All over the world today there is debate about the relationship between politics and religion. Go to any bookshop and you can find a range of offerings on the subject, some polemical and some considered and academic. It is the topic of the times with some seeing religion as the liberation of politics from relativism and cynicism whilst others see it as the poisoning of politics with fear and intolerance.

This lecture will explore the implications of both positions for a fuller and deeper understanding of both religion and politics.

Former West Australian Premier Geoff Gallop is the Director of the Graduate School of Government at the University of Sydney.

Professor Gallop was the Premier of Western Australia from 2001 to 2006 and served as a Minister in the Lawrence Labor Government from 1990 to 1993. In 1994 he was elected Deputy Leader of the State Parliamentary Labor Party and in 1996 he was elected Leader.

In 2001 he was awarded a Commonwealth of Australia Centenary Medal and was honoured with Life Membership of the Association for the Blind (Western Australia).

In 2003 he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and in 2006 was awarded the Honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by Murdoch University.

Professor Gallop will be introduced by The Honorable Kim Beazley, Professor of Political Science and International Relations in the School of Social and Cultural Studies at The University of Western Australia.

This lecture is part of the 2008 Humanities Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Institute of Advanced Studies at The University of Western Australia.