

**Religions and Global Policy**

Code: 104483  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503778 International Relations	OT	4	1

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)  
Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Teachers**

Avi Astor

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

Religion remains a powerful political and social force worldwide despite past predictions that its relevance would fade with deepening processes of secularization. This course provides a critical overview of religion's influence on international relations and domestic politics. It covers an array of topics that are core to understanding how religion has both shaped and been shaped by global political transformations. These topics include:

- Religion, nationalism, and international relations
- Secularization and the changing place of religion in the public sphere
- Globalization and religious fundamentalism
- Religion and democracy
- Religion and the far right
- Religion, migration, and citizenship
- Religious pluralism and the governance of religious diversity

The course is taught from an interdisciplinary perspective that draws from the fields of sociology, political science, anthropology, and international relations.

## Competences

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Learn and analyse the impacts of the globalisation process on domestic political systems and on the behaviour of the political actors and the public.
- Make changes to methods and processes in the area of knowledge in order to provide innovative responses to society's needs and demands.
- Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Take account of social, economic and environmental impacts when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the indicators of sustainability of academic and professional activities in the areas of knowledge, integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions.
2. Analyse the sex- or gender-based inequalities and the gender biases present in one's own area of knowledge.
3. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
4. Communicate using language that is not sexist or discriminatory.
5. Consider how gender stereotypes and roles impinge on the exercise of the profession.
6. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
7. Critically evaluate the impacts of globalisation in different areas: security, environment, human rights, migrations and peace.
8. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
9. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
10. Identify the principal forms of sex- or gender-based inequality and discrimination present in society.
11. Identify the social, economic and environmental implications of academic and professional activities within the area of your own knowledge.
12. Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
13. Propose new experience-based methods or alternative solutions.
14. Propose new ways to measure success or failure when implementing ground-breaking proposals or ideas.
15. Propose projects and actions in accordance with the principles of ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights, diversity and democratic values.
16. Propose projects and actions that incorporate the gender perspective.
17. Propose viable projects and actions that promote social, economic and environmental benefits.
18. Propose ways to evaluate projects and actions for improving sustainability.
19. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
20. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

21. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
22. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
23. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
24. Weigh up the impact of any long- or short-term difficulty, harm or discrimination that could be caused to certain persons or groups by the actions or projects.
25. Weigh up the risks and opportunities of one's own ideas for improvement and proposals made by others.

## **Content**

### PART A: SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO STUDYING RELIGION AND POLITICS

- A.1. Course introduction: How do social scientists conceptualize and analyze religion?
- A.2. Religion and international relations

### PART B: MODERNIZATION AND SECULARIZATION: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

- B.1. Secularization theory
- B.2. Multiple secularities
- B.3. Modernization, secularization, and international relations

### PART C: GLOBALIZATION, PLURALISM, AND RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION

- C.1. Globalization and religious transformation
- C.2. Religious fundamentalism
- C.3. Religious pluralism and the governance of religious diversity

### PART D. RELIGION AND POLITICS

- D.1. Religion and the public sphere
- D.2. Religion and democracy
- D.3. Religion and the far right
- D.4. Religion and Geopolitics
- D.5. Religion, Nationalism and Civil Society in Eastern Europe

## **Methodology**

The course is premised on a model of interactive engagement, rather than the simple transmission of knowledge from professor to student. The classes will thus include a combination of lecture and discussion among the students about weekly assigned readings. These discussions will sometimes be held together and sometimes in small groups. The class will also include oral presentations by students and participation in in-class exercises and activities.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	48	1.92	6, 4, 11, 10, 22
Tutorials scheduled with the professors	3	0.12	
Type: Supervised			
Research paper	35	1.4	6, 1, 3, 23, 12, 8, 9, 11, 18, 15, 16, 17, 22, 19, 7, 24
Type: Autonomous			
Readings and preparation of a group presentation	22	0.88	6, 2, 3, 23, 4, 12, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 22, 20, 19, 5, 7

## Assessment

The subject will be evaluated on the basis of three main exercises:

- 1) A final exam in which students must demonstrate that they have correctly understood the main contents of the first half of the course, and that they are able to argue theoretical positions in a rigorous way. The exam will count for 45% of the final grade.
- 2) A final research project on a topic of choice selected by each student. The project will count for 40% of the final grade.
- 3) A group oral presentation on a topic related to one of the weekly seminars. The oral presentation will count for 15% of the final grade.

In addition, it is important to consider the following issues:

- Students who have not completed the course assignments will receive a grade of "Did Not Attend."
- If a student does not pass, there is the possibility of taking a 'recovery' exam. In accordance with Article 112 ter. of the UAB Academic Regulations, to participate in the recovery exam, students must have been previously evaluated for activities comprising a minimum of two thirds of the total grade for the course. Students must also have obtained a minimum grade of 3,5.
- In accordance with article 117.2 of the UAB Academic Regulations, the evaluation of repeat students may consist of a single synthesis exam. Repeating students who wish to take advantage of this possibility will need to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is to use the work of others as if it were your own. When using books, articles, websites or any other material, it is mandatory to reference the original work, clearly indicating within the text which references

correspond to which phrases or sentences. When quoting a text word by word, it is essential to put the fragment quoted in quotation marks. Plagiarism is a serious infraction, equivalent to copying on an exam. It will result in a grade of zero.

For more information on plagiarism, you can look at the guide on "How to cite and how to avoid plagiarism": <  
<https://www.uab.cat/doc/GuiaCitesiPlagiEstudiants>>. See also: <  
<https://www.uab.cat/web/study-and-research/how-to-cite-and-create-your-bibliography-1345738248581.html>>.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	45%	17	0.68	6, 23, 11, 25, 22, 20, 19, 24
Group presentation	15%	10	0.4	6, 23, 4, 10, 16, 22, 19, 7
Research paper	40%	15	0.6	6, 1, 2, 3, 23, 4, 12, 8, 9, 11, 10, 18, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 21, 20, 19, 5

## Bibliography

\* All texts will be accesible via the Campus Virtual

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## **Software**

This subject does not require use of specific software.