Management of Religious Diversity

Code: 44041
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

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

Contact

Name: María Esther Fernández Mostaza

Email: mariaesther.fernandez@uab.cat

Teachers

María Esther Fernández Mostaza

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisits.

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 shapyed 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 taugth 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 detailed below.

1. Rethinking religion

a. What is religion?

b. Theoretical debates around religion

c. Conceptual clarification

d. The "invention" of religion

2. Transformations of the religious landscape today

a. Secularization, pluralism, and globalization

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

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

3. Managing religion? Dilemmas and opportunities

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

b. Accommodation to public institutions: prisons, hospitals, and educational centers

Activities and Methodology

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	

During the theoretical sessions, master classes will be combined with the debate on a reading or article of the referenced bibliography and / or the presence of a guest expert in the subject treated, who will give a conference with the subsequent debate.

The program of the subject is complemented by a Laboratory of applied reflection that will contribute to the oral presentation of the topics of the program by the students, which can revolve around some of the practical cases that will be addressed:

- Gestational death and religious diversity in hospitals
- Manifestations of religiosity in urban space
- New spiritualities; Old beliefs

To deepen the practical cases, organized visits will also be carried out outside the classroom.

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.

Assessment

Continous 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

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 40% 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 (10%) of the content of the empirical work.

3. Finally, discussions based on a paper wiht experts in the subject matter.

The possibility of recovering the final test is contemplated if the grade obtained is equal to or greater than 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.

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(TEm) Theory (master)	1	Spanish	first semester	afternoon