

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Short Courses – Spring 2026



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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 the modules' descriptions below.

Duration

Spring Term runs from week starting 20 January to week starting 7 April 2025.

Note: no lectures during reading week starting 3 March 2025.

Registration

Registration can be made either online using the Registration Form available at the end of this brochure, or by post / 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) at the following dates/ times: **Monday to Friday, 10 AM-12 PM / 3 – 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:

Administration Officer

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, D02C1F6

SPRING 2026 OFFERINGS

Introducing the New Testament: Texts and Contexts

Lecturers: Dr Daniele Pevarello, Dr Benjamin Wold

Days/ Times: Mon 1-2 PM and Fri 2-3 PM

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 Texts and Methods

Lecturer:

Days/ Times: Wed 4 pm to 6 pm

The course will introduce the students to the concepts of textuality and method, studying classical definitions of theology from Gregory of Nyssa, Anselm and Aquinas through to, and concentrating on, more recent formulations of theology's task from modern theologians such as Jurgen Moltmann, Elizabeth Johnson, and Willie James Jennings. The different

methodological approaches to the study of religion will be introduced, and the different ways of conducting the task of theology will be too. In the course of the module, attention will be drawn to patterns of continuity or discontinuity, agreement and conflict in the texts studied. The purpose is to train students to integrate critical, conceptual and historical skills in the reading of theological texts.

Introducing Islam

Lecturer: Dr Zohar Hadromi-Allouche

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

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: Dr Daniele Pevarello

Days/ Times: Mon 9-10 AM and Wed 12-1 PM

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: Dr Benjamin Wold

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

Jesus is undoubtedly one of the most important figures in Western Civilization. His name permeates world cultures, and his morality is widely considered. For Christians, who Jesus is has eternal consequences and belief in him is growing rapidly in the developing world. But what do we know about the historical person Jesus and how do we know it? Can we know anything about the Jesus who lived in time and space and if so, then why are there so many different

historical portraits of his life? Jesus has been seen to be a Cynic philosopher, revolutionary, social progressive, magician, exorcist, and apocalyptic prophet. However, he could not have been all of these. This module is interested in historical sources and historical methods. Regarding sources, we will consider the not only the gospels of the New Testament but ask whether “lost” gospels contribute to historical Jesus’ research. In relation to methods, we will explore the so-called “Quests” for the historical Jesus and ongoing debates about the relationship of history to theology. Anyone interested in the texts and contexts, from Nag Hammadi to the Dead Sea Scrolls, stands to benefit from this exploration of the historical person Jesus.

Love and Justice: Intersections in Theology and Ethics

Lecturer: Dr Alyson Staunton

Days/ Times: Tue 3-4 PM and Fri 3-4 PM

This module introduces students to the field of theological ethics (or theoethics), a branch of moral inquiry that explores how Christian traditions understand ethical principles, moral value, and the shape of a good life.

The first half of the course will familiarise students with the main sources and methods of Christian ethical reflection, including scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, as well as foundational concepts in normative ethics. Students will engage a range of perspectives through both primary texts and key secondary sources.

The second half of the module focuses on major themes in contemporary theological ethics, such as ecology, sexuality and gender identity, AI, and economic justice. Students will be encouraged to think critically about how theological claims interact in lived experience and public discourse

Digital Innovation To Achieve The Sustainable Development Goals

Lecturers: Dr PJ Wall, Dr Tim Savage, Dr Linda Hogan

Days/ Times: Thurs 9-11 AM

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.

Christology: Jesus in History, Politics and Love

Lecturer: Prof. Siobhan Garrigan

Days/ Times: Wed 3-4 PM and Thurs 10-11 AM.

Drawing on primary sources, critical scholarship, ritual studies and visual art, the course will devise a historical and theological framework in which to assess theoretical presuppositions and consequences of different interpretations of the person and work of Christ through the ages.

The significance of Christology will be tested by analysing the doctrinal formulations of early, medieval, and modern Christianity and by discussing feminist, anti-racist, post-colonial, and queer interpretations of the figure of Christ. The relationship of various Christology's to current ethical issues, such as ecology, human rights, extreme poverty, and anti-capitalism will be explored.

Cosmology, Religion and Science

Lecturer: Dr Cathriona Russell

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

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 as inhabitant of the earthly *cosmopolis*.

Reformation and Enlightenment

Lecturer: Dr. Andrew Pierce

Days/times: Thursday 11 – 1 PM

This module will pursue key theological themes in Christian anthropology, doctrine of God, Christology and ecclesiology from late medieval Nominalism through the Reformation to modernity. It will analyse current assessments of the connections of Luther's theology with, and its discontinuities from, the preceding eras. The Enlightenment comprising Kant's critiques of reason, German Idealism and Romanticism as the context for Schleiermacher and Kierkegaard as thinkers of God in relation to human subjectivity and freedom will be treated and their reception in 19th and 20th century theology discussed. The module will conclude with the hermeneutical questions raised by a new consciousness of language and history, traditions and their transformations.

Researching Religion: New Religious Movements

Lecturer: Dr Alexandra Grieser

Days/ Times: Thurs 1-2 pm and Friday 4-5 pm

The module introduces New Religious Movements as a contested yet vital element of global religious history. It aims at reflecting on how to study nonmainstream religion and provides students with knowledge about classical and contemporary theories of religion. The focus lies on NRMs as part of a critical history of modernity and supports students in learning how to creatively interlink historical knowledge, theoretical thinking, and concrete empirical research methods

Words to the Wise: Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature

Lecturer: Dr Neil Morrison

Days/ Times: Fri 10AM-12 noon

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.

Environmental and Technology Ethics

Lecturer: Dr Cathriona Russell

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

This module explores key concepts and debates in environmental and technology ethics: productionism and the 'tragedy of the commons'; instrumental versus intrinsic value; demographics and consumption; food security and related aspects of animal agriculture; justice and sustainable development; environmental citizenship and the future of work. It will examine key ethics responses rooted in hermeneutics, in philosophical and religious traditions (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Daoism) and characterise the role of the ethicist in 'expert' cultures and in policy development in Ireland, the EU and internationally.

Life of Muhammad: Sources, Methods and Debates

Lecturer: Dr Zohar Hadromi-Allouche

Days/ Times: Mon 2-3PM and Tue 11AM-12 noon

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.

God and Human Freedom

Lecturer: Dr Michael Kirwan

Days/ Times: Tue 4-5 PM and Fri 1-2 PM

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.



Short Courses – Spring 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:	
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 Texts and Methods**
- ☐ **Love and Justice: Intersections in Theology and Ethics**
- ☐ **Introducing Islam**
- ☐ **Religions in the Ancient Mediterranean**
- ☐ **The Historical Jesus and the Gospels**
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- ☐ **Reformation and Enlightenment**
- ☐ **God and Human Freedom**
- ☐ **Words to the Wise: Israelite and Jewish Wisdom Literature**
- ☐ **Environmental and Technology Ethics**
- ☐ **Life of Muhammad: Sources, Methods and Debates**

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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: sradmdbl@tcd.ie.

<u>For Internal Use, Only</u>	
Fee:	☐ €150 ☐ €100 (<i>students, unemployed persons & pensioners with social welfare card</i>)
☐ Exempt	
Form of Payment: _____	