COURSE DETAIL

RELIGION, POLITICS AND SOCIETY
Country France
Host Institution Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)
Program(s) Sciences Po Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Political Science
UCEAP Course Number 132
UCEAP Course Suffix R
UCEAP Official Title RELIGION, POLITICS AND SOCIETY
UCEAP Transcript Title RELIGION/POL & SOC
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of religion in the social sciences. It examines what people do with religion and what religion does to people. The guiding thread of this course is to investigate how “religion” itself as a category is debated and contested. A question it regularly returns to is: what counts as religion and who gets to decide? The course is divided into three parts. The first part explores the definitions of religion that have been provided by classical authors. The second part analyzes the intersections of religion with other social categories such as class, gender, and race. The third part interrogates the politics of religion and how States, international organizations, political actors, and citizens grapple with religion, how they seek to regulate it or use it to further political ends. The course is interdisciplinary and exposes students to various approaches of religion rooted in political science, sociology, and anthropology. By the end of this course, students are equipped with theoretical and methodological tools to best appraise the place of religion in contemporary societies and discuss such complex and debated issues as secularism, religious freedom, religious discrimination, religious violence.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ASPO 25A27

Host Institution Course Title
RELIGION, POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510/284723

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Core Seminar

Host Institution Department
Political Science

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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