Gods & Governments
Legal 491R – Spring 2004

Professor Thomas Hilbink
Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
209 Herter Hall
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Office Hours:
Tuesdays, 11 am to 1 p.m. or by appointment.
- I cannot stress enough how important I think it is to come to office hours – to clarify questions you may have in class, to check in on progress on projects, etc.

Course requirements:
- Regular class attendance
- Timely completion of all reading assignments
- Informed and thoughtful class participation
- Joint stewardship of one class session
• Mock trial participation
• Project on religion and marriage

Grading:
• 25% for class participation
  o You will be expected to write brief replies to questions distributed by
    the class steward before you come to class each week. These will
    be collected and will form part of your participation grade.
  o I will grade your class participation for each class session on a scale
    of 1 to 10. A one means you didn’t talk at all (or didn’t show). If you
    talk out of your butt and demonstrate that you didn’t do the
    readings, you’ll get a two. Grades go up from there. If you are
    afraid to talk in class, make a point of coming to office hours on a
    regular basis. And be sure, then, to concentrate on your reply
    sheets (see above).
• 5% for class note taking
  o Each student will be required to act as the class reporter for one
    session. You will have to take careful notes, type up those notes,
    and distribute those notes to the class the next session.
• 10% for class stewardship
  o Your grade will be based on how well you lead class discussion, the
    types of questions you pose, etc. I will provide more information as
    to my expectations in a separate handout
• 20% for mock trial advocacy
  o You will be required to argue in a mock trial on issues currently
    before the Supreme Court in class on March 31st. Further
    information on this assignment will be distributed in the weeks
    before then.
• 40% for religion and marriage project
  o A separate handout will discuss the particulars of this assignment.

Schedule for Major Course Assignments:
• March 31st: Mock Trial
• April 14th: Preliminary report on marriage project
• May 12th: Final report on marriage project
• May 19th: Final draft of marriage project report

Course readings:
As this is a senior seminar, I presume that you have mastered the skill of
reading non-fiction in large amounts. The readings are demanding and your
completion of readings – along with the ability to discuss and debate such
readings with your seminar-mates – will constitute a major part of your class
grade. If you don’t like reading, don’t take this course. Skimming the readings
the morning of class will not get you by.
You will also have to show some initiative in obtaining the readings, as they will be found in a variety of forms and locales. See the syllabus in regards to where these readings are to be found. Claiming you couldn't find the reading

- **Food for Thought:** Many of the books will be sold at Food for Thought Books, 106 N. Pleasant Street in downtown Amherst. You may also wish to search for used (and cheaper) copies on the web. I tend to use abebooks.com or alibris.com.
  - The books at Food for Thought are:

- **Course Reader:** A course reader is for sale at Collective Copies, 71 S. Pleasant Street downtown. Call first to see if they have copies ready to pickup: 413-256-6425.

- **Website:** Some readings will only be available on the website. You may wish to download and print them well before you need to read them, so as to assure that you can get them in time. The articles on jstor.org may only be accessed from a UMass server-based computer. If you need me to email you a copy of the .pdf files, please contact me by Monday before class.

- **Reserve:** All the books, as well as copies of the reader, are on reserve at the DuBois Library.

- **Class distribution:** Where indicated in the schedule, I will distribute some readings to you in class the week (or more) before they are to be discussed. Extra copies, should you miss class, will be in the course “basket” in the Legal Studies office.
January 28th

**Introduction: Judges, Law, and God**
  - In reader
  - Distributed in class

February 4th

**Who’s in charge here?: Rule of Law v. Rule of God**
- Steward: Hilbink
- In-class screening: *A Man for All Seasons* (1966)

February 11th

**Who’s in charge here?: Christianity and American Constitutionalism**
- Stewards: Bobbi-Sue Doyle-Hazard & Tracey Drown
  - In reader

February 18th

**Monday Schedule (No class)**

February 25th

**Who’s in charge here?: Islam and Constitutionalism**
Read and present on one of the following
  - Steward: Maggie Rogers
  - Steward: Tiffany Sparks & Saef Din
  - Steward: Amy Dalen
  - Available on reserve or at Food for Thought
March 3rd

Religion and the Political Realm: Buddhism and Violence
- Steward: Audrey Hall & Josh Champney
  - In reader
  - Link on webpage

March 10th

Religion and the Political Realm: Catholicism at home and abroad
- Stewards: Allison Ciullo & Margaret Gould
  - Link on webpage
  - In reader

March 17th

Spring Break (No Class)

March 24th

Religion and the Political Realm: Protestantism Left and Right
- Steward: Russell Ferri
- Pat Robertson, “Road to Victory ’94,” September 17, 1994.
  - In reader

March 31st

Regulating Religion: Separating Church and State in the Supreme Court
- Locke v. Davey
- Newdow v. United States Congress
  - Distributed in class

April 7th

**Regulating Religion: The Jehovah’s Witnesses**
- Steward: Erin Meaney
  - Available on reserve or at Food for Thought

April 14th

**Regulating Religion: Gay Marriage in Massachusetts and Beyond**
- Readings distributed in class

April 21st

**Trials and Truths: Who is a Jew?**
- Steward: Benjamin Rodny
  - In reader

April 28th

**Trials and Truths: Giant Rabbits, the Devil, and Christ**
- Stewards: Kathryn Puerini & Owino Ongando
  - Available on reserve or at Food for Thought

May 5th

**Trials and Truths: Ding-dong the Witch is Dead**
- Steward: Hilbink
  - Available on reserve or at Food for Thought

May 12th

**Presentations on final projects**