



Masters (M.Phil.) in Christian Theological Studies

Course Overview 2022-23

Students must take six taught modules (10 ECTS each), comprising three core and three elective modules, and write a 15,000 word dissertation (30 ECTS). **All modules take place weekly on Monday and Thursday, 5.45 to 9.00 pm. Details / Timetable available from 'Current Student' page on [School's website](#).**

M.Phil. compulsory modules:

- LY7001 Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative
- LY7002 The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible
- LY7006 Dissertation
- LY7007 - Readings in Classical Theological Texts

MPhil. Elective modules in 2022-23:

- LY7003 Ministry and Church in a Challenging Era
- LY7005 Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000 AD)
- LY7009 Jesus of Nazareth: Son, Christ, Word
- LY7010 Theology and the Arts
- EM7489 Nature, Grace, and Place: Theology, Maps and Territories

Module Descriptors:

LY7001 Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative

Co-ordinator: Dr Fáinche Ryan, fryan@tcd.ie

This module studies Jewish and Christian thought on the themes of deep seated human alienation as evidenced in the persistence of human violence. The module studies ways in which, through history, structures of human creativity and communication seem persistently to veer towards being structures of exploitation and domination. The module will study key texts in Jewish and Christian scriptures wherein the narrative of human violence and alienation is articulated within a context of grace, gift and redemption.



LY7002 The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible

Co-ordinator: Dr Neil Morrison, nmorrison@tcd.ie

Students will be introduced to the interpretation of Scripture with particular attention being paid to the hermeneutical challenges and opportunities of reading the texts of the Old/First and New/Second Testaments 'theologically'. In the process, students will be invited to critically scrutinize notions of thematic unity and diversity within the Christian Scriptures and evaluate claims for a 'centre' or thematic core. The module will assess contemporary efforts at constructing 'biblical theologies' by analysing a variety of texts drawn from both Testaments.

LY7003 Ministry and Church in a Challenging Era

Co-ordinator: Dr Fáinche Ryan, fryan@tcd.ie

The module will introduce to the historical developments that lie behind the structuring of contemporary ministry in the main Christian traditions. Students will study contemporary debates that often challenge elements of these structures. There will be particular emphasis on the flourishing of lay ecclesial ministry and debates about authority and ordination in the contemporary Roman Catholic Church.

LY7004 Theology and the Arts

Co-ordinator: Dr Michael Kirwan, kirwanm6@tcd.ie

This module will introduce students to some of the key ways in which theology shapes and is shaped by the arts. Taking into account a wide range of artistic practice -- principally from music, literature, and painting -- the module offers an introduction to theological aesthetics so as to explore how theological doctrines can transform how we perceive and make art, and vice versa: two 'pathways to the transcendent'.

LY7005 Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000)

Co-ordinator: Dr Fáinche Ryan, fryan@tcd.ie

In this module the student is introduced to the historical, ecclesial and political context of the theological art in the Church of the Celtic World. The theological art of the *Book of Kells* will be a major component of the module. The students will be introduced to the iconography of the High Crosses in their distinctive schools.



LY7007 Readings in Classical Theological Texts

Co-ordinator: Dr Fáinche Ryan, fryan@tcd.ie

The student will be introduced to a critical reading of classical texts from three main branches of Christianity, namely Orthodox, Protestant Reformed and Catholicism. Reading these texts will enable the students to explore diverse approaches to key disputed questions in the Christian tradition. The readings will include a selection of works from the Greek Fathers, Augustine, Aquinas, Julian of Norwich, Luther, Calvin, Teresa of Avila and Barth.

LY7009 Jesus of Nazareth: Son, Christ, Word

Co-ordinator: Dr Michal Kirwan, kirwanm6@tcd.ie

The module will involve a detailed engagement with the scriptural, theological and philosophical issues surrounding claims made about Jesus Christ. It will do so through an engagement with the portrayal of Jesus Christ in Scripture, with the development of the first Christologies and early Conciliar definitions, and with the ways Jesus has been understood by significant figures and movements from the past and in the present. The module will also explore liberation, postcolonial, ecological, feminist and pluralist approaches to Christology. The reception of Jesus Christ in contemporary arts (visual, literature, music, film) will form part of the module.

LY7006 MPhil Dissertation

Co-ordinator: Dr Michal Kirwan, kirwanm6@tcd.ie

Please note that details of requirements for Dissertation are available via the Christian Theology Handbook, Blackboard and course coordinator.