



COURSE DESCRIPTION - FACULTY OF LAW

COURSE NUMBER: 486:B4

COURSE NAME: Jurisprudence - Readings in Law & Religion

PREREQUISITE COURSES: No

PREREQUISITE FOR: No

CREDITS: 3 **HOURS PER TERM:** **TERM:** Winter **MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT:** 25

PROFESSOR: DeCoste & Yahya

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: LECTURE SEMINAR X OTHER

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

This course is a true seminar. That is, its purpose and process both reside in the disciplined reading and discussion of texts. Its method of evaluation addresses those two matters -- reading and discussion -- only and in consequence, there is neither examination nor a term paper requirement. Instead, grades will be based on weekly written submissions on assigned readings and on seminar participation. As regards the former, Seminar participants will be required to post to the TWEN forum for this course, three 1 page comments on each week's assigned text.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Seminar aims to provide participants with the opportunity to reflect in a disciplined fashion on the relationship between State and Religion. Disciplined study of that sort will be pursued in three stages. First, the Seminar will read texts that seek to disclose the place of religion in the development of Western Civilization generally and of the Western Legal Tradition in particular. Having anchored itself in history and tradition, the Seminar will then turn to texts that explore, in various ways and at various levels of abstraction, both the relationship that ought properly to obtain between a Western Rule of Law State and Religion and the sites of contest between State and Religion. The Seminar's exploration ends with the contemporary situation in which State and Religion find themselves. Here

the Seminar will read texts having to do with the meaning and significance of secularism and with the 20th century phenomenon, which has continued into the present, of the sacralization of state and politics.

***SPECIAL COMMENTS:**

EVENING CLASS:

SPECIAL ATTENDANCE:

OTHER:

REQUIRED TEXTS (IF ANY):

The following nine texts are required and will be assigned and read during the Seminar's 12 weeks duration:

- * **Royal, *The God That Did Not Fail***
- * **Berman, *Law and Revolution***
- * **Witte, *God's Joust, God's Justice***
- * **Novak, *In Defense of Religious Liberty***
- * **Clinton, *God and Man in the Law***
- * **Perry, *Religion in Politics***
- * **George, *The Clash of Orthodoxies***
- * **Taylor, *A Secular Age***
- * **Gentile, *Politics as Religion***