UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Law of Religions

2627-5-A5810257

Learning objectives

The course provides an overview of the legal challenges that religious rights pose in contemporary society. Particular attention will be paid to family law and the institution of marriage.

The Course learning outcomes are structured as follows.
Knowledge and understanding: acquire knowledge of the fundamental principles of Law and Religion through a comparative approach; understand the similarities and differences in the legal regulation of religious marriages
Applying knowledge and understanding: apply the comparative method to analyse matrimonial institutions belonging to different religious traditions; use the knowledge acquired to address and discuss contemporary legal issues related to religious marriage institutions.
Making judgements: develop critical skills in evaluating the different legal frameworks governing religious marriages; formulate independent and well-reasoned judgements on issues addressed within the field of Law and Religion.
Communication skills: present the principal legal institutions of family law in different religious traditions using appropriate legal terminology, and rigorously substantiate proposed solutions to unresolved legal issues.
Learning skills: develop the ability to independently address legal issues arising in family law in connection with religious traditions.

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.

Detailed program

42 hours in-presence lessons (*modalità erogativa*)

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
Educational visits and field trips

Prerequisites

Problem-solving skills.
Open-mindedness towards legal complexity and religious-cultural diversity.

Teaching methods

21 two-hour lectures (42 hours) delivered in face-to-face mode.
For those who need to connect remotely, it is possibile to follow the class via Webex. The streaming must be arranged in advance with the Professor.

Assessment methods

Oral exam: presentation of an independent research focusing on one of the topics addressed in the Syllabus.
There will be no *interim* or partial test

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- S. Ferrari, R. Bottoni (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Religious Laws* (Routledge, 2019 or later editions)
- Reading and handouts will be published on the e-learning page of the course
  **Students are kindly requested to contact the Professor to obtain the further reading materials **

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS