**BCRE10 Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God**

**Semester:** A  
**ECTS:** 5  
**Duration:** 11 weeks  
**Contact hours:** 22  
**Quota:** Maximum of 10  
**Prerequisite subjects:** None

**Module Description**

This module commences by reflecting on the key theological and philosophical terminology in which the question of God’s essence and existence has traditionally been debated. It examines the case for and against natural theology, drawing on the classical arguments for the existence of God (ontological, cosmological, teleological), before considering how the God question may be interpreted under the contested conditions of modernity and post-modernity. The course concludes with a discussion of the notion of revelation (particularly debates over the triunity of God), the concept of experience and the challenges faced by religious language in relation to transcendence (metaphor, symbol, analogy, myth, etc).

**Learning Outcomes**

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

- Critically examine the notion of natural theology;
- Demonstrate the possibilities and limitations of the so-called ‘proofs’ for the existence of God;
- Analyse the concept of divine revelation;
- Critically examine the appeal to experience in modern theology;
- Demonstrate the significance of religious language (e.g., myth, metaphor, symbol) for the theology of God;
- Understand the distinctively modern and post-modern challenges to the theology of God;
- Analyse the philosophical and theological interplay in key notions such as ‘nature’ and ‘grace’

**Indicative Bibliography**


**Assessment:** One 3000 word essay

**Name of Lecturer:**

Prof. Andrew Pierce (piercean@tcd.ie/ext. 4782)