1. Course Description

The course examines the role of religions along with complex structure and function of political institutions and the social changes that religious organizations play in determining the direction of government policies, explains the importance of political and social issues within the relevant social, cultural and historical context, and draws extensive examples from different regions of the world.

The following knowledge and skills are needed to study this discipline:
- To know basic and good knowledge of social sciences disciplines such as (cultural studies, social anthropology, political science, public Policy and policy public administration along with fundamental awareness of the international political and cultural space.

- To be able to identify the policy making process as a dynamic and complex activity

- To have basic academic skills, such as collecting, analyzing and logically presenting information and data on the certain topic, participating in a group discussion, writing an essay, making a presentation, etc.

a) Abstract

The course examines the role that political institutions and social changes play in determining the direction of government policies, explains the importance of political and social issues within the relevant social, cultural and historical context, and draws extensive examples from different regions of the world. The course maps patterns in state/church relationships, the scope and consequences of increased religious diversity and the growing interest in regulating the public presence of minority religions. The course provides introductions to basic concepts that have evolved to account for and manage religious change in European societies, such as secularization, secularism/post-secularism and multiculturalism.

**Learning Objectives**

Equip students through the general concepts and theoretical knowledge of

- The political management of religious change in Europe and emerging economies of the world including the dwindling attendance in churches, the growing presence of Muslim religious practices and the increase in people with no religious affiliation.

- The course shall study the impact of the religion in the return to the conservative and populist politics world wide

- The course shall have a global outlook in analysing the comparative impact
of the religious organizations in the policy making spaces.

- The policymaking and governance of religion in regional institutions like the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights.

2. Learning Outcomes Having mastered the course, the students are expected:

   To:

   ✓ Have the **substantial knowledge, comparative material** and **critical analytical tools** to gain deeper insights into - and educate the judgment on - the principled issues at stake in the various liaisons between religion and politics in the social policy making spheres.

   ✓ The students shall be aware of the main trends and current affairs in the politico-religious landscape of **Asia, Africa and Europe**. This will include comparisons with the landscape in other parts of the world, in particular the US.

   ✓ Be in the position to identify the main **sociological and theoretical** debate of secularization and de-secularization (the historical processes and their underlying causes).

   ✓ Students will learn about the debates in **public policy and political theory** on the viability and continued justification of secularism versus the alternatives of religiously based world views.

   ✓ Students will have the knowledge to critically examine the invisible thread of religious affiliation and identity in the political and social policy making even in the secular spaces.

3. Be able to:

   ✤ Ability to contextualize religion-political changes and contestations in different parts of the world,

   ✤ The capacity to examine the impact religion has on the policy making, to understand where these processes come from and to discuss where they may be headed.
- Ability to examine and assess policies on religion in different parts of the world in general, and to discuss their influence on religious practices.
- Ability to analyze and summarize court cases and policy papers on religion from around the world in the context of ECHR, UNHCR and ICPPR perspective.

4. To obtain skills to:

✓ To gain the knowledge about various debate and theoretical discussion on the secularization and de secularization of the social policy
✓ Have the possibility to create the simulated project report for the state and non-state organizations for the policy making on the basis of the religious questions and debate
✓ Analyze and explain through the critical perspective on the cultural relativism and beyond
✓ To examine the efficacy of the limits on secular vs communal debate and to test the idea beyond
✓ Design and propose customized solutions keeping a holistic perspective on the issue of the issue of the social policy making and understand the role of the different actors

5. Course Plan

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<th>№</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Contact hours</th>
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<td>Challenged secular cases. post modern policy spaces in EU</td>
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<td>Political Climate Change – From multiculturalism to assertive conservative</td>
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<td>social identity – Shaping up of the policy space</td>
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<td>The agenda setting by religious organizations</td>
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<td>Mid Term</td>
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**6. Reading List**

**1. Required Reading**


Optional Reading


Grading System

**Course Grade Criteria**

*Continuing assessment consists of grading students’ regular class participation and active presence, the home assignment, midterm exam and the final paper and group presentation.*

- their knowledge of required readings and their acquaintance with at least some of the recommended readings;

- their ability to collect information on a particular topic independently;

- their ability to analyze and generalize the collected information and data;
- their ability to present their material, point of view and arguments;
- their ability to participate in a group discussion
- their ability to discuss other students’ work

1. Please make sure that your papers make an argument and are analytical (that is, discuss several important themes using specific examples from the readings); purely descriptive papers will receive lower grades.

2. All papers should be emailed to me and my teaching assistant by the beginning of class for which it is due, unless another due date and time has been given. No hard copies of any written work need to be turned in unless requested.

3. Unless you have made arrangements with me beforehand, late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day they are late, particularly when papers are related to the discussion that will take place in class that day.

4. Please note: Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If you borrow ideas, writings, etc., from other people and do not give them credit, the assignment will be given an automatic zero, and you will most likely be given a NC in the class.

Cumulative grade for current work formula is:

\[ G_{final} = 0.7 \cdot G_{cumulative} + 0.3 \cdot G_{exam} \]

where
Cumulative = 0.2 active participation and presence in the class + 0.3 Mid term examination + 0.2 Group presentation and participation in the Project work + 0.3 Final paper

The discipline is taught during two modules and there is an active and evolving evaluation where active and competent participation at tutorials coupled with the home work is an important contributing factor to the final grades. It is to be noted that the students having less than 80 percent of attendance shall have to give the additional test on the thematic that are taught in the classes.

7. Examination Type
Both Mid-term and the final exam will be held in the form of presentation based on the content of student’s final essay.

8. Methods of Instruction
The course is built upon the combination of modern educational techniques. It combines active and interactive forms of teaching. It relies more on discussion and group work besides the conventional lecturing.

So the students are supposed to actively participate in the in-class group work. They are also expected to do their homework and additional reading.

9. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)
The course requires a computer (laptop) and projector for Power Point presentations.