



## DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, HISTORY OF IDEAS, AND RELIGION

### **RT2414 Religion and Politics in the United States, 7.5 credits**

Religion och politik i USA, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Reading list for RT2414, to be valid from spring semester of 2024**

Reading list was confirmed by Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on 2023-12-14 to be valid from 2024-01-14.

See appendix.

# RT2414 Religion and Politics in USA

Literature (in the order they should be read)

Noll, Mark A. *The Work We Have to Do: A History of Protestants in America*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Dayton, Donald. *Rediscovering an Evangelical Heritage: A Tradition and Trajectory of Integrating Piety and Justice*. Baker Academic, 2014.

Noll, Mark A. *God and Race in American Politics: A Short History*. Princeton University Press, 2008.

Steven P. Millies, *Good Intentions: A History of Catholic Voters' Road from Roe to Trump*. Liturgical Press Academic, 2018, **OR**

R.R. Reno. *Return of the Strong Gods: Nationalism, Populism, and the Future of the West*. Gateway Editions, 2019.

Cremer, Tobias. *The Godless Crusade: Religion, Populism, and Right-Wing Identity Politics in the West*. Cambridge University Press, 2023. (Ch. 1-3, 12-17.)

Denker, Angela. *Red State Christians: Understanding the Voters Who Elected Donald Trump*. Fortress Press 2019, 2022, **OR**

Alberta, Tim. *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism*, Harper 2023. (For example, Prologue, ch. 1-9, 15, 17, 18, Epilogue)

du Mez, Kristin Kobes, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*, Liveright Publishing, 2021, **OR**

Whitehead, Andrew L. och Samuel L. Perry. *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

In the second part of the course, you'll have a choice among various books. You will receive more details about these books in the introductory lecture and the first seminar. Therefore, you may opt to wait until after these sessions to order the books for the latter part of the course. However, it's crucial that you order the two books by Noll and the one by Dayton early on. Most of these texts are available as e-books.

Regarding the optional readings:

1. **Millies vs. Reno:** Millies, a Catholic political theorist, traces the history of Catholicism in America, especially over the last 50 years, leading up to Trump's presidency. Reno, a Catholic theologian and ethicist, offers a different perspective of the post-1945 social, cultural, and political developments. While Millies criticizes Catholic backing of the Republican party and Donald Trump, Reno offers a qualified intellectual understanding and support of the type of populist nationalism partly responsible for Trump's support.
2. **Denker vs. Alberta:** For an "inside" or "ethnographic" view of recent developments, you will choose between two journalistic (and also more personal) accounts. Denker is a pastor and journalist whose book was first published in 2019 (updated edition in 2022). Alberta is a famous American political journalist, whose book was published in December 2023. It was written in the period after Denker's book was published
3. **Du Mez vs. Whitehead/Perry:** The historian du Mez tackles gender issues, while sociologists Whitehead and Perry focuses on Christian nationalism.