



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Religions

2122-3-E4001N111

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) Religion as ideology (Marx and the Marxist tradition)
- 2) The disenchantment of the world (the Weberian approach)
- 3) Religion, the sacred and society (Durkheim and the Durkheimian tradition)
- 4) Religiosity and religious forms (Simmel's approach)

- 5) The invisible religion and the heretical imperative (Luckmann, Berger and the phenomenological approach)
- 6) Individualism and the religious market.

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

The course will return to face-to-face unless otherwise noted in October 2021. The course consists primarily of face-to-face lectures.

Assessment methods

Written exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

ATTENDING AND NON ATTENDING STUDENTS

E. Pace, *Introduzione alla sociologia delle religioni*, Roma, Carocci, 2015.

L. Dawson, *I nuovi movimenti religiosi*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2005.

A text of your choice:

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

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

U. Beck, *Il Dio personale*, Roma, Laterza, 2009

R. Marchisio, *La religione nella società degli individui*, Milano, FrancoAngeli, 2010

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

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

Ulteriori indicazioni bibliografiche verranno fornite durante il corso

Further bibliographical information will be provided during the course.
