



# Christian Nationalism and Identity Politics

## A Straight White American Jesus SEMINAR

June 2022

Register: [straightwhiteamericanjesus.com](http://straightwhiteamericanjesus.com)

### Course Description

Over the past few years, and particularly since the candidacy and election of Donald Trump in 2016, Christian nationalism has increasingly become a topic of discussion among scholars, journalists, and ordinary people talking around the proverbial water cooler. But confusion remains about what Christian nationalism *is*, and how we should understand it. Are Christian nationalists simply Christians who crave political power? Are they political opportunists who prey on the religious? Is there some other way we should understand Christian nationalism?

In this seminar, Dan Miller explores why Christian nationalism can best be understood as a form of identity politics. Rather than understanding Christian nationalists as *either* power-hungry Christians *or* opportunistic political operatives, Christian nationalism represents an expression of a complex social identity among a large swath of the American population who feel, viscerally, that the US is properly *their* country, and that they are losing it to “outsiders” and “elites.”

This seminar is intended for anyone who is curious or concerned about American Christian nationalism and wants to understand it better (just a few examples: those with family members or friends in Christian nationalism, members of faith communities who are concerned about Christian nationalism, academics, journalists, clergy members).

### Topics

#### **Week 1: What are identity and identity politics?**

In the first session, we'll explore the dynamics of group identity and identity formation, and consider how it plays out in contemporary “identity politics.” This will give us a kind of conceptual “tool box” for the sessions that follow.

**Week 2: Who are the Christian Nationalists?**

In the second session, we'll use the resources developed in the first seminar to consider the "profile" of Christian nationalists in the US. Who are they? How do they identify religiously, politically, ethnically? How does this identity drive their political views?

**Week 3: Identity and Nation: What do Christian nationalists want?**

In the third session, we'll turn our attention to the exploration of the political and social desires and drives expressed within Christian nationalism. What do Christian nationalists hope to achieve politically? What kind of society are they trying to create? What kind of America do they imagine?

**Week 4: The Futures of Christian Nationalism**

In the final session, we'll explore what the future of American Christian nationalism might be. With professing Christians representing a shrinking percentage of the US population, what will happen to Christian nationalism? How will Christian nationalism be affected by the impending "majority-minority" status of White Americans in coming decades? These and other questions will guide our final discussion.

## Every week will include three main components:

- **Exclusive Course Video:** Lecture and Discussions by Dan Miller and Brad Onishi. Students will be asked to watch these 15-20 minute videos before the weekly live seminar each week.
- **Assigned Readings:** One chapter a week from Dan Miller's *Queer Democracy* or other works to be read before the weekly live seminar each week.
- **Weekly Live Seminar:** a weekly two-hour seminar in the evening.
  - This will be a discussion-based format
  - The discussion will be based on the videos and assigned readings
  - Each participant will have a chance to ask questions, contribute ideas, and converse with the instructor and the class as a whole.

*Additionally:* In the final week each participant will schedule a **30-Minute Office Hours meeting** with Professor Miller to talk over questions, ideas, and anything else related to the course.

## What's Included:

- Four Two-Hour Live Sessions (8 Hours Total)
- Five Exclusive Videos (18-20 Minutes Each)
- One Office Hours Meeting (30 Minutes)
- Participation in the Seminar Discord Server
  - Including Weekly Discussion Topics
- Weekly Assigned Readings
- Straight White American Jesus Mug



## Details:

- **Dates and Times** for the Weekly Seminars:
  - June 2022: 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23
  - 5pm PST/8PM EDT
- Limited to 15 participants
- Price: \$400

## Professors:



**Dan Miller, PhD** is Associate Professor of Religion and Social Thought and Chair in the Department of Liberal Studies at Landmark College. His first book, *The Myth of Normative Secularism* (Duchesne 2016), was a 2016 INDIES award finalist in the category of political science. His second book, *Queer Democracy*, was published by Routledge in 2021. He has also published in *Constellations*, *Soundings*, *Political Theology*, and *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. Dan served as a Southern Baptist Minister before attending graduate school at Oxford University and Syracuse University.



**Bradley Onishi**, is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Skidmore College and Visiting Faculty at the University of San Francisco. A TEDx speaker, he has written for the *New York Times*, *Huffpost*, *Religion & Politics*, *The LA Review of Books*, *The Conversation US*, *Rewire.News*, among other outlets. He has appeared on NPR-affiliate programs and nationally ranked podcasts. His monograph, *The Sacrality of the Secular*, appeared from Columbia University Press in 2018; he has published in journals such as *JAAR*, *Sophia*, *Religions*, and *The American Book Review*. Brad was a pastor at a California megachurch in Yorba Linda (birthplace of Richard Nixon!) before attending Oxford University, L'institut catholique de Paris, and the University of California Santa Barbara.

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