

## MPHIL IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

### POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

Module offerings for 2020-21

**For MPhil:** 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).

**For Certificate:** Students take four taught modules (10 ECTS each), comprising two core and two elective modules.

**MPhil** 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

**Certificate** compulsory modules:

- LY7009 Jesus of Nazareth: Son, Christ, Word
- LY7007 Readings in Classical Theological Texts

**MPhil and Certificate** Elective modules in 2020-21:

- LY7004 Theology and the Arts
- LY7005 Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000)
- LY7010 Political Theology

[Elective modules, not offered in 2020-21:

- LY7003 Ministry and Church in a Challenging Era
- Authority, Tradition and Experience: Ecumenics as Intercultural Theology
- Nature, Grace and the Triune God]

Module Descriptors

**LY7001 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.

### **LY7002 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.

### **LY7004 Theology and the Arts** [Dr Michael Kirwan and others]

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.

### **LY7005 Christianity of the Celtic World (600-1000)** [Dr Cornelius J. Casey]

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.

### **LY7006 MPhil Dissertation**

### **LY7007 Readings in Classical Theological Texts** [Dr Cornelius J. Casey]

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** [Dr Michael Kirwan]

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.

**LY7010 Political Theology** [Dr  
Michael Kirwan]

This module will introduce students to the important and highly relevant field of 'political theology'. It will explore the options for Christians looking to know the political implications of a gospel which 'does not itself provide the programme for the politics that it stimulates and engenders' (N. Lash). At the same time, non-religious thinkers have also acknowledged 'an awareness of what is missing' (J. Habermas). The module will draw on biblical, church-historical, theological, literary, and philosophical sources, to respond to the opportunity and challenge of religion's surprising persistence in the public sphere.