



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Sociology of Religions

2425-3-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.

Religion as ideology (Marx and the Marxist tradition)

The disenchantment of the world (the Weberian approach)

Religion, the sacred and society (Durkheim and the Durkheimian tradition)

Religiosity and religious forms (Simmel's approach)

The invisible religion and the heretical imperative (Luckmann, Berger and the phenomenological approach)

Individualism and the religious market.

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

Secularization and religious pluralism  
Religions and public sphere  
Forms of religious individualism  
Fundamentalisms and alternative spiritualities  
Mediatization of religion

## **Prerequisites**

There are no preliminary requirements for the course.

## **Teaching methods**

The course consists of 56 hours, of which approximately 60% with didactic teaching (frontal lessons using slides, audio and video) and 40% with interactive teaching (exercises, subgroup work). The course consists of classroom lectures. It also includes group work on the basis of readings assigned during the course.

## **Assessment methods**

Written exam, based on three open questions aimed at evaluating preparation on the exam program and the ability to independently reflect on topics covered in class.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

ATTENDING AND NON ATTENDING STUDENTS

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

Two texts 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.

F. Garelli, *Gente di poca fede. Il sentimento religioso nell'Italia incerta di Dio*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2020.

Further bibliographical information will be provided during the course.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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