COURSE DETAIL

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN FRANCE
Country France
Host Institution Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)
Program(s) Sciences Po Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Religious Studies Political Science History
UCEAP Course Number 148
UCEAP Course Suffix L
UCEAP Official Title RELIGION AND POLITICS IN FRANCE
UCEAP Transcript Title REL & POL IN FRANCE
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description
The French notion of “secularism” (or laïcité) is one of the most original aspects of the political, social and cultural reality of France. We speak of "laïcité à la française" to designate a certain type of relationship between the public political sphere and the status of religion(s). Through history, these relationships have been marked by distance and, sometimes, by a dimension of struggle and direct confrontation. Religions tend to be reduced to the private sphere. The “ideal” is that religions must in no way influence political life or even public and cultural life. The French adventure of secularism was thus founded on the project of radically separating politics and religion. This adventure began as early as the sixteenth century and was often confrontational. Secularism has mainly concerned relations between the state and the Catholic religion. But, today, the question arises in a new context marked by the development of Islam. This course is mainly a history class but it is also intended to shed light on contemporary issues and debates. It's about understanding the current issue of secularism through its long history. The following topics are discussed: the impact of the wars of religion (sixteenth century), the place of the Catholic Church in the Ancien Régime, the formulation of the idea of secularism in the Age of Enlightenment, the installation of a "model" of modern secularism under the Modern Republic, the existence of a "culture" of anticlericalism, the school quarrel, the new situation posed by the rise of Islam since the years 1970 and the idea of a crisis of secularism today (new or “post” laïcité).

Language(s) of Instruction
French

Host Institution Course Number
DHIS 25A09

Host Institution Course Title
RELIGION AND POLITICS IN FRANCE

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

English Seminar

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
History

Course Last Reviewed

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