

School of American Law Jagiellonian University

AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN RELIGION AND LAW

PROFESSOR JAY WEXLER

Professor of Law at the Boston University
Fullbright Scholar at the Jagiellonian University

Description of the course

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." These two clauses—the "establishment clause" and the "free exercise clause"—have created enormous legal controversy in the United States over the past 100 years. This course will consider how the U.S. Supreme Court and other U.S. courts have struggled to apply these clauses to a wide range of disputes involving issues such as school prayer, religious displays, funding of religious institutions, and religious freedom. We may also consider issues involving religion and politics in the United States, both generally and in connection with specific topics such as bioethics and same-sex marriage. The instructor is open to suggestions from students regarding possible topics of study in the final weeks of the class, including comparative and international perspectives on law and religion. The course is not part of the JU-CUA American Law Program, students receive independent credit for it.

Language of Instruction

English

Requirements for Participation

1. Passed constitutional law course.
2. Fluent English (there will be mandatory reading for each class).
3. In order to take the exam, students need to register with USOS.
4. Students must be enrolled in the JU Law School; students of other faculties or universities may seek individual permission to join from professor Wexler.

Course Formalities

5 ECTS credits

Time: 30 hours, 1 semester

Time and Venue

11 AM - 12:30 PM, Kraków, ul. Bracka 12, room 55. The room will fit maximum 50 students.

First class: Friday, 29 February 2008

Office

JU School of American Law provides staff and office support for the course. Contact: Iwona Karwala, 31-005 Kraków, ul. Bracka 12/205, tel./fax +48 12 422 09 08, okspo@uj.edu.pl, <http://transformacje.pl>.

Internet

More information about Prof. Wexler can be found on the Boston University website at <http://www.bu.edu/dbin/law/faculty/profiles/index.php#w> or at his personal website: www.jaywex.com.