

COURSE DETAIL

GENDER AND THE LAW

Country

Italy

Host Institution

University of Bologna

Program(s)

University of Bologna

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Legal Studies

UCEAP Course Number

181

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

GENDER AND THE LAW

UCEAP Transcript Title

GENDER & THE LAW

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale program. The course is intended for advanced level students only. Enrollment is by consent of the instructor. The aims of the course are: to make students familiar with feminist and queer theories and critiques of liberalism and liberal legal systems to the extent that they incorporate biases relating to gender and sexual orientation; to show how seemingly neutral legal norms are shaped by particular conceptualizations of gender, sexuality and sexual orientation; to introduce the debate concerning the partnership of feminism and multiculturalism and prompt a reflection on what constitutes gender (in)equality in a culturally diverse world; to familiarize students with the ways in which the law has contended with sexual difference, sexual orientation, gender-based stereotypes and the meaning of sexuality in European, transnational and international contexts. This course is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of the gendered structure of the law. Feminist and queer critiques of liberalism have challenged traditional ways of thinking about law and legal systems and have called into question some of the fundamental tenets of liberal democracy, such as equality, neutrality, justice, non-discrimination and universalism. These theories have highlighted how the law has created and reinforced gender roles, and how gender-related social and cultural constructs have shaped the balance of power and privilege in a liberal society. In this light, the course addresses a wide range of both theoretical and institutional problems, as well as thematic issues, pertaining to different areas of law, including citizenship, reproductive rights, marriage, sexuality, and violence. The course highlights how legal norms reflect gender-based stereotypes and how these impact the lives of people of different genders and sexual orientations. It also focuses on the increasing difficulties that multi-cultural societies experience in conceptualizing gender equality, examining contentious issues such as the regulation of religious marriage, and other gender-related “cultural clashes”. Module 2 tackles these issues in the context of Muslim societies, with a particular focus on Islamic feminism and Muslim women theologians, family law and women's political participation in predominantly Muslim countries.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

81802

Host Institution Course Title

GENDER AND THE LAW

Host Institution Campus

BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree**

LM in LAW

Host Institution Department

LEGAL STUDIES

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