

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Short Courses – Spring 2024



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Contents

REGISTRATION	3
FEES	3
COURSES	3
Time and Place	3
Duration	3
SPRING 2024 COURSES	4
Introducing the New Testament: Texts and Contexts	4
Introducing Theology: Key Questions	4
Ethics Matters: Global Questions, Ethical Responses.....	4
Introduction to Philosophy	4
Introducing Islam	5
Religions in the Ancient Mediterranean	5
The Historical Jesus and the Gospels	5
Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God.....	6
Cosmology, Religion and Science.....	6
Digital Innovation to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals	6
Book of Kells.....	7
Words to the Wise: Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature	7
Reformation and Enlightenment	7
God and Human Freedom.....	8
Life of Muhammad.....	8
REGISTRATION FORM – Spring 2024	9

REGISTRATION

Registration can be made in person or by post / email to sradmdbln@tcd.ie (please include a completed copy of the Application Form which is available at this [link](#)).

FEES

The fee per module is **€150**. A concession rate of €100 is available to second and third level students, unemployed persons and those in receipt of a social welfare pension.

Registration and payment can be made in person at the School of RTPS (Old Physiology Building) at the following dates/ times:

Monday to Friday, 10 AM-12 PM / 2:30 PM – 4 PM

Please note that Trinity College / School will be closed from 22 December 2023 to 1 January 2024, inclusive.

Cheques, drafts or postal orders should be made payable to **TRINITY COLLEGE No. 1 ACCOUNT**.

Please return cheques, drafts or postal orders to:

Executive Officer

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, D02C1F6

COURSES

These are **day-time and face to face courses**. Each course is **auditing-based** and has either two, one-hour lectures or one two-hours lecture per week.

Time and Place

For exact times of particular modules please see the 'Current Student Page' – *Undergraduate Programme Timetable* at the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies [website](#).

All classes take place on the Trinity College Dublin campus, either in the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies Building (Old Physiology building) or theatres nearby.

Duration

This term runs from week starting 22 January to 8 April 2024.

Note: no lectures during reading week starting 4 March 2024.

SPRING 2024 COURSES

Introducing the New Testament: Texts and Contexts

Lecturers: Prof. Daniele Pevarello, Prof. Benjamin Wold

The writings included in the canon of the New Testament have been composed by different authors over a relatively long period of time. Translated in countless languages, the stories and ideas 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. In this module, students will learn about the most relevant scholarly approaches to the study of the New Testament and its background in Second Temple Judaism and in the Graeco-Roman world, 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 realities in the Graeco-Roman world, and be introduced to the history of interpretation of the New Testament in antiquity and in contemporary culture.

Introducing Theology: Key Questions

Lecturer: Prof. Michael Kirwan

The module will offer an introduction to theology by means of contributions from a number of teaching staff from their own expertise and interests. Key questions will be addressed, such as the doctrine of God and creation, theodicy, theology in a liberative mode, and the problem of religion and violence, as well as the inclusion of theology as a subject into the modern university.

The module examines key questions according to the expertise and interests of the individual lecturers. This will give an introduction to the rich variety of 'theology' as a discipline, while addressing the question of the nature of theology as an academic subject within the university.

Ethics Matters: Global Questions, Ethical Responses

Lecturer: Prof. Cathriona Russell

The module will begin with a consideration of the nature of ethics argumentation and investigation, and the importance of bringing an ethics analysis to bear on a range of contemporary issues. Students will be introduced to schools of ethics in philosophy and theology (virtue autonomy, utility), the scope and limits of obligations (cosmopolitan and communitarian), professional ethics, and national and international agreements and conventions, with examples drawn from across the globe: dam building in India; migration, international food security; sustainable transport; biodiversity conservation and (smart) technologies; artificial intelligence and the future of work; and genetic 'enhancement' of future generations and 'advance directives' in dying.

Introduction to Philosophy

Lecturer: Dr Ciarán McGlynn

The module offers an overview of Western philosophy and analyses the questions treated in its main branches. Beginning with the Greeks as the founders of the Western philosophical tradition, key texts and ideas relating to Presocratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle will be studied

with a particular emphasis on metaphysical questions about the nature of reality and of the soul. The medieval era will be studied primarily through the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, with particular emphasis on his use of an Aristotelian approach to metaphysical notions of substance and soul, as well as his arguments for the existence of God. The study of modern philosophy will focus on Descartes, Hume, Kant, and Wittgenstein. In this part of the course, we will explore the views of these thinkers on questions like: What is knowledge, and is it possible? How is the mind related to the body? What is meant by virtue ethics? What is the relation between language and the world? Students will be taught how to critically engage with the various philosophical positions.

Introducing Islam

Lecturer: Prof. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche

Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the world today. This module surveys its emergence, development, beliefs and practices, the 7th century into modernity.

This module aims to

- Provide an overview of Islamic history.
- Present and discuss Islamic scriptures, doctrines and rituals.
- Demonstrate the significance and development within Islam of concepts such as prophethood, revelation, jihad, theology, law and gender.
- Develop an understanding of the contribution of Islamic civilization to human culture.
- Examine various scholarly approaches to the study of Islam.

Religions in the Ancient Mediterranean

Lecturer: Prof. Daniele Pevarello

Employing literary sources as well as inscriptions, funerary art and ancient iconography, and other archaeological finds, this module investigates the religious beliefs and practice of the various peoples and civilisations of the ancient Mediterranean from ancient Egypt to Imperial Rome, focusing on the study of ancient rituals (e.g., burial customs, animal and human sacrifice) and on Mediterranean myths and mythologies (e.g., dying-and-rising deities in Egypt, Syria and ancient Greece). Students will reflect about the methodological challenges of studying ancient religions, focusing on the problem of interpreting fragmentary evidence, understanding ancient definitions of religion and magic, and distinguishing between private and public devotion in ancient societies. The course will help student to think about such questions as did people in antiquity believe in their myths? Why did the Egyptians mummify their dead? What is the significance of the ancient myths of Osiris, Gilgamesh and Baal? Did the ancient Phoenicians and Carthaginians practice human sacrifice?

The Historical Jesus and the Gospels

Lecturer: Prof. Benjamin Wold

Who was the historical Jesus – the Jewish Galilean whose activities and death resulted in the emergence of Christianity? This module explores questions about Jesus the man, his world, his social and literary environment, his disciples, and their literary activities. The history of research on

the historical Jesus (i.e., the so-called “three quests”) orient this module before turning to a sustained study of the earliest witness to his life and those of his followers, namely the synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When studying the context of Jesus and the gospels their environments and social milieu are introduced vis-à-vis material culture and archaeology. Key themes, particularly ancient Jewish “Messianism” as it relates to the portrayal of Jesus as “Christ,” are considered in light of Qumran Discoveries (e.g., so-called “4QMessianic Apocalypse”). Students are also inducted to the various historical and literary methods and approaches used when studying the synoptic gospels.

Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God

Lecturer: Prof. Michael Kirwan

This module critically reviews a range of approaches to the question of God’s existence and nature, drawing both on the history of Christian theological reflection and on philosophy in the Western traditions.

This module explores a number of key philosophical and theological landmarks in the debates about God in Christianity and western philosophy: does God exist? Is natural theology possible? What is meant by the notion of revelation? Is ‘religious language’ different to other language games?

Cosmology, Religion and Science

Lecturer: Prof. Cathriona Russell

Cosmology traces developments in the mythological and natural-scientific study of the universe in its complex history. This module presents these developments as they have been interpreted from biblical, theological and philosophical perspectives and how they conflict or converge with cosmologies from the natural sciences particularly since the 16th century.

It explores how specific cosmologies emerged and in turn impacted on theology, science and culture, in astronomy, thermodynamics, emerging universe models, evolutionary theory and the return to narrative in the natural sciences. It includes implications for anthropology: the human person as created in the image of God (*imago Dei*); as embodied and free, contingent and subject to frailty and failure (‘sin’); as steward of creation; and inhabitant of the future earthly *cosmopolis*.

Digital Innovation to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Lecturers: Prof. P.J. Wall, Prof. Timothy Savage, Prof. Linda Hogan

This module will introduce students to the key issues and current academic debates of relevance in a variety of fields, and also equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and manage these challenges in an appropriate and effective manner.

The module will pay particular attention to the ethical issues involved with innovation for the SDGs, and critically examine the role played by social, political, cultural and human factors when designing, introducing and using technologies. This module therefore contributes to the broader programme outcomes related to ethics, reasoning, and moral inquiry.

The module links most strongly with the SDGs which can be addressed by new, disruptive and innovative approaches and technologies. This module has a particular focus on the SDGs which can be addressed by smaller, community-level and citizen-led technology-based initiatives. Examples

of this include designing innovative ways of leveraging the ubiquity of mobile phones in the Global South for healthcare and education, and the design, evaluation, and implementation of innovative techniques which are designed to be ethically, socially and culturally appropriate for their particular context.

The module content includes relevant, authentic, situated cases from the Global South and Europe that have been developed specifically for the module. These multimedia-enhanced cases focus on projects from Ireland, India, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

Book of Kells

Lecturer: Prof. Fáinche Ryan

The Book of Kells, one of the greatest treasures of Trinity College, is perhaps the most renowned illustrated manuscript of the early medieval period. This module, benefiting from several recent scholarly contributions, will enable the students to learn both the theology and the iconography of this wonderful manuscript. The module will also introduce the students to the world in which this manuscript was created, and to some other aspects of insular art.

The module is designed to be accessible to students coming from all disciplines who have an interest in the Ireland of the early medieval world.

Words to the Wise: Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature

Lecturer: Dr Neil Morrison

This module represents an opportunity to explore the richness of the Wisdom Literature found in the Hebrew Bible and later Jewish traditions. Following an introduction to the Wisdom tradition, the module will offer a close and critical reading of the books of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes and how wisdom themes have influenced other parts of the Hebrew canon. There will also be a focus on the divergent strands which emerge within this corpus and the historical context in which these works were produced. Seminar discussions will explore key themes such as divine justice, attitudes to wealth and work and the representation of women. The module will also consider the coherence of each individual book, the nature of the relationship between Hebrew wisdom and other sapiential traditions and will examine to what extent the Wisdom tradition diverges from other perspectives within the Hebrew Bible.

Reformation and Enlightenment

Lecturer: Dr David Nicoll

This module traces religious belief through early modern Europe, providing students with an introduction to the place of religion in European society, during the period 1500 to 1750 AD. The module first considers the state of late medieval Christianity, before exploring the seismic changes that occurred in Christendom during the sixteenth century across Europe, through some of the major figures of the time. As well as exploring the various 'Reformations' of the period, relationships with minority religious groups in European culture will be analysed, as well as European belief in the supernatural. After investigating the religious wars of the time, the module will then move to looking at the increasing place given to tolerance in European discourse. Finally, in approaching the modern period and to close out the module, the important themes of scientific inquiry and the Enlightenment will be outlined, examining the effect of these elements on European religious belief.

God and Human Freedom

Lecturer: Prof. Fáinche Ryan

This module studies what it means to be human from the perspective of theology. The study begins within the horizon of Jewish experience as articulated especially in the early chapters of the book of Genesis. The themes of the human reality as the Imago Dei, of sanctification, of deification, as well as the theme of deep-seated human alienation, are studied. In the Western tradition grace became a key concept in the articulation of the interplay of divine and human in history. The module studies its deployment through the centuries. Running through the module is the question, the debate, as to whether there are resources in theological anthropology for an understanding of human nature which have been lost in modern culture.

Life of Muhammad

Lecturer: Prof. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche

Muhammad is one of the most influential characters in history. This module discusses his diverse portrayals, from the ones found in the earliest available Islamic sources, to these days. It examines his biography in the early Islamic sources, as well as its diverse interpretations how in later Islamic writings, and modern scholarship.



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Short Courses – Spring 2024

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Course (Module) – Please select below the module(s) you would like to take:

- Introducing the New Testament: Texts and Contexts
- Introducing Theology: Key Questions
- Ethics Matters: Global Questions, Ethical Responses
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introducing Islam
- Religions in the Ancient Mediterranean
- The Historical Jesus and the Gospels
- Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God
- Cosmology, Religion and Science
- Digital Innovation to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- Book of Kells
- Words to the Wise: Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- God and Human Freedom
- Life of Muhammad

FEE: €150 (Reduced fee for students, unemployed persons & pensioners with social welfare card: €100)

Registration and payment in cash can be made in person at the School of RTPS (Old Physiology Building) from **Monday to Friday, 10AM-12PM / 2:30-4PM**. Please note that Trinity College / School will be closed from 22nd December 2023 to 1st January 2024, inclusive.

Cheques, drafts or postal orders should be made payable to **TRINITY COLLEGE No. 1 ACCOUNT**.
Please return cheques, drafts or postal orders to:

Executive Officer

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies,
School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies Building (Old Physiology Building)
Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, D02C1F6

For further queries, please call: 01 896 4789 or email: srundergrad@tcd.ie.