

Degree programme	Type	Course
International Relations	OP	4

Contact lecturer

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Teaching staff

Avi Astor

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Group languages

You can consult this information at the [end](#) of the document.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Objectives

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, heritage, and geopolitics
- Ethno-religious conviviality and conflict
- 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.

Learning outcomes

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
4. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
5. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
6. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
7. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
8. Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
9. Critically evaluate the impacts of globalisation in different areas: security, environment, human rights, migrations and peace.
10. Propose new experience-based methods or alternative solutions.
11. Weigh up the risks and opportunities of one's own ideas for improvement and proposals made by others.
12. Propose new ways to measure success or failure when implementing ground-breaking proposals or ideas.
13. Identify the social, economic and environmental implications of academic and professional activities within the area of your own knowledge.
14. Analyse the indicators of sustainability of academic and professional activities in the areas of knowledge, integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions.
15. Propose viable projects and actions that promote social, economic and environmental benefits.
16. Propose ways to evaluate projects and actions for improving sustainability.
17. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
18. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
19. 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.
20. Propose projects and actions in accordance with the principles of ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights, diversity and democratic values.
21. Identify the principal forms of sex- or gender-based inequality and discrimination present in society.
22. Analyse the sex- or gender-based inequalities and the gender biases present in one's own area of knowledge.
23. Consider how gender stereotypes and roles impinge on the exercise of the profession.
24. Propose projects and actions that incorporate the gender perspective.
25. Communicate using language that is not sexist or discriminatory.

Contents

PART A: SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO STUDYING RELIGION AND POLITICS

A.1. Course introduction: How do social scientists conceptualize and analyze the relation between religion and politics?

A.2. Religion and international relations

A.3. Religion and political conflict

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

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Lectures	48	1.92	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Oral group presentation	35	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Participation and practical assignments	25	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

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.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Participation / Practical assignments	15%	6	0.24	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Group presentation	15%	10	0.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Final exam	35%	13	0.52	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Mid-term exam	35%	13	0.52	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

The subject will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- 1) Participation (15%): Students must read assigned texts before class, participate in class discussions, and complete practical assignments.
- 2) Oral group presentation (15%): The presentation will be prepared and delivered by groups of 3-4 students on a subject related to the class.
- 3) Mid-term exam (35%): The exam will consist of several short essays on topics to be specified during the course. 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.
- 4) Final exam (35%): The exam will consist of several short essays on topics to be specified during the course. Students must demonstrate that they have correctly understood the main contents of the entire course, and that they can engage critically and creatively with lectures and assigned readings.

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

- Students who have neither completed the course assignments nor taken the exams will receive a grade of "not evaluable."
- If a student does not pass, there is the possibility of a 'retake' exam. To participate in the retake exam, students must have been previously assessed in a set of activities whose evaluation comprises a minimum of two thirds of the total grade of the course. Students must also have obtained a minimum grade of 3,5 as an average for all the evaluated activities for the course in order to take the 'retake' exam. If a student takes the retake exam, the maximum possible grade for the course is a 5,0.

Single evaluation

For those who choose to undergo a single assessment, it will consist of a comprehensive exam of greater length comprising essays on material from the entire class. The revision of the final grade follows the same procedure as for the continuous evaluation, and the retake exam will be the same (a minimum of 3,5 is necessary to be able to take the retake exam).

Artificial Intelligence policy

For this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively in support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction or translations. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final result of the activity. A lack of transparency in the use of AI for class activities will be considered a lack of academic honesty and may lead to a partial or total reduction in the grade of the activity, or to greater sanctions in serious cases.

Plagiarism and other irregularities

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. In accordance with academic regulations, any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluated activity will result in a grade of 0. In the event that several irregularities occur in evaluated activities for the same course, the final grade for this course will be 0.

For more information on plagiarism, see 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>>.

Bibliography

* All texts will be accessible via the Campus Virtual

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Software

This subject does not require use of specific software.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	English	first semester	morning-mixed