

Defining and Refining Central Terms for Our Study of Christian Supremacy/Nationalism

—It's important to define our terms, IF they can be defined.

—These are “working definitions”—that may need to be refined as we go forward.

—These terms also help us identify the central issues we will address and face in this course.

—Most of these terms or phrases are threaded through the Course Description.

—They are meant to guide our thought and discussion.

"Christian Faith": an historic religion w/ many branches w/ roots in the life & teachings of Jesus of Nazareth (or Tradition)

"Evangelical": a central commitment to “sharing the Good News” (*evangel*) of Jesus as Lord and Savior

"Charismatic": faith animated by expressions of the gifts (*charisms*) of the Holy Spirit (direct line to God)

"An extreme aberration": formerly fringe movement entangling radical Christian beliefs with far-right politics

"Taking power": placing representatives in governmental positions in order to shape laws and culture

"Patriotism vs. Nationalism": love and loyalty toward one's country (“mother/fatherland,” “homeland”)

vs. exclusive and exclusionary identification with one nation; “America First”; “God Bless US”

"Driven by a myth": motivated by the false belief that America was founded by Christians for Christians in order to impose Christianity on all citizens

"Biblically-based legislation": laws shaped by particular sectarian interpretations of the Bible

"Biblical worldview" (“Biblical values/principles”): seeing the world through the lens of selected biblical scriptures and selective interpretations of those scriptures

"Judeo-Christian": a problematic term *implying inclusion* but primarily centered on Christian views and values

"Publicly-funded religious education": so-called “School Choice” vouchers that primarily funnel public monies away from public schools to private religious schools

"Replacing secular democracy": the short and long term goal of fundamentally transforming representative democracy into a religiously-centered political system

"Authoritarian (and Sectarian) Theocracy": government ruled and managed by one chosen God (via that God's assumed representatives); a Monotheistic Monarchy

"Secular": this present world; the natural cosmos; this-worldly rather than other-worldly (not anti-religious)

"Secular Constitution": a founding document based on Enlightenment principles of Reason and human fulfillment rather than on religious doctrines, theological creeds, or ecclesiastical authorities; a "godless" secular document; no mention of a Christian God; no favors for faith

"Separation of Religion and Government": a fundamental principle in the Constitution that protects both Religion and State; Government cannot control Religion and Religion cannot control Government ("Wall—or Hedge—of Separation")

"Religious Liberty/Religious Freedom": freedom of individual thought and conscience; free to believe and practice a faith, and free not to believe any faith

"Christian Supremacy": the attempt to overthrow the political order to establish exclusively Christian authority

"Dominionism": the belief that an extreme faction of the Christian faith ought to claim power and authority over all in order to bring about the Reign of God/Jesus ("Kingdom of God") on earth ("as it is in heaven")

"Spiritual Warfare": violent language, drawn from selected biblical texts, that refers to battles with demonic forces who control individuals, systems, political parties, territories

"Taking America Back": the belief that the country must be seized (as in a military victory), to "return" to a time when one faith dominated; when white, straight men held ultimate power; when "family values" were determined and directed by Fundamentalist or Evangelical Christian churches and clergy