School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Short Courses – Autumn 2026

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

Contents

COURSES 3
Time and Place 3
Duration 3
REGISTRATION AND FEE 3
Registration 3
Fee 3
AUTUMN 2026 MODULES 4
Introducing the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible** 4
Introducing Theology: Key Questions** 4
Approaches to the Study of Religion** 4
Ethics Matters: Global Questions, Ethical Responses** 4
Jewish Thought and Practice** 5
Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism** 5
Medieval Theology: Women, Learning, Universities 5
Quran: Scripture, History, Literature 5
Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God 6
Ethics in Sports and Media 6
From Invasion to Exile: The Ancient Histories of Israel and Judah 6
Christian Origins and Paul 7
The Afterlife of Moses: Interpreting the Exodus in the Arts over the Centuries 7
Religion, Media, and the Public Sphere 7
Hindu Mythology 8

COURSES

These are **daytime 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

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

For specific days and times, please see them in the modules' descriptions below.

Duration

Autumn Term runs from the week starting 14th September to the week starting 30-Nov-26. **Please note:** Some modules will have a late start in the Term, running from the week starting 21st September to the week starting 30-Nov-26. Those will be marked with ** after the module name.

Note: No lectures during reading week starting 26-Oct-26.

REGISTRATION AND FEE

Registration

Registration can be made either in person or by post/email SRundergrad@tcd.ie – please include a completed copy of the Registration Form, which is available at the end of this document.

Fee

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. Payment can be made in person at the School of RTPS (Old Physiology Building) on the following dates/ times: **Monday to Friday, 10 AM-12 PM**.

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 Building (Old Physiology Building)
Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, D02C1F6

AUTUMN 2026 MODULES

Introducing the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible**

Lecturers: Profs. David Shepherd and Benjamin Wold

Days/ Times: Mon 10-11 AM and Fri 2-3 PM

The variety of terms used to designate the 'Hebrew Bible' (e.g., Old Testament, Hebrew Scriptures, Tanak) indicate the richness of traditions related to these writings, the various ways that they are viewed, and also their life within different communities at different times. This module will orient students to the literary and theological contours of the Hebrew canon, introducing them to the rich variety of genres within. The lectures will focus on the formation and transmission of the text and how it grew out of the context of the ancient Near East. It will also invite the student to encounter the primary texts of various sections of this great 'library' including the Pentateuch, the historiographical literature, the prophets, the Psalms and the Wisdom literature. Students will also be introduced to the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and how their discovery contributes to our understanding of the text and 'canon' of the Hebrew Bible in the Second Temple Period.

Introducing Theology: Key Questions**

Lecturers: Dr Emmett O'Regan

Days/ Times: Tues 11-1 PM **(1x2-hours)**

The module will offer an introduction to theology by means of reading of selected texts, critique and discussion. Key questions will be addressed, such as the doctrine of God and creation, theodicy, human flourishing, the problem of violence, the inclusion of theology as a subject in 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.

Approaches to the Study of Religion**

Lecturer: Dr Alexandra Grieser

Days/ Times: Wed 5-6 PM and Fri 3-4 PM

This module familiarizes students with the variety of religious phenomena as they are embedded in their historical and cultural situation and with key concepts and debates of how to study them. Students will learn how to approach religion (and non-religion) through different perspectives; explore the relationships between the emergence of the Academic Study of Religion and the cultural history of Europe, colonialism, and globalisation; learn to apply approaches to empirical phenomena; acquire analytical skills and critical reading strategies when approaching religious and academic sources; develop a reflective and analytical approach to religion as culture**.

Ethics Matters: Global Questions, Ethical Responses**

Lecturer: Dr Cathriona Russell

Days/ Times: Mon 9-10 and Wed 4-5 PM

This module introduces ethics argumentation and schools of ethics through the lens of contemporary international debates in society and politics in ecology, technology, economics, and medicine.

The issues to be interrogated may vary from year to year but will be drawn from: planetary sustainability; biodiversity conservation; economics and development; transport, technology; demography and migration; and the biomedical sciences and ageing.

Students will be introduced to modes of ethics analysis and reflection, related aspects

of the underlying philosophical and theological principles and values, and views of the human person in plural societies.

Jewish Thought and Practice**

Lecturer: Prof. Benjamin Wold

Days/ Times: Tue 2-3 PM and Wed 12-1 PM

This module introduces key social, cultural, and religious aspects of Jewish thought and practice from antiquity to our own time. The focus of this module is on Judaism as a major world religion that has shaped Western Civilization. Rabbinic textual traditions that underpin Jewish religious thought—especially the Mishnah, Talmud, and Midrashim—are explored. Calendar, festivals (esp. Day of Atonement, New Year, Festival of Booths, Passover, Hanukkah), and rites of passage (e.g., birth, circumcision, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, marriage, divorce, death) are studied both within the classroom as well as, when appropriate, in visits to local Jewish synagogues and museums. Contemporary Jewish movements and the history of their traditions come into view along with their different beliefs and practices (e.g., kashrut, Sabbath, worship, prayer).

Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism**

Lecturer: Dr Seema Chauhan

Days/ Times: Mon 1-2 PM and Tue 3-4 PM

Why do some people consider animal sacrifice and ecstatic devotion as “Hinduism”, while others consider vegetarianism, non-violence, and meditation to be “Hinduism”? Why do some people regard Buddhism as a philosophy that rejects sexism and racism, while others see Buddhism as a religion that promotes inequality? This course introduces students to the history of Hinduism and Buddhism by reflecting on how and why “Hindu” and “Buddhist” identity has been constructed in various ways across time and place. The course is split into two halves. The first half covers Hinduism and the second half, Buddhism. In both sections, students will read primary sources from narratives, philosophy, and poems in premodern South Asia to maps, biographies, and lawsuits against academics from contemporary East Asia and America. Through an examination of these sources, students will not only be able to articulate the historically embedded debates that have led to the construction of Hindu and Buddhist identity, but they will also demonstrate an awareness of the theoretical questions that arise from studying Asian religions in a Western academic context.

Medieval Theology: Women, Learning, Universities

Lecturer: Dr Fainche Ryan

Days/ Times: Wed 2-4 PM **(1x2-hours)**

To introduce the students to the distinctive modes of theological expression found in the Western medieval period. A particular aim is to develop an appreciation in students for the particular contribution of women to theology in this era. The purpose of this module is to survey the political, cultural, and religious context in which Catholic theology developed in the medieval period. An important aim will be to introduce the student to some representative figures in the theology of the period. This period was particularly fruitful in the formation of theology in the Catholic tradition. The course will study:

The theology of the Monastic and Cathedral schools

The emergence of the University

The significance of Aquinas’ work

The role of women in the medieval period

The early Irish medieval church

Quran: Scripture, History, Literature

Lecturer: Prof. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche

Days/ Times: Mon 12-1 PM and Wed 11-12 PM

This module aims to introduce students to the Quran: its structure, style, and main themes and context; as well as its reception history, biblical subtext, and scholarly approaches to studying the Quran.

Quran — the Islamic scripture — contains, according to Muslim tradition, the literal word of God, which was revealed to the prophet Muhammad through the mediation of angel Gabriel.

This module explores the structure and main characteristics of the Qur'an; discusses its principal themes; reception history; and close relationship with the Bible.

Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God

Lecturer: Dr Andrew Pierce

Days/ Times: Thurs 1-2 PM and Friday 12-1 PM

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?

Ethics in Sports and Media

Lecturer: Dr John Scally

Days/ Times: Thurs 9 – 11 AM **(1x2-hour**)

The aims are to:

1.Engage the study of ethics in sport as fields of academic enquiry in a cross-curricular way with a variety of methodological approaches.

2.Recognise and critically examine the varieties of ethical traditions, and appreciate the internal diversity within those traditions, in their historical and contemporary manifestations.

3.Understand and engage the various methods required for assessment of the media including historical, philosophical, social and cultural analyses

Beginning with an overview of traditions of ethics, this module treats two key areas of applied ethics. Sport in contemporary society has been described both as an expression of the highest human and social values, and as a legally secured parallel world of the elite pursuit of victories and medals. On the one hand, as a sphere of physical self-realization, social formation and of moral training in fairness, it is seen as an area with standards of excellence that can be closely aligned to ethics. On the other hand, individual sport stars and the institutions of organized sport have been subject to multiple enquiries and critiques: for example, on doping, corruption, sponsorship, the power of mentors and child protection. The concluding element deals with some of the most pressing ethical issues in the media today, among them 'Fake news'.

From Invasion to Exile: The Ancient Histories of Israel and Judah

Lecturer: Prof. David Shepherd

Days/ Times: Fri 4-6 PM **(1x2-hour)**

This module aims to facilitate students' deeper acquaintance and critical engagement with narratives from Joshua through 2 Kings.

This module offers an opportunity for critical engagement with some of the most famous texts of the Hebrew Bible including those concerned with the Israelite conquest, the stories of the Judges, the rise and fall of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah and the careers of royal figures such as David, Solomon, Hezekiah and Josiah. Reflection on the historiographical value of these traditions will

be facilitated by situating them within the context of the material culture and historiographical traditions of the Ancient Near East, while particular emphasis will be paid to the interface of power and violence within the traditions. Near East, while particular emphasis will be paid to the interface of power and violence within the traditions.

Christian Origins and Paul

Lecturer: Prof. Benjamin Wold

Days/ Times: Mon 2 - 3 PM and Fri 11-12 Noon

The aim of this module is to evaluate the apostle Paul and his letters within and beyond the so-called "New Perspective," which is concerned with Paul's letters in their Palestinian Jewish context.

Few figures have shaped the Western tradition as deeply, or as controversially, as Paul of Tarsus. His letters, written between 50 and 68 CE, are the earliest surviving Christian writings and provide a vivid window into the first generation of the Jesus movement. In this module, we examine Paul not as a theologian for later centuries but as a historical actor: a Jewish intellectual, Roman citizen, and community organizer navigating the social, religious, and political landscapes of the eastern Mediterranean.

Was Paul a follower of Jesus or the founder of Christianity? What do his letters reveal about the challenges of building new communities, the tensions between cultural traditions, and the hopes and conflicts of early believers? We explore these questions using a range of historical tools, situating Paul's writings in their ancient context and resisting retrospective theological interpretation.

Students will engage critically with Paul's major letters, paying attention to genre, rhetoric, and cultural background. The module focuses on Paul's interactions with urban communities, his navigation of identity and authority, and the controversies that made him a polarizing figure in his own time.

The Afterlife of Moses: Interpreting the Exodus in the Arts over the Centuries

Lecturer: Prof. David Shepherd

Days/ Times: Tues 1-2 PM and Fri 10-11 AM

1. Introduce students to the reception of Moses/the Exodus in a wide variety of artistic media.

2. Equip students to evaluate and write about the various factors shaping the refraction of Moses/the Exodus in these media.

The student will be introduced to the afterlives of Exodus and the Moses traditions within and beyond the biblical tradition. Critical scrutiny of the reception and interpretation of selected texts and works of art (of various forms) from antiquity to the present, in a diversity of religious traditions will help to illuminate how and why biblical traditions have been and continue to be reflected and refracted in various ways in the literary arts (e.g. poetry), visual arts (e.g. painting, stained glass), performing arts (e.g. theatre, opera) and cinematic arts (e.g. film). Attention will be paid to aesthetic trends, specific artistic influences, religious and ecclesial contexts and socio-economic factors as we grapple with the complex phenomenon of the reception of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in these works.

Religion, Media, and the Public Sphere

Lecturer: Dr Alexandra Grieser

Days/ Times: Tues 11-12 Noon and Friday 1-2 PM

This module introduces ways of studying and discussing the relationship between religion, media and the public sphere, the presence of religion in the media, and religion as an essentially mediated phenomenon. Students

will be familiarized with studying religion through their media performances. Engaging in critical media research, students will develop research skills in studying the role of religion in the public sphere. These skills include critical media competence and the reflected usage of media when (re)presenting knowledge.

Religion is prominent in public debates, in the media, and in the cultural imaginary of people's daily life, no matter whether they see themselves as believers or not. In turn, religions also 'make use' of media and mediation when creating influential symbols and intense and extraordinary experiences. They do so by means of architecture and music, images and narratives, through clothes, body practices or the TV and the internet.

The module focuses on how the relationship between religion and media can be studied and how this helps to better understand how world views develop and change. This includes theoretical reflection on the "public sphere" as an element of modern democracies and the question whether we live in a "post-secular" world.

Hindu Mythology

Lecturer: Dr Seema Chauhan

Days/ Times: Mon 3-4 PM and Tues 4-5 PM

This course aims to introduce students to the history of Hindu Mythology from 1000BCE to 1000 CE through Sanskrit sources in English translation.

Welcome to the world of Hindu Mythology where everything is turned up-side down. Demons are virtuous. Gods are powerless. Everyone shape-shifts. And women dictate the trajectory of the universe. How and why do ancient Hindus describe the world we inhabit in this way?

This course surveys the history of Sanskrit Hindu Mythology from its inception in the Vedic period (1000 BCE) to its height in Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas (1000 CE). Students will explore how premodern Hindu writers used such myths to navigate key religious themes: the problem of evil; power and sovereignty; gender and sexuality; love and war; and body politics.

This module is assessed through creative writing. You will be asked to re-write any Hindu myth from our course by applying and updating concepts and methods used by Hindu storytellers.

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

Short Courses – Autumn 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone: Click or tap here to enter text. **E-mail:** Click or tap here to enter text.

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

- ☐ Introducing the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
- ☐ Introducing Theology: Key Questions
- ☐ Approaches to the Study of Religion
- ☐ Ethics Matters: Global Questions, Ethical Responses
- ☐ Jewish Thought and Practice
- ☐ Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism
- ☐ Medieval Theology: Women, Learning, Universities
- ☐ Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God
- ☐ Qu'ran: Scripture History, Literature
- ☐ Ethics in Sport and Media
- ☐ From Invasion to Exile: The Ancient Histories of Israel and Judah
- ☐ Christian Origins and Paul
- ☐ The Afterlife of Moses: Interpreting the Exodus in the Arts over the centuries
- ☐ Religion, Media, and the Public Sphere
- ☐ Hindu Mythology

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, 10 AM – 12 PM; 3 PM – 4 PM**.

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 Building (Old Physiology Building), Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, D02C1F6.

For further queries, please call: 01 896 4790 or email: sradmdbln@tcd.ie or SRundergrad@tcd.ie