

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Law and Religion
Status: Definitive
Code: **5010LAWPL** (120645)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2015

Owning School/Faculty: Law
Teaching School/Faculty: Law

Team	Leader
Alexandra Pimor	Y
Laura Samaroo	

Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 30.00
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 210

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20.000
Seminar	10.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	2,500 word coursework	50.0	
Essay	AS2	2,500 word portfolio	50.0	

Aims

The aim of the module is to provide a forum for discussing the often controversial and unacknowledged relationship between law and religion in light of the global resurgence of religion-related matters on the public/political spheres.

Law & Religion explores the influence of religion on the development of Western legal systems; how the relationship has evolved over time; the extent to which the law is separate and yet regulates religion; and the creative and transformative ways

in which the two still interact today. In that respect, the module aims to give student a solid introduction and map for navigating the complex and varied study field that is Law & Religion.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically analyse the relationship between law and religion from a multi-disciplinary and multi-level perspective.
- 2 Apply gained socio-legal knowledge to law & religion-related issues of relative complexity, to reflect upon and critically analyse this application and to draw logical reasoned conclusions that are supported by arguments as well as academic and legal authority.
- 3 Identify and assess pertinent research issues in law and religion in order to critically analyse a complexity of themes into a coherent legal argument.
- 4 Engage with the literature in specific areas of law & religion studies in order to present a coherent, comprehensible and critically analytical discussion.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2
Portfolio	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Below is an indicative outline syllabus:

- *Nature & philosophical underpinnings of the relationship between law & religion*
- *Global perspectives on law & religion;*
- *Plato's republic;*
- *Natural law & the rise of legal positivism;*
- *Church-states relations;*
- *Religious legal systems;*
- *Religion and sports law;*
- *Law & religion in the EU;*
- *Religion & family law;*
- *Religion, law & ethics*
- *Law & religiously motivated hate crimes*
- *Religion, blasphemy & the arts*

Learning Activities

The module is delivered through a series of large (10) and small (10) group sessions. The use of virtual learning environment (Blackboard) and various electronic resources (e.g. legal databases, key websites, etc.) also contributes to enhancing student learning.

Notes

"... [N]ot to take account of religion would be to prevent oneself from understanding a fundamental part of people's preoccupations, reactions and behaviour" (Rémond 1999:5).

Despite an ever increasing secularised society (particularly in Europe) religion still plays a role both in the life of citizens and in the relations between the state and confessional institutions. Religion is a matter for each state to deal with individually and strategies and policies addressing the issue vary greatly from one country to the next, according to respective national, cultural, political, and legal characteristics. Regardless of the official secular nature of a state, certain countries retain a close relation with religious organisations and dogmas, such as Italy, Greece and Ireland. Whilst France, for instance, imposes a strict application of the 'principe de laïcité' in the public domain, prohibiting or restricting expressions of religious denomination in order to maintain the unity of the French Republic. The UK, on the other hand, adopts an anti-discrimination, multicultural and equality approach, playing a balancing act between public liberties and public policy interests.

This module provides a platform for exploring the relationship between law & religion and discussing its significance and ramifications from a socio-legal perspective.