Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF CULTURES AND RELIGIONS (HISTORY EDUCATION AND FUNDAMENTALISM)

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	3 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	9
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

Core subject for the third course in International Relations Degree. To take this course students should have a basic understanding of social sciences in general and history in particular.
The aim of this course is to get the students acquainted with the main ideas of religious studies and cultural history throughout history so that they can understand the impact of religion, cultural systems, and history in today's world. Furthermore, students will learn the importance of fundamentalist movements and their involvement in the political, social and cultural life of the world on both a global and regional scale.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG03. Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data in order to make value judgements that include an analysis of the relevant political, legal, social, economic, scientific and ethical issues.
CG04. Students must be able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to others, be they specialised or not.
CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.
CE02. Students must be aware of the historical development of the political, social and cultural processes, ideas and movements that have served as a foundation for modern States and international relations.
CE03. Students must be able to identify, understand and analyse the source, basic principles and development of a democratic and plural society, as well as its confrontation with other lifestyles.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

1. Culture and Identity
2. Magic and Religious Beliefs in Prehistory
3. Religious and Cultural Systems in the Ancient World
4. Religious Traditions in East Asia and India
5. Judaism
6. Christianity
7. Islam
8. Secularization and the Enlightenment
9. New Religious Movements and Fundamentalism
10. Religious and Cultural Systems in International Relations

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Theoretical sessions	Academic Tutoring
Lectures	Readings and/or working with documentaries and audiovisual
Oral presentations	Group work
Realización de Pruebas	Exam of contents

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	72
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	12
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	6
Academic tutorials	12
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	15
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	30
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	63
Preparation for tests and/or exams	60
Total student workload	270

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Academic tutorials	Week 1 to Week 15	Tutorials will take place on campus and, when necessary, via Microsoft Teams
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 15	Classes will follow a theoretical and practical approach designed to encourage students' active participation.
Group work	Week 8 to Week 15	Work in groups and presentations
Tests and/or exams	Week 1 to Week 15	Final examination covering all course content. The examination will take place on the date established by the Faculty in the official examination timetable.
Active methodologies or innovative teaching	Week 8 to Week 15	Readings, debates, role-playing, analysis of media content, and attending guest lectures.

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VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

Theoretical Part (Re-assessable)
•**Final Exam (Individual):** 60% of the final grade (6 points). Re-assessable during the extraordinary examination period.
•Assessment of all course content.
•**Minimum Requirement:** Students must pass the final exam in order to pass the course. The examination date will be established by the Faculty and published in the official examination timetable.
Practical Part (Non-Re-assessable)
•**Readings, debates, and classroom activities (Individual):** 20% of the final grade (2 points).
•**Group Project:** 20% of the final grade (2 points).
Specific information regarding these activities will be published in the Virtual Classroom.
Extraordinary Assessment
Students who do not pass the ordinary assessment, or who do not attend it, may take an extraordinary assessment designed to verify the acquisition of the competencies established in the course guide. Only re-assessable activities may be retaken during the extraordinary assessment period.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: No.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials

Basic bibliography

Archer, Margaret. *Culture and Agency: The Place of Culture in Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1988
Armstrong, Karen. *The Battle for God: Fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.* Haper Collins, New York, 2000.
Bellah, Robert, N. *Religion in Human Evolution. From the Palaeolithic to the axial age.* Belknap, Boston, 2011.
Burke, Peter. *What is Cultural History*. Polity, Cambridge, 2008.
Calasso, Roberto. *The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony.* Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1993.
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Eliade, Mircea. *A History of Religious Ideas Vol. 1. From the Stone Age to the Eleusinian Mysteries.* The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1978.
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Fisher, Mary Pat. *Living religions*. (10th edition). Pearson, 2019.
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Kepel, Gilles. *Las políticas de Dios*. Barcelona. Marcial Pons, Barcelona, 2006.
O'Toole, Roger. *Religion: Classic sociological approaches*. McGraw-Hill, Toronto, 1984.
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Said, Edwuard. *Orientalism.* Pantheon Books, New York, 1978.
Weber, Max. *Sociology of Religion*. Beacon Press, Boston, 1993.
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Wolfe, John. *Religion in History: conflict, conversion and coexistence.* Manchester University Press, Manchester, 2004.

Consultation bibliography

IX.-Professors

Name and surname	PEDRO MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA
E-mail address	pedro.martinezg@urjc.es
Department	Artes y Humanidades
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Titular de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	1
Number of sexennia	1
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	2

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