

Topic: Does God Affect the Vote? Religion in U.S. Presidential Elections  
Facilitator: Luis Leon  
Sessions: Mondays, October 20, 27, 2008  
Time: 7-9 p.m.  
Cost: \$55 per person for both sessions

Is the United States a Christian nation? What is the role of institutional religion and popular faith in American nationhood, and what are the limits of a “secular” nation? What role did the architects of the U.S. Constitution intend for Christianity in this country, and how does that role shape and inform the American Presidency? This Salon will explore these questions, and more. We will examine America’s founding documents and statements, then focus on the role of Christianity in more recent American presidential campaigns, especially those of John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama.

Luis Leon, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. His research and teaching areas are religion, culture, and politics in the United States; Latina/o Borderlands Studies, and method and theories in the study of religion. He is the author of numerous articles, as well as a book, entitled *La Llorona’s Children: Religion, Life, and Death in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands*. He is currently working on a forthcoming book, entitled *Cesar Chavez in American Religious Politics: Remapping the New Global Spiritual Line*.