



MA DLB 0634- Religion and Human Rights

JSIA Cross Elective – Spring Semester (2026)

Course Information

Course Duration: 15 Weeks

Credit Hours: 4 Weeks

Location: T4- G79 (7-10pm)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Haseeb Mohammed

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1. Course Description

The role of religion in society and its interaction with human rights law is increasingly under the spotlight – in part, as a result of the challenges posed by globalisation and immigration.

The right to religious freedom of minorities is interfered with by religious and secular states, alike. However, religion frequently serves as a pretext for human rights violations, particularly in relation to freedom of expression, women's rights and minority rights (including LGBTQI).

This module explores the relationship between law, human rights, and religion in their societal and political context, with an emphasis on theoretical perspectives and substantive law (at an international, regional and national level).

2. Course Intended Learning Objectives(Aim)

Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessments/Activities
Explain and analyze the mechanisms and machinery by which right to religious freedom are protected within the UN system and by certain universal and regional human rights treaties.		
Demonstrate understanding of the legal, moral, political and economic context of the module		
Apply their knowledge to analyze complex legal questions		
Critique a range of legal materials and arguments		

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation breakup

Internal breakup- Research Paper 70%

External breakup: Final Written Exam 30%

4. Academic Integrity

Academic Honesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism. (As per university norms and regulations)

Participation/Attendance Policy

Use of phone/ texting/ laptop

5. Course Material:

Major Books on Religion and Human Rights

CANE, P, EVANS, CM & ROBINSON, Z (eds) Law and Religion in Theoretical and Historical Context (2008)

JANIS, M & EVANS, CM (eds), Religion and International Law, Martinus

Nijhoff, Leiden, 512pp (1999)

EVANS, CM, Freedom of Religion under the European Convention on Human Rights, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 217pp. (2001)

M. EVANS, Religious Liberty and International Law in Europe (1997)

R. SANDBERG, Law and Religion(Cambridge University Press, 2011)

R. MCREA, Religion and the Public Order of the European Union, Oxford University Press, (2010).

M. HUNTER-HENIN (ed), Law, Religious Freedom and Education in Europe (Ashgate, 2011)

P.M. TAYLOR, Freedom of Religion – UN and European Human Rights Law and Practice (Cambridge, 2005).

A. FERRARI AND S. PASTORELLI, The Burqa Affair Across Europe (Ashgate, 2013).

S. FERRARI AND S. PASTORELLI (eds), Religion in public spaces: a European perspective(Ashgate, 2012)

K. ALIDADI, FOBLETS AND VRIELINK, A test of faith? Religious diversity and accommodation in the European workplace (Ashgate, 2012).

6. Session Plan

Session	General Topic	Readings	Approach/Pedagogy
Introduction: Overview, History, International Instruments. Case Study 03/02/26 Week. 1		All readings and cases will be provided.	
Non-discrimination: Why protect freedom of religion or belief? 10/02/26 Week. 2			
Religion and International Law: Challenges to			

freedom of religion. 17/02/26 Week. 3			
Jurisprudence under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) 23/02/26-03/03/26 Week. 4/5			
The ECHR: Case study of Islamic headscarves 09-10/03/26 Week6/7			
The ECHR: Religious symbols 17-24-30/03/26 Week8/9			
Severance of Consular Relations 06/04/26 Week 10			
UN law/Defamation of religion debate. 13-20/04/26 Week11/12			
Article 18 ICCPR 27/05/26- 04/05/26 Week 13/14			
Revision of taught material 04/05/26 Week 15			