Instructor: Andrea Paras

Course Description: How does religion shape politics, and how does politics shape religion? This course will examine this relationship in a global context, first by exploring theoretical debates about secularism and the nature of religion, and then by examining these debates in a number of different empirical contexts. Specific topics and issues to be considered in the course may include comparative secularism, religious minority rights, religious extremism and conflict, and religion in development.

The course considers the following questions:

- How are religion and secularism related and how do they inform each other? How have global processes impacted this relationship?
- How can we understand the recent "resurgence of religion" in historical context? Is this a recent phenomenon, or a continuation of practice?
- Under what conditions is religion a source of peace or conflict?
- How can academics and policymakers understand and respond to religious dynamics in global politics?

The goals of the course are:

- To understand, both theoretically and empirically, the dynamic relationship between religion and global politics.
- To analyse and evaluate religion and politics from different perspectives, using textual analysis and interpretation.
- To develop written arguments about religion and politics in a variety of genres.
- To develop oral communication skills through class presentations.

Prerequisites: 1.50 credits at the 3000 level in Political Science or equivalent.

Day/Time: Wednesdays from 2:30-5:20pm.

Location: MACS 301