Module Summaries

Modules Offered: all modules are offered in Semester Two*

Religion and International Relations, 10 ECTS
Engaging Religious Fundamentalism, 10 ECTS
Gender, War and Peace, 10ECTS

*NB: Some Modules may change from year to year

EM2303 Engaging Religious Fundamentalism

Coordinator: Prof Andrew Pierce
ECTS: 10
Semester Two

Aims

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Identify and describe the significant historical factors in the emergence of religious fundamentalism.
- Assess dominant paradigms of fundamentalist study.
- Analyse the key social, political and theological elements in the construction of religious fundamentalism.

Description

Christian expressions of fundamentalist religiosity; defining fundamentalism; methodology in fundamentalist studies; dialogue with the fundamentalist other.

Despite receiving widespread scholarly attention across a range of disciplines, so-called ‘religious fundamentalism’ attracts strikingly minimal attention from within Christian theology. This module, therefore, explores religious fundamentalism from an explicitly theological perspective, and with a concern (though not an exclusive concern) for Christian expressions of fundamentalist religiosity. Amongst the challenges for module-participants are: defining fundamentalism; methodology in fundamentalist studies; and dialogue with the fundamentalist other.
Core reading


**EM Gender, War and Peace**
**Coordinator: Prof Gillian Wylie**
**ECTS Value: 10**
**Semester Two**

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Identify and discuss the debates in Gender Studies concerning sex and gender, femininity and masculinity, gender and difference in the field of war and peace studies.
- Critically review the gendered nature of war and the relationships between masculinity and violence and femininity and peace
- Critically discuss the need for gender-based approaches to understanding conflict resolution and peace-building

**Description**

What does gender analysis reveal about the causes and dynamics of war and peace? In this module we begin by exploring and criticising some basic gendered assumptions - such as that war is the business of men and peace that of women. Instead we challenge these dichotomies by examining issues such as the complicated relationship between the social construction of masculinity and soldiering and the challenge posed to militaries by the inclusion of women in their ranks. We ask why peace processes have generally excluded women and what the consequences of that are for the sustainability of peace, while at the same time querying the assumption that ‘women’ as an essentialised group have particular skills to bring to the peace table. Through these debates we examine the ways in which war and peace are gendered experiences which also shape our understanding of what it is to be a gendered person.

**Teaching Method**

The course is based on an interactive teaching approach. Each session is divided into a one hour lecture and a one hour seminar per week, which will turn on an assigned reading or audiovisual material to illustrate the case.
Assessment
Three thousand word essay on agreed topic

Core Readings
Cheldelin, S. (ed.) Women Waging War and Peace: International Perspectives of Women's Roles in Conflict and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Continuum 2011
Whitworth, S. Men, Militarism and UN Peacekeeping, Lynne Reinner, 2007

EM2302 Religion and International Relations
10ECTS
Semester 2
Coordinator: Prof Carlo Aldrovandi

Aims
On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Assess the normative debate about the role of religion in International Relations, focusing on the following traditions of IR theory: Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism and the English School.
- Discuss contemporary issues in international affairs which are associated with the idea of a widespread religious resurgence (i.e. globalization, religious Fundamentalism and violence, transnational religious actors, faith-based peacemaking and diplomacy).
- Address the religious dimensions in contemporary world conflicts, whilst identifying perspectives and movements within main religious traditions which contribute to peacemaking, conflict resolution and reconciliation.
- Evaluate the salience of religious beliefs, identities and movements in selected national contexts such as the United States, Israel, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Description
The purpose of this module is to provide an understanding of the on-going salience of religion (broadly defined here as the main world religions) in the contemporary globalized era. The overall aim is to address the ways in which religion has been marginalized or excluded from the secular perspectives of International Relations theory (Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism, etc.), whilst providing the intellectual basis for how religiously inspired spheres of thought can be brought back into the picture. This module also challenges the common view that the politicization
of religion is always a threat to international security and inimical to the resolution of world conflict.

Assessment

One three thousand word essay on agreed topic

Core Readings


