

Management of Religious Diversity

Code: 44041
 ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313228 Social Policy, Employment and Welfare	OT	0	2

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Teachers

María Esther Fernández Mostaza

Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The growing visibility of religions in the public sphere, coupled with contemporary processes of transformation of religious belongings and identities around the globe, places a crucial importance on the study of religions. In spite of the predictions of secularization theory, religion today remains a key element in understanding the contemporary world, both globally and locally. On the one hand, the importance of studying the relationships between migratory movements, international politics and global religious actors. On the other hand, at the local level, the diversification of urban scenarios and the emergence of new challenges for the accommodation of religious diversity.

The objective of this course is to offer a critical vision of the relationship between religion and politics in the contemporary world. The will is to explore and understand how religion has shaped, and has been shaped by, the diverse world political, social and cultural transformations. In parallel, the course addresses key issues such as the (complex) relationship between gender and religion, the links between body, spirituality and politics, as well as the articulation of religion(s) and political movements.

The course is taught from an interdisciplinary approach combining the sociological perspective together with political science, anthropology, international relations and religious studies. The program combines theoretical and critical lectures, together with an ethnography lab where empirical (and applied) research will be shared and discussed.

Competences

- Aplicar l'enfocament de gènere a l'anàlisi de la relació entre mercat laboral, cures i desigualtats socials.
- Design, implement and evaluate social policies and processes for resource redistribution and improvement of citizens' welfare, in different contexts and from a European perspective.
- Recognise the main economic, political, social and cultural transformations of complex societies in order to analyse the fundamental challenges they pose to equality and welfare.

- Use and manage bibliography and IT resources in the field of study.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the challenges posed by religious diversification to the design of public policies and models for community life.
2. Identify gender as one of the main social relations that shape the management of diversity.
3. Identify public policy's dilemmas, challenges and main characteristics when decisions are taken on social intervention in the area of management of religious diversity in Europe.
4. Use and manage bibliography and IT resources in the field of study.

Content

The course is structured around three axes, each of which develops a set of specific topics that are detailed below.

1. DEFINING RELIGION

- a. What is religion? Theoretical debates and conceptual clarification
- b. The invention of religion: Colonialism, state-nation formation and power dynamics

2. TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

- a. Secularization, pluralism, fundamentalism and globalization
- b. Believe in the diaspora: immigration, gender and religious socialization
- c. New forms of spirituality: the gender, the body and the senses

3. THE GOVERNANCE OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY? SOCIOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND LEGAL DILEMMES

- a. The visibility of religious diversity: on the street and in public institutions
- b. Religious minorities and urban governance: the case of Islam
- c. Public policies and the local governance of religious diversity

The program of the course is complemented by an ethnography lab that will complement the theoretical part. Within this Laboratory, some of the empirical case studies that will be addressed are the following:

- Religion in prison: challenges, answers and dilemmas;
- Gestational death and religious diversity: approach models;
- Literature, Islam and gender: fiction as a political weapon, and
- Local management of diversity: the case of the Office of Religious Affairs of the City Council of Barcelona.

The course will include guest lecturers and short visits to local institutions and religious communities.

Methodology

The course is structured around the three following thematic blocks:

1. DEFINING RELIGION

2. TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

3. THE GOVERNANCE OF RELIGION. SOCIOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND LEGAL DILEMMES

The course will combine theoretical sessions together with the 'Ethnography Lab' where empirical cases will be discussed.

Class attendance is compulsory requiring of 80% presence minimum.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Team work	35	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4
Theoretical sessions	35	1.4	1, 2, 3
Type: Supervised			
Ethnography Lab	20	0.8	2, 3, 4

Assessment

The subject is evaluated with three types of exercises:

1. A final non-memorative test in which the student must demonstrate that he/she has understood and assimilated the main contents of the program. This test will have a weight of 40% of the mark.
2. An empirical work (preferably in a group of three) that, with an ethnographic approach, will develop some of the topics addressed in the Lab, accompanied by group tutorials with one of the tutors. This work is 50% of the final grade.
3. Finally, although it is not mandatory to pass the subject, there will be an oral/public defense exercise for 8 minutes of the empirical work. This evaluation will be partially supervised and evaluated by experts in the subject. This test will have a weight of 10%.

The possibility of making up the final test is considered if the mark obtained is equal to or greater than 4.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Ethnography Lab	50	20	0.8	2, 3, 4
Exam	40	30	1.2	1, 2, 3
Oral Presentation	10	10	0.4	1, 2, 3, 4

Bibliography

Main references

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Specific bibliography will be provided to the students once they have participated in the Lab and selected the topic of the essay work.