

Further reading: short annotated bibliography from my discipline ('political science/International Relations) which I judge most important for *Enhancing Life studies* (Jeffrey Haynes)

M. Duffy Toft, D. Philpott, and T. Samuel Shah, *God's Century*, New York, W. W. Norton and Co., 2011. This book is an important contribution to the contemporary debate about the role of religion in international affairs. The authors seek to explain why the political consequences of religion differ from time to time and place to place, both historically and in the current era. It is relevant for *Enhancing Life Studies* (ELS) as it highlights the historical and contemporary propensity of 'religion' to be linked to conflict in an academic discipline: International Relations.

T. Fitzgerald, *Religion and Politics in International Relations. The Modern Myth*, New York, Continuum, 2011. Fitzgerald discusses how, in his modern myth, 'religion' appears as a force of nature which either assists or threatens the sacred secular order of things. It is relevant for ELS as it questions the relevance of referring to 'religion' in the singular by pointing to considerable generic differences between religious faiths, especially between the Abrahamic religions and the so called 'Eastern' faiths: Buddhism and Hinduism.

J. Haynes, *Religion and Development: Conflict or Cooperation?*, London: MacmillanPalgrave, 2007. This book is one of the first to look at the complex relationship between religion and development, a topic ignored for decades by social scientists. It is relevant for ELS as it highlights the historical and contemporary relationship of religion with development in the global south, including how religion is often both constructive *and* destructive of attempts to develop postcolonial societies, especially in societies – that is, the majority – divided along religious lines.

P. James (ed.), *Religion, Identity, and Global Governance*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 2011. James contends that to understand international relations today, we must take into account the issue of religion. The book is relevant for ELS as it highlights the historical and contemporary propensity of 'religion' potentially to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem: that is, the capacity of religion to act as a unifier in international relations rather than a destroyer.

J. Snyder (ed.), *Religion and International Relations Theory*, New York, Columbia University Press, 2011. Snyder and his co-authors provide a definitive account of the current 'state of play' of how usefully to examine religion in international relations theory. It is relevant for ELS as it highlights the historical and contemporary propensity of International Relations to understand how 'religion' is a complex phenomenon which can either enhance or undermine life.