1. The Idea of Public Reason

Useful overview:

Essential reading:

Further reading on respect and public reason:

Further reading on the content of public reason:

General further reading:
Essay questions:
- Must laws be justified by public reasons in order to be legitimate?
- Do citizens have a duty to provide one another with public reasons within their political advocacy?
- Is public reason liberalism a plausible view?
2. Public Reason and Religion

Essential reading:

Further reading on Rawls and religion:

General further reading:
Essay questions:
• Does public reason liberalism place make objectionable demands on religious citizens?
• Do religious citizens have good reasons to reject public reason liberalism?
• Is public reason liberalism hostile to religion?
3. Further Debating Public Reason

Essential reading:

Further reading:
- All of the further readings from the week 5 are again relevant here.

Essay questions:
- Is public reason liberalism’s response to disagreement within politics plausible? If not, then what view offers a better response?
- Have critics of public reason liberalism successfully shown that it is (i) incomplete; (ii) inconsistent; or (iii) incoherent?
4. Christianity and (Public Reason) Liberalism

Useful overview:

Essential reading:
- Hollenbach, David, The Common Good and Christian Ethics (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), ch. 5. (Chs 4 & 6 are also helpful.)

Further reading on justifying toleration and religious liberty:

Further reading on justifying liberal democracy:

Further reading on religious discourse in liberal public life:

Further reading on the role of government and politics:

Essay questions:
- On what basis, if any, should Christians support liberal democracy?
- Should Christians accept the constraints on the role of religious reasons in politics endorsed by public reason liberals?
- What role should distinctively Christian moral ideas play within the public discourse of pluralistic liberal democracies?