Religion and Politics in Europe THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Religion

 beliefs, symbols, practices (e.g. rituals) based on the idea of sacrum and the unification of believers within a social-religious community

Church-state / religion-politics

- beliefs (e.g. discrimination, tolerance, religious freedom, ban on persecution)
- religious symbols (in the public realm)
- practices (executing religious practices, rituals, holidays, holding on to diets etc.)
- canon of norms and values (axiological systems, women's role in the society, moral norms – e.g. abortion and contraception)
- socio-religious community (internal organisation, hierarchy, relations in the community, state subsidies)

Pluralism

- descriptive pluralism the fact of the existence of different groups, phenomena and traditions in a certain social order;
- pluralism in a normative sense acceptance and inclusion of pluralism in the legal system (for instance, in normative acts, documents, political programmes)

Pluralism and the secular state

- The pluralistic character of society does not determine state secularism but:
- secularisation contributes to the demonopolisation of religious traditions so (...) it leads to a pluralistic situation / Beckford/

Pluralism and secularisation

Luckmann: links between structural pluralisation of society and the erosion of Christian monopoly

Theory of religious market

PLuralism

- Martin: where a religious monopoly exists, society is divided into two fighting parties, one of which defends religion
- Where at least two religions (or different forms of one religion – the so-called *interreligious* pluralism) appear, such a situation does not take place

Neutrality

- State neutrality— an a-religious state?
- Concepts of neutral public space
- Neutrality and secular states
- Neutrality and laic states
- Neutrality and states with established churches

Neutrality

- Inclusive neutrality: the concept of secular state which is 'open' to religion
- Exclusive neutrality: the state forms the 'lowest common denominator'

Laicism and laïcité

- Laicism anti-religious and anti-clerical ideology, a certain 'model', ideological and theoretical concept of state and society
- Laïcité the idea of the separation of church and state and is defined as a-religious and pro-civil (Trigg 2007)

Laïcité

- a system that excludes churches from having political or administrative power, especially from organising public education
- the separation (between secular and religious societies), in which churches have no political power

Laicisations and secularisation

- Laicisation: Catholic societies
- Secularisation: Protestant societies

/F. Champion/

Or:

- Laicisation: political level
- Secularisation: social level

SECULAR vs. LAIC

- concepts of division/ separation between the political and the religious
- Secular states accept the presence of religion in the public sphere
- Laic states religion as a private, individual matter

Secular concepts

- radical and moderate secularity
- internal (the status of lay church members) and external (respect for mutual autonomy of sacrum and profanum)
- closed and open (to other forms of religion, tradition and values)

Freedom of religion

an individual's rights to make their ideas and convictions in religious affairs visible and to manifest them individually or collectively, privately or publically, and to act in accordance with one's convictions

Freedom of religion/conscience

- freedom of reflections and philosophical ethical searches, of expressing thoughts and convictions, of conversion and proselytism as well as of forming new religious communities
- Freedom vs. equality e.g. a ban to veil one's face; position of religious communities
- Direct (explicit) or indirect regulations