

**Darren Zook**

# **Having Faith in Politics: Religion, Power, and Governance**

What role, if any, should religion play in politics? From the French system of the separation of church and state to the Vatican City's complete synthesis of the (Catholic) church and state, or from Indonesia's Muslim-majority secular democracy to the Islamic Republic of Iran, there are a seemingly endless array of ideas and examples of how to relate religion and politics. Where does the relationship work best? Where does it fall apart and even lead to violent conflict? Using examples from around the world and a broad selection of world religions, this course will explore these and other questions and try to answer the eternally vexing question of when, if ever, politics and religion can fit together.

## **Week One**

The eternal drama of religion and politics

## **Week Two**

Judaism and global politics

## **Week Three**

Christianity and global politics

## **Week Four**

Islam and global politics

## **Week Five**

Hinduism and global politics

## **Week Six**

Buddhism and global politics

## **Week Seven**

Cults, sects, and new religions in global politics

## **Week Eight**

Having faith in politics: the drama continues