

Subject card

Subject name and code	Liability of clergy for sexual crimes - lecture, PG_00203141						
Field of study	Administration						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group		Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		e-learning		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Tomasz Snarski				
	Teachers		dr Tomasz Snarski				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The course provides students with knowledge on the issue of clergy liability for sexual offences, covering both secular law and canon law, whilst also taking criminological issues into account. The knowledge imparted encompasses not only dogmatic considerations, but also presents court rulings and the results of empirical research; it discusses the specific nature of the issue, including the scale of sexual offences committed by clergy in the light of available statistics and literature, with reference to selected countries and Poland, as well as providing examples of how the Church and the state have responded to this problem. The criminogenic factors underlying sexual offences within the Church are also presented.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[ADMINMU2_W03] has advanced knowledge and understanding of current dilemmas related to the functioning of administration and the application of legal institutions within the state, public administration, and the economy, including in the context of the creation and development of various forms of entrepreneurship, with particular emphasis on regulations concerning new technologies.	The student is able to identify and classify cases of sexual abuse and offences in a variety of contexts.	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work [SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[ADMINMU2_W01] has an advanced knowledge and understanding of the theories, methods, concepts, and terminology appropriate to legal sciences as well as the study of administration and politics, particularly with regard to the system of public authority, administrative activity, and the legal determinants of the organization and functioning of administration, including those characteristic of the state and the information society, as well as issues concerning various aspects of the application of new technologies.	The student is prepared to adopt an ethical and understanding approach to sexual safety and dignity, and to work to prevent violence and sexual offences.	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work [SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[ADMINMU2_W02] at an advanced level, identifies and understands the legal and administrative determinants of various forms of social and economic life, including those characteristic of the state and the information society, as well as issues relating to different aspects of the application of new technologies.	The student is ready to continue their independent learning in the areas of knowledge and skills relating to assessment, diagnosis and psychological support, as well as their own attitudes towards safety, violence and sexual offences.	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work [SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[ADMINMU2_K01] being aware of the role of knowledge in solving problems related to the organization and functioning of public administration, as well as the application of law in selected domains of social and economic life, is prepared to think critically and evaluate substantive content, including legal norms, and to draw on expert knowledge.	The student is familiar with and understands contemporary perspectives on sexual offences and abuse committed by members of the clergy from psychological, sociological, cultural and legal perspectives.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task
Subject contents	1. The concept of sexual offences; 2. Clergy, Church and State law; 3. Criminal law and sexual offences committed by clergy; 4. Canon law and sexual offences committed by clergy (canon law in relation to sexual abuse); 5. The duty to report selected sexual offences; 6. Preventing sexual abuse in the Catholic Church; 7. Case studies; 8. Statistics on violence and sexual offences in Poland and worldwide; 9. Groups particularly vulnerable to victimisation; groups over-represented among perpetrators; 10. Problems and challenges associated with reporting violence and sexual offences; 11. Protection and representation of victims in proceedings concerning sexual offences; 12. The concept and specific nature of liability within the canon law system.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	None		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	essay	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. A. Tarnacka, Postępowanie w przypadku wykorzystywania seksualnego małoletniego w kanonicznym oraz polskim porządku prawnym – aspekty prawnoporównawcze, [w:] D. Kobylański (red.), Nauki humanistyczne i społeczne w perspektywie interdyscyplinarnej. Tom VIII, Łódź 2023, s. 7-20 2. Wykorzystywanie seksualne osób małoletnich przez duchownych katolickich w Polsce w latach 1950 – 2021. Wyniki trzech kwerend przypadków zgłoszonych diecezjom i jurysdykcjom zakonnym w latach 1990–2021. Raport z badań, oprac. S. Nawotny, Warszawa 2023. 3. J. Dohnalik, Prawo kanoniczne wobec nadużyć seksualnych duchownych względem dzieci i młodzieży, " Dziecko krzywdzone. Teoria, badania, praktyka" 2015, nr 14(1), s. 50-66. 4. Seksualne wykorzystywanie małoletnich w Kościele. Problem – odpowiedź Kościoła – doświadczenie polskie, red. A. Żak SJ, E. Kusz, Wyd. Ignatianum, Kraków 2018. 5. Nadużycia seksualne w Kościele a tajemnica spowiedzi, oprac. zbiorowe, Wydawnictwo WAM 2022. 6. A. Więcek-Durańska, Przestępczość seksualna duchownych wobec osób małoletnich - analiza przypadków, "Psychiatria Polska" 2022, 56(1), s. 137-152. 7. A. Wilk, Prawne i kryminologiczne aspekty przestępczości seksualnej duchownych, "Problemy Prawa Karnego" 2022, t. 6, nr 1.
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	Supplementary literature	1. Lew-Starowicz, Z., Przyłuska-Fischer, A., Strusiński, J. (2015). Normy i kontrowersje etyczne w seksuologii. GWP. 2. Brouillette-Alarie, S., & Proulx, J. (2019). The etiology of risk in sexual offenders: A preliminary model. Sexual Abuse, 31(4), 431-455. 3. P. Petasz, Przestępstwa seksualne w polskim prawie karnym, Wydawnictwo UG, Gdańsk 2026. 4. Lach, A. (2011), Dowody elektroniczne w sprawach pornografii dziecięcej i pedofilii w Internecie, CH Beck, Warszawa. 5. Franciszek, Motu proprio Come una madre amorevole, 4 VI 2016 r., AAS 108 (2016), s. 715-717. Polskie tłumaczenie w: „L'Osservatore Romano. Wydanie Polskie” 37 (2016), nr 6, s. 6-7. 6/ Franciszek, Motu proprio Vos estis lux mundi, 25 III 2023 r., „L'Osservatore Romano. Edizione quotidiana”, 25.05.2023, 163 (2023), nr 71, s. 8-10. Tekst polski w: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/pl/motu_proprio/documents/20230325-motu-proprio-vos-estis-lux-mundi-aggiornato.html 7. Konferencja Episkopatu Polski, Wytoczne dotyczące etapu wstępnego wewnętrznego postępowania kościelnego w przypadku oskarżeń duchownych o czyny przeciwko szóstemu przykazaniu z osobą małoletnią, 8 X 2014 r. (ze zm.), „Akta Konferencji Episkopatu Polski” 22 (2019), nr 31, s. 261-270. 8. Odpowiedź Kościoła na dramat wykorzystania seksualnego małoletnich. Aspekt prawny. Dokumenty i komentarze, red. P. Studnicki, M. Dalgiewicz, Ząbki 2020. 9. P. Majer, Odpowiedzialność kanoniczno-prawna przełożonych kościelnych w przypadku przestępstw seksualnych duchownych wobec małoletnich, w: Wykorzystywanie seksualne osób małoletnich. Ujęcie interdyscyplinarne. Część I, red. M. Cholewa, P. Studnicki, Kraków 2021, s. 295-330. 10. (Nie)odpowiedzialność cywilnoprawna kościelnych osób prawnych za czyny niedozwolone popełnione przez osoby duchowne, red. P. Sobczyk, Warszawa 2022. 11. P. Majer, Kanoniczna odpowiedzialność biskupa w związku z czynami podległych mu duchownych. Przestępstwa seksualne wobec małoletnich, Kraków 2023.
	eResources addresses	Supplementary https://wiesz.pl/projekt/zranieni-w-kosciele/ - The 'Wounded in the Church' initiative is a helpline and a Catholic support network for people affected by sexual violence within the Church. The helpline is primarily intended for people who have themselves experienced sexual abuse, and their loved ones. https://ochrona.episkopat.pl/ - Protection of minors and vulnerable people in the Church – the official website of the Polish Bishops' Conference.
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Criminal and canonical liability of clergy for sexual offences against minors The criminal offence of failing to report a crime Standards for the protection of children and young people and the prevention of sexual offences against minors (prevention of sexual abuse) Forms of violence against children, sexually motivated offences	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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