

ECTS Syllabus

Course Title	Religion and Politics				
Course Code	PGT-413				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	1 st Cycle				
Year / Semester	2 nd Year/ Spring				
Teacher's Name	Dr. Yiannos Katsourides				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	1 or 2 (3 hours per week)	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	Throughout the 20th century, scholarly discussions, and to some extent consensus, foresaw the waning influence of religion as a societal force. This was attributed to processes such as modernization, scientific and technological advancements, social progress, or Communist revolutions. Contrary to these predictions, religion has demonstrated little indication of diminishing in public significance. Various events, such as the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the emergence of the Religious Right in the United States in the 1980s and beyond, outbreaks of sectarian violence in places like Northern Ireland, India, Lebanon, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the rise of militant Islamic groups like Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, and ISIS, the 9/11 attacks in the US, and the role of religion in supporting democratic movements in parts of Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia, all underscore religion's enduring impact on social and political life. Recognizing this, social and political scientists have come to understand that religion is a force that demands better comprehension. Religion and politics, both contentious subjects, have become the focal point of heated debates in recent decades across the social sciences. This course provides an introduction to the intersection of religion and politics. It delves into the social role of religion, concentrating specifically on its role in politics, broadly defined to encompass not only government but also contests over the exercise of social, political, and economic power. The course explores a diverse array of issues, ranging from examining the interplay between modernity, religion, and secularism to exploring the connection between religion and terrorism, as well as the role of religion in either supporting or opposing democracy and social change. Various religious traditions are explored, with cases drawn from around the world. <u>The main objectives of the course are to:</u> • Introduce the intricate interplay between religion and politics, highlighting the diverse nature of their relationship.				

	• Explore ongoing discussions pertaining to the intersection of politics and religion in contemporary contexts. • Scrutinize the foundational factors influencing the dynamic relationship between politics and religion • Explore the various religions present in the region of South Eastern Mediterranean and in Europe • Critically examine the dynamic interaction between religion and politics • Equip students with conceptual and analytical tools to study the role of religion in processes of political contestation, cooperation, and change • Facilitate students' comprehension of contemporary global relationships between religion and politics • Aid students in gaining evaluative insights into diverse facets of both religions and politics • Foster the development of critical thinking, research, and analytical skills through readings, discussions, and assignments		
Learning Outcomes	<u>After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:</u> 1. Gain insight into the primary ways in which religious communities and political institutions interact. 2. Describe and analyze diverse perspectives on how religion is understood within political contexts. 3. Evaluate how general theories concerning the role of religion in politics effectively engage with the experiences of various traditions and countries. 4. Acquire an understanding of the diversity inherent in religious organizations and experiences worldwide. 5. Comprehend various concepts of secularism and critically assess the key criticisms that the secularization theory faces. 6. Recognize religion as a multifaceted entity encompassing beliefs, formal institutions, elements of group identity, component of civil society, and actors at local, national, and international levels. 7. Examine the relationship between religion and violence. 8. Develop enhanced written and verbal communication skills, as well as refined critical thinking abilities. 9. Cultivate learning skills that empower self-directed education and enable academic work at a professional level within the intended field. 10. Demonstrate efficient utilization of libraries, bibliographical material, and academic research		
Prerequisites	None	Required	
Course Content	1. Introduction to the Study of Religion and Politics 2. The Sociology of Religion 3. Modernity, Secularization, and the Persistence of Religion 4. Religion in Social Movements 5. Religion and Nationalism 6. Religion, Violence, and the 'Clash of Civilizations' 7. The Politics of Church and State 8. Religion and Political Parties / The Rise and transformation of Religious Parties		

	9. Religion and Identity Politics 10. Religion and Immigrant Incorporation in Europe 11. Muslims in Europe 12. Religion and Liberal Democracy
Teaching Methodology	Lectures, Discussions, Assignments, Debates, videos, guest lectures, field trips
Bibliography	Grace Davie and Lucian N. Leustean (ed.) (2021), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Europe</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Yilmaz Esmer, Thorleif Pettersson (2009), 'The Effects of Religion and Religiosity on Voting Behavior', in Russell J. Dalton (ed.), Hans-Dieter Klingemann (ed.), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Jones Peter (2020), <i>Essays on Culture, Religion and Rights</i>, ECPR Essays, Routledge. Modood Tariq (2019), <i>Essays on Secularism and Multiculturalism</i>, ECPR Essays, Routledge. Ozzano Luca (2021), <i>The Masks of the Political God: Religion and Political Parties in Contemporary Democracies</i>, ECPR Studies in European Political Science, Routledge. Tim Dowley (2018), ed., <i>Introduction to World Religions</i>, 3rd ed., Augsburg Press. Jonathan Fox (2018). <i>An Introduction to Religion and Politics: Theory and Practice</i>. New York: Routledge. Jeffrey Haynes, (ed.). (2009). <i>Routledge Handbook of Religion and Politics</i>. New York: Routledge. Anthony Gill (2001), 'Religion and Comparative Politics', <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>, June, pp. 117–38. Charles T. Mathewes (2006), 'An Interview with Peter Berger', <i>The Hedgehog Review</i>, Spring/Summer, pp. 152-161. Anna Grzymala-Busse (2012). 'Why Comparative Politics Should Take Religion (More) Seriously. <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>', 15: 421-442. Clifford Geertz. 1973. 'Religion as a Cultural System', pp. 87-125 in <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i>. New York: Basic Books. Mona Kanwal Sheikh (2012). 'How does religion matter? Pathways to religion in International Relations', <i>Review of International Studies</i>, 38, no. 2: 365-392. Peter Mandaville (2014). <i>Islam and Politics</i> (2nd edition). New York: Routledge. Jorgen Nielsen (2004), <i>Muslims in Western Europe</i>, 3rd ed. Edinburgh University Press. Sylvie Tissot (2011), 'Excluding Muslim Women: From Hijab to Niqab, from School to Public Space', <i>Public Culture</i>. Talal Asad (2009), 'Free Speech, Blasphemy and Secular Criticism', in <i>Is Critique Secular? Blasphemy, Injury and Free Speech</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press.

	James Turner Johnson (2015), 'The Tradition on Jihad of the Sword, Counter-Narratives, and Policy', Soundings. Mark Juergensmeyer (2001), 'Terror in the Name of God', <i>Current History</i>, November. Stathis N. Kalyvas (1998). 'From Pulpit to Party: Party Formation and the Christian Democratic Phenomenon', <i>Comparative Politics</i>, 30 (3): 293-312. Ateş Altınordu (2010). 'The Politicization of Religion: Political Catholicism and Political Islam in Comparative Perspective', <i>Politics & Society</i>, 38 (4): 517-551. Ateş Altınordu (2016). 'The Political Incorporation of Anti-System Religious Parties: the Case of Turkish Political Islam (1994–2011)'. <i>Qualitative Sociology</i>, 39 (2): 147-171. José Casanova (2006). 'Religion, European Secular Identities, and European Integration', pp. 65-92. In Timothy A. Byrnes and Peter J. Katzenstein (eds). <i>Religion in An Expanding Europe</i>, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. Nilüfer Göle (2017). <i>The Daily Lives of Muslims: Islam and Public Confrontation in Contemporary Europe</i>. London: Zed Books. Alfred C. Stepan (2000). 'Religion, Democracy, and the 'Twin Tolerations''. <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, 11 (4): 37–57. Jürgen Habermas (2006) 'Religion in the Public Sphere', <i>European Journal of Philosophy</i>, 14 (1): 1-25. Jürgen Habermas (2008). 'Notes on Post-Secular Society', <i>New Perspectives Quarterly</i>, 25 (4): 17-29. Samuel Huntington (1993) 'The Clash of Civilizations', <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. Edward W. Said (2001), 'The Clash of Ignorance', <i>The Nation</i>, October 22.
Assessment	Assignment(s), midterm exam, final exam, participation, response to papers, presentations, quizzes
Language	English