

HI/RN 295—Religion and the Law

Take-home Examination

Write a constitution for a state—real or imagined—that provides what is in your mind the ideal legal structure for regulating religion in a constitutional regime. You can write a constitution for an imaginary state (e.g. Simonland), for a state without a single constitutional document (e.g. Israel or the United Kingdom), or a new constitution for a state that already has one (e.g. the United States). Your constitution should have three parts:

- 1) A preamble explaining the nature of your state. What is its political system? Upon what principles is it based? Who are its members? Where does sovereignty lie? The preamble *can* indicate the role (or absence of a role) of religion, God, or secularism in your state as you deem appropriate.
- 2) A list of all of the articles in your constitution directly or tangentially relating to religion: for example specific individual rights, collective rights, state symbols, declarations on the role of religion (or something else) in the state, etc.
- 3) A 3-4 page Explanatory Note about why this constitutional framework is the ideal means for your state to legally define and regulate religion. The Explanatory Note is your opportunity to demonstrate your command of the course's themes, so draw as widely as possible on examples, precedents, problems, and comparisons from the course readings. If you borrowed elements from existing constitutions in drafting your own, indicate which and explain why in the Explanatory Note. Please use proper citations (Chicago)

For reference, you can find a list of links to many current state constitutions here:

<http://blogs.bu.edu/guidedhistory/law-and-religion/comparative-constitutions/>