Politics is always about religion, just as religion is always about politics. This is the hypothesis with which we begin. In order to “test” our hypothesis, we read works of fiction, theology, and social theory against the backdrop of the political history of Europe’s violent twentieth century. Attendance in seminar is required; unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. Grades will be determined by: 1. the quality and frequency of contribution to class discussion, including at least two times as lead discussant (30%); 2. one in-class presentation based on an original research project (25%); 3. one 18-20 page research paper due December 22 (45%).

Required Reading
All required reading is available for purchase at Underground Textbook Exchange, State Street, or on reserve at College Library.

- Michael Burleigh, *Sacred Causes: The Clash of Religion and Politics, From the Great War to the War on Terror* (HarperCollins)
- Ignazio Silone, *Bread and Wine* (Signet Classics) 978-0-451-52978-7
- Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God* (Westminster John Knox)
- Dorothee Soelle, *Against the Wind: Memoir of a Radical Christian* (Fortress)
- Jürgen Habermas, et al, *An Awareness of What is Missing: Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age* (Polity)

**Part 1: A Century of Sacred Causes**

9/8 War and Political Religions
   Reading: Burleigh, 1-122

9/15 Churches and Dictators
   Reading: Burleigh, 123-283

9/22 Resistance, Christian Democracy, and Communism
   Reading: Burleigh, 284-344

9/29 Secularization, the Fall of Communism, and 9/11
   Reading: Burleigh, 345-72; 415-83

**Part 2: Christian Voices**

10/6 Christianity as Primitive Communism
   Reading: Silone, *Bread and Wine*
10/13  Graham Greene’s Dyspeptic Catholicism  
       Reading: Greene, *The Power and the Glory*

10/20  Karl Barth Saves Protestant Theology  
       Reading: Barth, *Humanity of God*

10/27  Saint Dietrich?  
       Reading: Haynes, *The Bonhoeffer Phenomenon*

11/3   Dorothee Soelle’s Radical Christianity  
       Reading: Soelle, *Against the Wind*

11/10  Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age  
       Reading: Habermas et al, *Awareness of What is Missing*

**Part 3: Student Research**

11/17  Student Presentations

11/24  NO CLASS

**11/25-28 Thanksgiving Recess**

12/1   Student Presentations

12/8   Student Presentations

12/15  Student Presentations

**12/22  Research papers due by 5pm in 4101 Humanities**