6666 on campus and (204) 786-6666 off campus. In emergencies, police, fire, and ambulance services can be reached by dialing 8-911 on campus. During the fall and winter there are Safe Walk and Safe Ride programs. Both can be contacted by phoning 9272 on campus and will escort faculty, staff, and students to their cars. More information and a personal safety brochure are available at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/security-index](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/security-index). The UW Security & Community Ambassador Services seeks to guarantee the safety of students, faculty, staff, visitors and other users of University of Winnipeg facilities, while preserving a philosophy of unhindered community access.

Accessibility Services
Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student’s disability or medical condition remains confidential. [http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility).

Ethics Committee
Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection.
Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html for submission requirements and deadlines.

Respectful Working and Learning Environment

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Scent-Free Environment

UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.