

Faculty of International Economics and Administration
Department of International Economics and Politics
Professional Area: 3.3 Political Science
Major: International relations
Educational-and-qualification degree: Bachelor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Course unit title: Islam in Europe
2. Course unit code: POL 1064
3. Type of course: compulsory
4. Level of course unit: Bachelor
5. Year of study: fourth
6. Semester when the course unit is delivered: eighth
7. Number of ECTS credits allocated: 4.5
8. Name of lecturer(s): Prof. Vladimir Chukov, DSc.
9. Learning outcomes of the course unit: Students should be aware of basic data on the life of the Islamic minority in Europe. They should be able to make analysis of the key indicators of their presence in European society - social status, ethnic composition, degree of integration, relationships with their motherland, etc.
10. Mode of delivery: face-to-face.
11. Prerequisites and co-requisites
12. Course contents (annotation): The course of lectures aims to introduce students to various aspects of the life of the Muslim community in Europe. Methodologically the course is organized at different levels. At the outset, the emphasis is on statistical data to find the limits of the notion of minority in relation to the overwhelming Christian majority. A proviso that the number of Muslims is relative and its precise measurement can not be found is made. It is necessary to focus, that this religion is the most rapidly spreading not only in Europe but also worldwide.
The second level of research on the subject is institutional. It is relatively difficult and is characterized by strong national specificities. Despite the desire for carrying out a single European policy on religious freedom and human rights, member states began to apply more stringent laws to combat terrorism. It is a kind of conflict between the approach to the Islamic minority, dressed in legal norms before and after September 11, 2001. The course considers religious temples, centers, schools and education, religious persons and the headscarf as leading objects of study.
The third level is the political participation of Muslims in Europe. The national specifics of the particular European country and the number of generations of Muslims living in it leave a major mark on the research. The big question is whether the unification of Muslims in Europe can be viewed as part of the classical form of political participation or not.
The fourth level of the course covers comparative study of national Islamic communities. It analyzes the characteristics of the Muslim community in the larger European countries. They play a leading role in shaping the profile of Islam in Europe as a whole. These countries are Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands. In no event should also be underestimated the Muslim communities in newly accessed countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, as there those minorities have an endogenous rather than exogenous nature. Islam in European countries that are not EU members (Russia, Ukraine and the former Yugoslav republics) is taken more as a benchmark for comparison, rather than a true object of analysis.
13. Recommended or required reading:

Recommended:

Ориент.бг, <http://www.orientbg.info>

Чуков, Вл. Колева, П., Западноевропейският ислям, Изток-Запад, 2011

Required:

Goody, J., Islam in Europe, McMillan, 2009.

Azmeh, A., Islam in Europe. Diversity, Identity and Influence, Hursh, 2008.

Modood, T., Multiculturalism: Muslims and Citizenship in Europe, Routledge, 2009.

Fetzer, J., Muslims and the State in Britain, France and Germany, Cambridge, 2010

14. Planned learning activities and teaching methods:

15. Assessment methods and criteria: Tests, writing assignments and oral exam. Assessment is a general indicator of the three examination methods. Students are informed of the mistakes on the tests, the overall impression of the performance indicators for writing a coursework and an indication of drawbacks in giving oral answers.

16. Language of instruction: Bulgarian.

17. Work placement(s): inapplicable.