

introduce?
why?
won't teach law

A CULTURE OF BELIEFS

I. Introduction

The purpose of the course is to look at the role of our beliefs in public discourse and the role of government in dealing with those beliefs. Our objective will not be to debate important moral questions, but to discuss the role of faith in that debate.

We will look at the same question from a number of different perspectives. Some of these questions and themes are as follows:

* We will try to examine some of the central themes of Carter's book: that the role of religion in public life is diminishing; that those who advocate a faith based response to public questions are shunned or are viewed as fanatics. Are these assertions true and do they have a historical basis? This bears serious questioning.

We are a country of believers and skeptics. This forms a sort of non constitutional check and balance. We are believers yet we are skeptical of those who seek to impose their beliefs on us. We are, in deed afraid of those who try to impose or who are suspected of wanting to do so.

The debate is important because our predominate moral values tend to become our legal code. Law draws strength from all types of authority, one such authority is its moral authority.

* This course is not designed to be about law. Rather it is designed to consider our attitudes in their legal, political and societal contexts. In the process we will discuss and challenge Carter's many themes.

The course draws its inspiration from Carter's book, but my own title implicitly challenges one of Carter's central themes. We have a culture of disbelief. To the contrary,

Trivialize Devozi