UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Law of Religions

2324-5-A5810257

Learning objectives

The course offers a comparative study of the law of religions, with a particular focus on the regulation of religious marriages and its legal challenges in contemporary societies.

Contents

When delving into the realm of law, one encounters a captivating array of perspectives that extend far beyond the mere confines of the state. Religions, in fact, boast internal legal systems that intricately regulate various aspects of believers' lives. These systems are designed to provide guidance and enforce discipline over specific behaviors within religious communities. Through comparative analysis of these regulations, intriguing similarities and differences among the legal traditions of different faiths are unveiled.
This course presents a unique opportunity to explore this legal complexity and delve into the legal intricacies surrounding the regulation of marriage in the "religions of the book": namely, the canon law of the Catholic Church, Islamic law (Sharia), and Jewish law (Halakhah). By immersing ourselves in these three distinct legal frameworks, we embark on a journey through diverse religious traditions, meticulously examining the norms, practices, and social and cultural implications associated with this institution.
Through this comparative approach, participants will not only attain a deeper understanding of matrimonial law within the "religions of the book" but also gain a broader perspective on the varying conceptions of marriage, family, and community within the global social fabric. They will engage with the cultural and legal wealth of these religions and come to appreciate the significance of an interdisciplinary approach in comprehending the intricate interplay between law and religion.

Detailed program

Learning Unit 1
Canon law: the sources of law.
Marriage in the Catholic Tradition.
Learning Unit 2
Islamic law: the sources of law.
Sunni Muslim Perspective on Marriage.
Learning Unit 3
Jewish law: the sources of law.
Marriage according to Jewish law.
Learning Unit 4
Practical cases and contemporary challenges
Learning Unit 5
Visit to the Synagogue of Milan, located at Via della Guastalla: Jewish law and Jewish marriage.

Prerequisites

Problem-solving skills.
Open-mindedness towards legal complexity and religious-cultural diversity.
Essential elements of public and private law are a plus (not mandatory).

Teaching methods

The teaching method blend frontal introductory lectures with interactive discussions, and practical case studies.

Assessment methods

Oral exam

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Reading and handouts will be published on the e-learning page of the course.
Distant learning students are kindly requested to contact the teacher to obtain the necessary reading materials.

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS