

Reflective Practice: Law and the Public Minister (TMM43720)

Module Level: 7

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 idea of rights from biblical and historical perspectives and within the law of the Church.

Content:

Note: The content of this module will vary to some degree 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 clergy.
- Human rights legislation and its impact on Canon Law, or its equivalent in a non-Anglican denomination.
- The relationship between ecclesiastical law in guarding the Christian faith and defining the ecclesiology of a particular denomination.
- Study of how Canon Law – or its equivalent in a non-Anglican 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.
- 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 Specific Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 4]

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge 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 that is informed by current research, ecclesiastical law, reports, case law and original thinking.

Articulate a critical and theologically informed understanding of some contemporary issues arising from civil law and the controversies surrounding them, relating these appropriately and effectively to aspects of faith, ministry and pastoral care.

Subject Specific Skills [SSS 1, 3, 4]

Apply their knowledge to independently investigate an area of professional practice in relation to law and public ministry, drawing valid conclusions, some of which may be original and which may impact on future practice.

Demonstrate independence of thought in reflecting theologically on situations where law and statutory frameworks shape the life and mission of the minister and parish in the contemporary context, engaging sensitively and creatively with complex and ambiguous realities.

Contribute to the debate at the forefront of their chosen area of study or practice.

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

