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TM29_DIP_CPS

Teach Mob – Visiting Professors ***Academic year 2016/2017***

2 nd Term
COURSE TITLE Politics and Religion in the Middle East and North Africa
Scientific area Political Sociology
Department of Cultures, Politics and Society
Language used to teach: English or French
Teaching Commitment: 54 hours
<p>Course summary</p> <p>The course analyses the historical and current relationship between politics and religion in the MENA Region. While de-colonisation and independence seemed to set the MENA on the path of secular modernization, more cent decades have seen the revival of the religion in the public sphere and in the political arena. Islam, the dominant religion in the region, has become central in the understanding of political and social phenomena in the MENA: Islamist groups of all sorts have become the protagonists of Middle East politics, highlighting the relevance of political Islam and its impact on societies, politics and the regional balance of power. The politicization of Islam, both before and after the Arab uprisings, has emerged as a crucial component to understand regional dynamics of democratization and authoritarian resilience. At the same time religion, and particularly Islam, has been often adopted as an interpretative key in order to oversimplify the understanding of political dynamics in the region and of their societies, too often explained through the narrative of wars of religions or the sectarianism. The course will explore the relationship between and religion and politics through an analysis of regimes in the Arab world and introduce students to the inter-paradigm debate in the wake of the Arab Spring: democratization studies versus authoritarian resilience. In this context, there will be an in-depth analysis of the main beneficiary of the changes taking place: political Islam and the movements associated with it. Finally, the course will deal with the international politics of the region.</p>
<p>Learning objectives</p> <p>From a broader perspective the course will provide students with theoretical, methodological and analytical skills required to better comprehend the crucial relationships between politics and religion. At another level, through the focus on political Islam in the MENA region, the course will provide students the knowledge to better understand socio-political phenomena of the region beyond simplistic dichotomies and categories. The plurality of political Islam(s), its multi-faceted expressions, and its historical transformations, will be examined in order to develop a socio-historical understanding of the revival of religion as a tool for political and social mobilisation. Moreover the course will reinforce the interdisciplinary background required both by the binational master degree in Compared Analysis of Mediterranean Societies (Torino-Rabat), and by the profile MENA Politics in the frame of the Master Degree programme in International Relations.</p>
Tutorship activities
Lab activities
Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research

fellows, dissemination conferences

Considering the great interest on the issues that will be developed during the course, public lectures and seminars will be organized both in the frame of the PhD programme in 'Social and Political Change' promoted by the Department of Culture, Politics and Society of the University of Torino (in partnership with the University of Florence), and in the context of other relevant training and dissemination activities organized by the Department in partnership with external Institutions (T.wai- Turin World Affair Institute, CSA-Centro Studi Africani). For example the cycle 'Spring seminars' (<http://www.medit.eu/?q=content/primavera-mediterranea-secondo-ciclo-di-incontri>) and the TOMideast Summer School (<http://www.to-asia.it/to-mideast/>).

Visiting Professor Profile

The ideal candidate is an Anglophone or Francophone scholar, conducting original and internationally acknowledged research on religious phenomena in the MENA region from a sociological, political science or historical perspective. The ideal candidate would have a solid network of scientific cooperation in the MENA region, documented teaching experience, and the necessary social skills for being fully involved in the scientific activities of the Department. A background in political sociology is preferable, but applications from scholars with a broader Middle Eastern Studies background are also welcome.

Contact person at the Department

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