

The Law of Church-State Relations (TMM48620)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To equip students with an informed understanding of the civil law and church law relating to the relations between Church and State.

To equip students with an informed understanding of the legal position of churches under civil law, and the civil and church laws applicable human rights, discrimination, religious charities, and church property.

To enable students to reflect on and develop their critical understanding of the law of church-state relations and its relationship to history, doctrine, and ecclesiology.

To enable students to undertake in-depth critical study of the law relating to church-state relations.

Content:

This module will explore the law of church governance.

The module may focus on the law applicable to certain churches (e.g. the Church of England and other Anglican churches) but will also include a comparative ecumenical element.

Topics may include:

The historical, doctrinal, ecclesiological and juridical basis for the law relating to church-state relations.

The legal nature of established, non-established, and disestablished churches, the civil law and church law on human rights and equality protections against discrimination, and the civil law on charities.

The ownership, custodianship, administration, and disposal of church property such as places of worship, churchyards, finances, and sacred objects, in the context of the theological principle of stewardship, including faculties and other controls over consecrated property.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module students will be able to

Subject Specific Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 3, 4]

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of the law relating to church-state relations.

Understand, assimilate and evaluate critically methodologies and findings relating to the law relating to church-state relations.

Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of analysis and inquiry relating to the law relating to church-state relations.

Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating the law relating to church-state relations to faith, church and society.

Subject Specific Skills [SSS 1, 2, 3]

Apply their knowledge to undertake independent investigation of an area of the law relating to church-state relations, reaching valid conclusions, some of which may be original, and report these findings effectively within the conventions of the relevant academic or professional community.

Evaluate and apply methodologies relating to the law relating to church-state relations, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.

Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner, exercising sound judgement when engaging systematically and creatively with complex, unpredictable and ambiguous realities relating to church-state relations and the world today.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination.

Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.

Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

Modes of Teaching and Learning: Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'

Contact Hours: Contact hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Contact Hours'.

Formative Assessment: Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on formative assessment.

Summative Assessment: Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate programmes.

Indicative Reading: Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for postgraduate modules.