

Reflective Practice: Law and the Public Minister (TMM3671)

Module Level: 6

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To support students in their ministerial development by developing their engagement with well-informed and structured forms of theological reflection which underpin reflective practice in a ministerial/professional/vocational context.

To equip students with an informed understanding of the relationship between ecclesiastical law and theology.

To enable students to reflect critically on the role of law in the life and practice of the Church and in particular as part of the public role and conduct of the minister.

To enable students to discuss intelligently some contemporary issues arising from recent developments in civil law.

To develop an informed understanding of the concepts of law and rights from biblical and historical perspectives and within the law of the Church.

Content:

Note: The content of this module will vary according to denomination.

Biblical and theological perspectives on contemporary understandings of law, rights and human dignity.

Critical exploration of the emergence of rights in western legal thought, including the rights of lay people in the Church and the duties and rights of ministers.

Human rights legislation and its impact on Church of England Canon Law, or its equivalent in other denominations.

The role of ecclesiastical law in guarding the Christian faith and defining the ecclesiology of a particular denomination.

Study of how Church of England Canon Law – or its equivalent in another denomination – governs the sacramental life of the church and the right ordering of worship, making appropriate use of case law and significant reports.

Examination of some contemporary issues arising from developments in civil law. In particular, the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults will be studied in respect of: legal obligations, implementation of policies, establishing appropriate behaviours for clergy and laity, sacramental confession and ministry to survivors and abusers.

All of the above will be studied with reference to the students' professional/vocational practice by means of critical theological reflection.

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

Subject Knowledge [BA SSK 2, 3] [Graduate Cert / Dip SSK 1, 2]

Demonstrate a coherent and detailed understanding of the role of the law in the Church, its relationship with different theological disciplines and its impact on the rights and duties of laity and clergy, interacting with the methodologies and findings of current research, ecclesiastical law, reports and case law.

Articulate a critical and theologically informed understanding of some contemporary issues arising from civil law and the controversies surrounding them, explaining how they relate to aspects of faith, ministry and pastoral care.

Subject Skills [BA SSS 2, 3] [Graduate Cert / Dip SSS 2]

Consolidate and enhance their skills of reflective practice in relation to public ministry in their local church and community in the light of theological and other disciplines.

Reflect theologically on situations where law and statutory frameworks shape the life and mission of congregations in the contemporary context, showing sensitivity to the problems of religious language, experience and the limits of knowledge.

Key Skills [BA / Grad Dip KS 1, 2, 4] [Grad Cert KS 1, 2, 3]

Identify, gather, analyse and evaluate textual sources materials, including material from primary sources and scholarly research, for a range of purposes, and communicate their findings with clarity and fairness.

Critically evaluate ideas, arguments and assumptions, using them to communicate a coherent response with sensitivity and respect.

Take responsibility for their own personal and professional development.

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

Learning Hours: Learning hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Learning 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 undergraduate modules.

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