

**PS 1275 – Religion and American Politics**  
**SCOTUS Case Analysis**

Write a 3–5-page (double-spaced, 12-point font) paper on a one of the Supreme Court cases listed below dealing with religious liberty. The goal of this assignment is for you to dive into a case and explore the nuance, complexity, and implications of these decisions. You may wish to consult the library guide on Canvas for resources that may help your research. This assignment is **due to Canvas by the start of class on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**Any direct quotations, or words that are not your own, should include a citation.**

Cases (pick one to analyze):

- *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* (2018)
- *American Legion v. American Humanist Society* (2019)
- *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru* (2020)

Your paper should use section headers to distinguish between components and should include the following information:

- Case Background, to include:
  - Who are the litigants
  - The events that resulted in the lawsuit
  - A brief summary of the lower court decisions in the lawsuit
- The main question(s) of the law the case involves at the Supreme Court
  - You should also note whether this involves the establishment clause, the free exercise clause, or both
- The arguments used by both sides to answer the main question(s) before the SCOTUS
- Identify the major legal precedent(s) of the case
- Explain the ruling
  - Which side won
  - What was the balance of judges and who was on which side
  - A summary of all opinions along with their authors and who joined them
- Implications of the case – how did the relationship, or our understanding of it, between religion and politics in the United States change; did the court adopt a new test or reject an old one; did the court signal a new interpretation of law or a new direction; how do you see the decision affecting American life?