# **Department of Theology & Religion**

# **Module Descriptions 2024/25**

# **Level I (i.e. 2nd Yr.) Modules**

Please be aware that all modules are subject to availability.

For many of these modules, some experience of studying Theology may be required, and you should remember this when choosing your modules. If there is another module that you need to have studied before taking this, it will be stated in the module description.

Please note that at the time this document has been prepared (October 2024) the following information is provisional, and there may be minor changes between now and the beginning of 2024/25 academic year.

**Please note: Forms of assessment are currently undergoing review for 2024/25, and as a result the assessment information listed within this handbook may be subject to change.**

#  **SEMESTER 2 MODULES**

## **Auschwitz in History and Memory**

Module Code: 28668

Credit Value: 20

Semester: 2

Pre-requisites: None

**Module Description**

This interdisciplinary Holocaust studies module explores Auschwitz in history and memory.

Topics covered relating to KL Auschwitz include the evolution and multi-functionality of the site; the experience of non-Jews; gendered experiences; the nature of survival and resistance in KL Auschwitz; the Auschwitz Sonderkommando; perpetrators and perpetrator texts.

Study of Auschwitz in memory will focus on the ‘afterlife’ of the site, both as a physical location/memorial and as a symbol: visual representations of Auschwitz; memorialization of the site; the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum; Auschwitz as a site of mass/dark/Holocaust tourism, and a site of pilgrimage and (contested) sacred space.

Assessment

1 x 3000 word essay (50%)

1 x 24-hour take home exam (50%)

## **Religion and the Arts**

Module Code: 34948

Credit Value: 20

Semester: 2

Pre-requisites: None

**Module Description**

This module will assess the importance and significance of art (and ‘the arts’ more broadly framed) in its many different forms as a tool for communication, interpretation and critique of religious and theological ideas and ideologies. It will focus on, for example, a range of artefacts, including works of fine art, stained glass, sculpture, literature, film and music, and upon buildings and architectural features, offering and introduction to the development of religious art and seeking to read a range of works from religious and secular perspectives. Students will learn how to read and appreciate such artefacts as theological resources as well as cultural ones, and reflect upon issues such as what it is that makes art religious and how cultural outputs and artefacts can have spiritual impact.

Assessment

1 x 2500 word portfolio (60%)

1 x 1500 word review (40%)

## **LI Gender, Sexualities and Religion**

Module Code: 40040

Credit Value: 20

Semester: 2

Pre-requisites: None

**Module Description**

This module explores the complicated and often heated relationship between LGBTQ movements, feminist movements and religion/spirituality. It investigates how social and political constructions of gender and sexuality are challenged, both by those who attempt to reform religious traditions from within and those who break away to invent new forms of spirituality. The focus will typically be on particular texts from particular religious traditions from the last fifty years. Topics include power, authority, experience, community, minorities. The module is usually divided into three textual blocs, enabling comparisons between perspectives across religious traditions, regions, and languages.

**Assessment:**

2 x 2,000 words essay (50% each)

## **LI Critical Issues in Theology, Religion and Education**

Module Code: 37672

Credit Value: 20

Semester: 2

Pre-requisites: None

**Module Description**

This module introduces students to key, critical issues in British Religious Education and orients them to the current climate and significant debates defining the subject area. Students will gain insight into educational theory and practice alongside engagement with disciplinary research in Theology and Religion and its applicability in the classroom. The module allows students to examine closely areas of current curriculum focus with guided insight into the challenges and potential impact of exploring these in classroom settings. Throughout the module, students will gain an appreciation of teaching and learning in religion that is closely integrated with educational perspectives, asking what is meant by the ‘religious’ aspect of Religious Education in contemporary, multifaith society.

**Assessment:**

1 x Essay of 2,500 words (50%)

1 x Lesson plan with annotated bibliography (2,000-word equivalent) (50%)