

Management of Religious Diversity

Code: 44041
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313228 Social Policy, Employment and Welfare	OT	0	1

Contact

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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

- 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.
- To apply the gender approach in the analysis of the relationship among labour market, cares and social inequality.

- 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. Rethinking religion

a. What is religion? Theoretical discussions and conceptual clarification

b. The invention of religion

2. Transformations of the religious landscape today

a.. Secularization, pluralism, fundamentalism and globalization

b. Believing in the diaspora: migration, gender and socialization

c. New forms of spirituality: the body and the meaning in dispute

3. Manage religion? Dilemmas and opportunities

a. Frameworks for the recognition of religious diversity, models of the Church - State relationship

b. Local management of diversity. Challenges and experiences of urban governance.

c. Accommodation in public institutions: religious diversity in prisons, hospitals and educational centers.

The program of the subject is complemented by an applied reflection laboratory that will complement the presentation of the program. Some of the practical cases that will be addressed are the following:

The subject program is complemented by an applied Reflection Laboratory that will contribute to the presentation of the program.

Some of the practical cases that will be addressed are the following:

- Stillbirth and religious diversity in hospitals
- Manifestations of religiosity in urban space
- New spiritualities; old beliefs

For the approach and deepening in the practical cases, there will be invited professors and visits outside the classroom and field work will also be carried out.

Methodology

During the theoretical sessions, the lectures will be combined with either the debate on a reading or article from the referenced bibliography, and / or the presence of a guest expert on the subject that will give a lecture with its subsequent debate. .

Class attendance is mandatory, requiring a minimum of 80% attendance.

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			
Team work	35	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4
Theoretical sessions	35	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4
Type: Supervised			
Ethnographic Lab	20	0.8	2, 3, 4

Assessment

The subject is evaluated from three types of evidence:

1. A non-rote written test in which the student must show that he / she has assimilated the main contents of the program. This test will have a weight of 30% of the grade and is not necessarily face-to-face.
2. An empirical work (preferably in a group of three people) that, with an ethnographic approach, will develop some of the topics covered in the Laboratory, accompanied by group tutorials with one of the persons in charge of the subject. The weight of this work is 50% of the final grade. There will be an oral and public defense exercise for 8 minutes of the content of the empirical work.
3. Finally, a discussion based on a paper with experts in the subject matter. This proof will have a weight of 20%.

The possibility of recovering the final test is contemplated if the grade 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 (digital) ad hoc bibliography will be provided to develop the course work, once the Laboratories have been participated in and the topic chosen.

Software

There is no specific one.