

BCRE24 Hermeneutics: the Bible, classical texts, modern disputes, the environment

Semester: B

ECTS Credits: 5

Duration: 11 weeks

Contact Hours: 22

Quota: None

Prerequisite subjects: None

This course will trace the history of interpretation of texts, investigating the nature of language and meaning, of action, interpretation and subjectivity. It will reflect on the theological and philosophical presuppositions that influenced Biblical interpretation in the history of those texts' reception. It will explore the hermeneutical approaches and evaluations of Friedrich Schleiermacher, Hans-Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur and case studies in hermeneutics in biblical studies, historiography, translation, ecology, ethics and intercultural encounter.

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

Differentiate the theological and philosophical presuppositions that have influenced Biblical interpretation and text interpretation, particularly since the Enlightenment.

Identify classical authors in hermeneutics.

Demonstrate their understanding by outlining the limits and scope of different approaches to interpretation.

Apply these insights to the interpretation of any text in the contemporary context and validate their insights in a case study.

Present their insight in a precise and illustrative paper.

Indicative Reading:

Jasper, David, *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics* (Westminster: John Knox Press, 2004).

Jeanrond, Werner, *Theological Hermeneutics* (London: SCM, 1994).

Ricoeur, Paul, *Hermeneutics & the Human Sciences* (Cambridge: University Press, 1981).

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay

Name of lecturer

Professor Cathriona Russell