



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Sociology of Religions

1920-3-E4001N111

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#### Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with the basic tools for the sociological analysis of religious phenomena, in particular in the forms in which they are manifested in the contemporary world. Through the knowledge of classical and more recent theories, students will be able to build research projects on the cultural, social and political role of religious phenomena in relation to contemporary social reality.

#### Contents

The program is divided into two parts. The first one will discuss the main sociological theories, from the classics to the more recent ones. The second part will focus on the forms of religious life in contemporary societies, on the forms of the sacred and alternative spiritualities, on the processes of change and adaptation in relation to the dynamics of secularization in a globalized world.

#### Detailed program

##### First part: theoretical questions.

- 1) presentation and discussion of some main classical theories of the sociology of religions
- 2) presentation and discussion of some major contemporary theories

##### Second part: transformations of contemporary religious phenomena (case studies and researches)

- 1) secularization and religious pluralism
- 2) religions and public sphere
- 3) forms of religious individualism
- 4) fundamentalisms and alternative spiritualities
- 5) mediatization of religion

## **Prerequisites**

There are no preliminary requirements for the course.

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures, individual and group researches, classroom discussions

## **Assessment methods**

Written exam, with possible oral integration.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

(Provisional list)

P. Berger, G. Davie, E. Fokas, *America religiosa, Europa laica? Perché il secolarismo europeo è un'eccezione*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2010.

P. Berger, *Una gloria remota. Avere fede nell'epoca del pluralismo*, il Mulino, Bologna, 1994.

José Casanova, *Oltre la secolarizzazione. Le religioni alla riconquista della sfera pubblica*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2000.

P. Heelas, L. Woodhead, *The Spiritual Revolution. Why Religion is Giving Way to Spirituality*, Blackwell, 2005.

G. Almond, R. Scott Appleby, E. Sivan, *Religioni forti. L'avanzata dei fondamentalismi sulla scena mondiale*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2006.

Lorne Dawson, *I nuovi movimenti religiosi*, il Mulino, Bologna.

P. Norris, R. Inglehart, *Sacro e secolare. Religione e politica nel mondo globalizzato*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2007.

Thomas Luckmann, *La religione invisibile*, il Mulino, Bologna, 1969.

D. Hervieu-Léger, *Il pellegrino e il convertito. La religione in movimento*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2003.

Further bibliographical information will be provided during the course.

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