The purpose of this course is to provide all interested students with an introduction to the study of politics and religion. Topics will include an exposition of the core beliefs of a selection of the world's great religions, an analysis of the historical and contemporary significance of religion, and a comparison of the everyday impact of religious belief on political and economic behavior. Cases are drawn from Judaism; Christianity; Islam; Buddhism; and the Confucian tradition.

**Grades** will be based on one of two options:

A.) One take-home mid-term (40%)

   One take-home final (60%)

B.) One 12-16 page **Research Design**. If you choose B, you must present me (Victor Magagna) with a concrete research proposal no later than **Friday, April 12th**.

**Readings:**

- Weeks 1-3: Put and Camp, *American Grace*

- Weeks 3-5: Esposito, *The Future of Islam*

- Week 5-10: D. Bell, *East Meets West*

Recommended: Peters, *The Monotheists,*

LIU *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*