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).

The taught modules are made up of three core modules and three optional modules.

**Core Modules**

**Method & Theory in the Study of Theology [Dr Michael Kirwan]**
The student will be taught to critically engage with methodologies and hermeneutics that have arisen in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century approaches within European philosophy. Particular focus is placed on the social movement approach, such as that evinced in work of Marxist and post-colonialist theorists (Foucault, Derrida, Spivak, Said, Judith Butler, Giorgio Agamben, Frantz Fanon, Jean-Luc Nancy) and demonstrated in theological interpretation of the arts, music, ritual, liturgy and politics as well as texts.

**Violence and Grace in the Human Narrative [Dr Cornelius J. Casey]**
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.

**The First Words: Theology/ies of the Bible [Dr David Shepherd]**
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.

**Elective Modules**

**Theology and the Arts [Dr. Amanda Dillon]**
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 -- including music, literature, film, theatre and the visual arts -- the module explores how theological doctrines can transform how we perceive and make art, and vice versa. It concentrates initially on the arts as used in liturgies down the centuries, then focusing on modern ‘secular’ arts.

**Readings in Classical Theological Texts [Dr Fáinche Ryan]**
(TBA)

**Ministry and Church in a Challenging Era [Dr Fáinche Ryan]**
The student will be introduced to the historical developments that lie behind the structuring of contemporary ministry in the main Christian traditions. The module 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.

In addition, Loyola Institute students may choose from the following modules offered by the Irish School of Ecumenics. Please note these modules are taught during the day.

Authority, Tradition and Experience: Ecumenics as Intercultural Theology [Dr Andrew Pierce]

Participants attend to the methodological implications of theological ecumenicity, and, in particular; examine the historical emergence of the ecumenical movement and pivotal moments of its developing tradition; reflect on recurrent *topoi* of divergence (e.g., how unity is to be modelled, the ecclesial status of ecumenical instruments such as the World Council of Churches); evaluate the ecumenical potential of contemporary proposals (e.g., the Princeton Statement, or recent Faith and Order documents on hermeneutics and ecclesiology).

Nature, Grace and the Triune God [Dr Andrew Pierce]

This module analyses the contentious relationships in Christian tradition between understanding the mystery of God on the one hand, and the human person on the other. This relationship is pivotal to the experience of ruptured communion amongst Christians; between East and West, between the churches and communities of the Western Reformations, and more recently between North and South. Focusing on the paired theological themes, Nature and Grace, participants interrogate to what extent existing tensions may be addressed in the context of ecumenical convergence, closely focusing on the on-going reception of the paradigmatic Lutheran-Catholic *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (1999).

Timetable for M.Phil. in Christian Theology 2018-19. All lectures take place in the ISE-Li Building, Trinity College. Orientation for Postgraduates take’s place at 6.15 pm on September 6th, 2018.