

Law and Religion thematic contents:

Brief description:

The purpose of this subject is to study the Spanish legal system in relation to religions and beliefs, with references to international and comparative law. It is a subject closely connected to contemporary legal issues. Emphasis is put on legal reasoning rather than in the accumulation of informative data.

Thematic contents:

1. Religion, law and society:
 - Why there is a specific area of the legal system dealing with religion.
 - Religions and religious legal systems, with particular emphasis on canon law.
 - Relations between religion and political power: a historical approach, with particular emphasis on Spain and Europe.
2. Constitutional principles and sources of the Spanish law on religion.
3. State institutions with competence on religious issues.
4. The fundamental right to freedom of religion and belief:
 - Notion, foundations, and scope of protection.
 - Relation with other fundamental freedoms.
 - Limitations and legal guarantees.
5. Freedom of conscience and its possible conflicts with legal obligations: conscientious objections.
6. Religious marriages and their legal status in Spain and under the European Union law.
7. Legal concept and status of religious communities in Spain and Europe:
 - Autonomy and legal personality under State law.
 - Ministers of worship and religious leaders.
 - Economic regime and benefits.
 - Religious teaching and schools.
 - Religious minorities.

Evaluation and grading:

The final grade will be determined according to the evaluation of the following activities:

- Exams (written or oral): 70% of the final grade.
- Active participation in classes and seminars: 15% of the final grade
- Written essays: 15% of the final grade

Basic textbook:

Javier Martínez-Torrón, *Religion and Law in Spain*, Wolters-Kluwer, The Netherlands, 2014 (electronic and hard copy versions available).