

Exploring Religious Questions Series — Fall 2009

The Office of Church Relations, Gustavus Adolphus College

Questions: 507-933-7001

“The U.S. and the Abrahamic Faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam): The Public Role of Religion”

In recent years, one of the debated questions has been what role Christianity should play in politics and in governmental policy. The U.S. has always had denominational diversity, but religious diversity is a more recent development. To what degree should increased religious diversity influence our expectations?

Jews have been in the U.S. since the 1650s, but their full participation was acknowledged only after World War II. What does Judaism say about participation in public life? More recently Muslims have arrived in significant numbers. What does Islam say about the same question? What do the several Christian traditions (Reformed, Anabaptist, Roman Catholic and Lutheran) say about participation in public life?

We will examine how religious priorities actually do affect current American politics and then ask: what is the appropriate role for religions? How does our answer to this question affect issues such as religious dress in public schools, posting the Ten Commandments in court rooms, and laws regarding marriage?

This mini-course is organized by the Reverend Dr. Darrell Jodock. Please register in advance.

Instructor:

Dr. Darrell Jodock, with help from faculty in the Religion and Political Science Departments.

WHEN: Mondays 7:00–9:00pm October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9, and 16

WHERE: Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
Olin Hall, Room 103

WHO: Anyone who wants to explore this topic. Everyone is welcome!

COST: \$30/person (Registration Deadline: October 7, 2009)

TO REGISTER: Please complete the form below and return with payment to:
Gustavus Adolphus College, Office of Church Relations
800 West College Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082-1498

A number of area congregations have partnered with the Office of Church Relations to identify topics of interest for this not-for-credit mini-course, which is the third in our Exploring Religious Questions Series.

----- [detach form below] -----

Registration Form for the Spring 2009 Exploring Religious Questions Series

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____ Home Church (City): _____

Payment enclosed with registration (check payable to Gustavus Adolphus College)

Questions? Please contact the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus 507-933-7001