

W&M in Washington

Fall 2007

Religion and the Federal State (Taught by Professor Marc Lee Raphael)

The focus of this semester is the relationship, in the United States, between numerous religious groups and the federal state, and in Germany, between the Jews and the National Socialist federal state. In one (R.S. 309), we will examine the background (history of race) to this relationship, the relationship itself (The Final Solution), and the responses (Jewish and non-Jewish) to the Nazi state. We will do so in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In the other (R.S. 308), we will investigate the religious philosophy and the political "arm" of numerous religious groups and each group's relationship (via position papers and a Washington lobbying office) to the federal state. We will do so in cooperation with the Washington offices of denominational religious groups, e.g. the Justice and Peace Washington Action Network of the United Church of Christ.

Washington and Religion

(INTR 490: 4 credit hours)

This course focuses on either the offices of religious groups that have lobbying offices in Washington, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, or other organizations that have some connection to the federal state. Students will work with these key institutions and meet various leaders who help shape the role of religion and the federal state. Students will take their experiences with these organizations and create individual projects that allow them to explore a specific topic in more detail.

The Holocaust

(Religious Studies 309: 4 credit hours) Meets T/R, 2:00-3:45pm

This course studies the history of racism, the best way to understand how the Nazis could take time out from fighting World War II to systematically exterminate six million Jews, the extermination plan itself, and the responses (theological, political, individual, group) to the genocide. It will utilize, in part, the collections and the personnel of the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Topics in Religious Studies: Religion and the United States Government

(Religious Studies 308: 4 credit hours) Meets T/R, 4:45-6:30pm

This course will be a combination of studying, critically, the major theological texts of numerous American religious groups, and then becoming aware of how they put these religious values and doctrines into political action. The usual format will be one day of study about the religion through texts, and a second day of study of the religion through a presentation by a Washington representative of the group.