

Course Outline KULIS

Course title	The Impact of Religions and Value Systems on European Cultures
Date/duration	Fall 2023/24
Lecturer	Univ.-Prof. DDr. Isabella Guanzini/Ass.-Prof. Martin Koci
Teaching language	English
ECTS	3

Contents

This course aims to contextualise and analyse the relation between culture and religion in changing global settings. In concrete terms, the question is how far religions have shaped the narratives and symbolic orders of global culture and continue to do so. Furthermore, it seeks to analyse how religions react to global challenges of our times (ecological crisis, secularisation, migration, pluralisation, urbanisation, digitalisation etc.).

Religions can put up walls and create boundaries and at the same time have the potential to undermine them in subversive ways. Religion can cause discrimination, violence, and conflict, but it can also help resolve them through its practices and beliefs. This course aims to address the ambivalent relationship between religions and cultures, even beyond the European context, through an interdisciplinary perspective: Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, Political Science, Cultural Studies and Theology will provide theoretical approaches to one of the most ambiguous phenomena, religion. It will offer basic knowledge of what genuine religious questions are and how they are formulated in some of the so-called World religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism) that might generate some impact on European cultures in the future as well.

Learning outcomes

- A basic knowledge of what genuine *religious* questions are and how they can be analyzed scientifically;
- A basic knowledge of essential categories and visions of those World religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism) that might have some impact on European cultures in the future.

Teaching and learning methods

Short presentations and class discussion

Course preparation
Additional literature
Texts to be read in preparation for each class; Short presentations based on these texts.
Assessment (%) (methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)
Reading of all texts & active participation in class discussion (2/3) Short presentations (1/3)
Contact details (lecturer)
l.guanzini@ku-linz.at