

FER SCHOOL SYLLABUS

Course

GENDER, RELIGION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - Who Killed God in Her?

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Semester: Winter semester of the 2026/2027 academic year

Number of ECTS credits: 4

Total contact hours: 45

Language of instruction: English

Teaching methods: Lectures, discussions, media content analysis, case studies, and student presentations

Course description

This course offers insights into theoretical and empirical understandings of gender, gender identities, stereotypes, and roles that have contributed for centuries to the emergence of gender-based violence. These social constructs are heavily influenced by cultural norms and shaped by patriarchal "values," which keep women in a subordinated position — often summed up in the message: *"Be silent, endure, and do not bring shame to your family."* The thematic units are interconnected and complementary, aiming to illuminate the various forms of gender-based violence. The course also provides an overview of transformative actions that aim to deconstruct gender-based violence within both secular and religious systems and subsystems of power, from micro to macro levels. Gender-based violence will be addressed through fifteen thematic modules. Course Objective is to equip participants with the skills to recognize the causes and mechanisms behind the emergence and maintenance of different forms of violence in both secular and religious discourse, and to introduce them to resources for preventive action.

Learning Outcomes

- Explain key concepts related to gender, gender identities, gender roles, stereotypes, patriarchy, power, and gender-based violence.
- Identify and distinguish different forms of gender-based violence and recognize the social, cultural, political, and institutional mechanisms through which violence is normalized, justified, and reproduced.
- Critically analyze patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes, including victim-blaming and expectations of silence and endurance, and assess their role in maintaining gender inequality and violence.
- Examine secular and religious discourses and systems of power that may reinforce gender hierarchies, while identifying resources within these contexts that promote dignity, equality, non-violence, and social transformation.
- Apply gender-sensitive and intersectional perspectives to understanding gender-based violence and its relationship to other forms of inequality and social exclusion.

- Develop and evaluate strategies for prevention and transformative action at individual, community, institutional, and societal levels, using appropriate educational, legal, secular, and faith-based

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for enrolment in the course.

Live Chat: Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Mode of Instruction: The course is delivered through online lectures and discussions.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to read the assigned literature regularly, participate in the live chat sessions, and prepare a presentation based on the assigned readings.

Students wishing to obtain ECTS credits are required to submit a final paper of up to 3,000 words.

Policy on Late or Incomplete Coursework

Students who submit assignments late or fail to complete all course requirements will not be able to complete the course successfully.

Assessment

Participation in live chat sessions: 30%

Presentations: 30%

Final written paper: 40%

Description of themes:

- Theoretical Framework of Gender-Based Violence: Socio-anthropological insights into gender, gender identities, stereotypes, and types of violence
- Gender, Power, and Politics Zilka
- Myths and Facts About Violence
- Family Violence
- Femicide, Jelena
- Sexual Violence
- Human Trafficking and Prostitution
- Coercive Control
- GBV Judaism
- Christianity
- Gender, Violence, and Islam,
- Psychological Consequences of Violence
- Counseling and Therapeutic Approaches
- Interpersonal Spiritual Violence
- Institutional Spiritual Violence