Department of Religions & Theology

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Semester B:

**Introduction to the New Testament: BCRE14 (HE 1103)**

ECTS: 5
Contact hours: 22 Lecture Hours
Lecturer(s): Prof. Daniele Pevarello (pevareld@tcd.ie/ext. 1297)

**Module Description:**

The writings included in the New Testament have been composed by different authors over a relatively long time. Translated in countless languages, the stories and concepts found in the New Testament have played a major role in shaping socio-political, ethical and religious discourses across the centuries and in different cultures and have been a constant source of inspiration in art, music and literature. This module aims at introducing students to the writings of the New Testament, their content, their origins, their transmission and the history of their interpretation. Students will learn about the most relevant scholarly approaches to the study of the New Testament and examine the variety of literary genres and the diversity of sources and traditions which contributed to the development of early Christianity and to the formation of new religious and cultural identities in the Graeco-Roman world.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the main approaches of investigation of New Testament literature (e.g. historical-critical, narratological, feminist) and the principal methodological difficulties related to the study of the New Testament and its origins.
- Demonstrate adequate familiarity with the content of the writings which form the New Testament, their structure and the main historical and cultural factors which contributed to their development.
- Read the New Testament in English translation with awareness of the complex process of its formation and with an appreciation of the diverse traditions which are represented in it. This includes a basic awareness of the history of its interpretation and exegetical traditions and an increased facility in presenting scholarly views about the New Testament to both specialists and non-specialists, writing well-structured essays and compiling well-reasoned bibliographies.
- Appreciate the importance of the transmission of the text of the New Testament, its canon, its manuscripts (in particular those preserved in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin) and its critical editions for the understanding of early Christianity.

**Indicative Reading:**
