Religion has always been deeply enmeshed in American political life, despite the American tradition of separation of church and state. Today, some fear an erosion of that separation, while others complain that we live in a "culture of disbelief" where religion is not respected. This course examines controversies surrounding religious belief, religious practice and religious diversity in industrial America, giving students the opportunity to decide for themselves what the place of religion in modern America is and ought to be. Students of diverse religious backgrounds are most welcome, but a respect for the beliefs of others is a condition of participation. Overlap: RELS 355/555 Religion and Politics in America and Hist 531 Religion and Politics in America.

B. Course Effective Dates: 02/24/1998 - 09/05/1999 09/06/1999 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Can examine, articulate and reflect upon one's own ethical views as these relate to the historical development of religion and American society, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.
2. Recognizes the diversity of religious-ethical traditions in American history, e.g. among Americans of different races, regions, national origins and classes, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.
3. Can discuss religiously-based political differences in American society in an historically-informed and civil fashion, consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctively characteristic of upper-division courses completed at a comprehensive university.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies
None

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
3. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp
1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
G. Special Information

Overlap: RELS 355/555 Religion and Politics in America.