



**Pontifical University,
St Patrick's College, Maynooth**

Higher Diploma in Theological Studies

Programme content:

1. *Systematic (Systematic) Theology*, which studies the meaning and implications of the principal faith-affirmations of Christianity concerning God, Jesus, the Church, the human condition, etc.
2. *Moral Theology*, which deals with the experience of morality and in particular with the bearing of Christian faith on the moral life. Topics include: conscience, making moral decisions, the Bible and morality, bioethics, ethics and communications, ethics of gender and sexuality, justice, morality and law, ethics in public life, ethics and communications, peace and war.
3. *Scripture*, which studies the Bible – its nature and significance, origins, literary forms, interpretation today. It will include a study of particular Old Testament and New Testament books.

A module on *Foundations of Worship* will be incorporated in the main programme.

4. *Elective subjects*, e.g. Foundations in Religious Education; Church History; Jerusalem through the eyes of a Fourth Century Pilgrim; Introduction to Islam; Canon Law; Spirituality, Theology and Daily Life.

Duration/mode:

1 year, part time, evening course.

Fee: 2010/11

(2011-2012 fees not available yet)

€3,100 – for Irish and other EU students.

* This course qualifies for tax relief.

Normal entry requirement:

Primary degree or equivalent. While the degree/qualification will normally be in a discipline other than Theology, consideration will be given to all applications.

**The Diploma is recognised by the Department of Education and Science as entitling teachers holding Department-recognised degrees and teacher-training qualifications to teach up to 15 hours' Religious Education per week in a voluntary secondary school.*

Application forms and further information:

**Admissions Office,
Pontifical University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.**

Telephone: 01-708 4772

Fax: 01-708 3441

E-mail: admissions@spcm.ie

Web site: www.maynoothcollege.ie

Selection procedure:

First-come, first-served basis (provided entry requirements have been met and application is complete and correct).

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms:

1 June 2011. However late applications may be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

TIMETABLE

Mondays 6.30pm - 9.30 p.m.

Wednesdays 6.30pm - 9.30 p.m.

And one Saturday per month 10.00am – 4:00pm

The core courses (Systematic Theology, Moral Theology and Scripture, and Foundations of Worship) will be taught on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The electives will be taught on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Two Saturdays will be devoted to each elective, and each student will take three electives.

Students will have the option of staying overnight in the college. Please check with the *Conference & Accommodation Centre* for availability. Students must produce student card.

Below are the Academic/Student Rates (2011-2012).

En Suite Rooms:

En suite single €3.00 (room only)

En suite sharing €3.00 per person sharing (room only)

An additional charge of €6.70 per person will apply for breakfast.

Non – En Suite Rooms:

Single Room only €26.00

Single B&B €32.70

Twin Room only €22.00 per person sharing

Twin B&B €28.70 per person sharing

Telephone: (01) 708 6400 / 3533 or please check web site: www.maynoothcampus.com

Please phone the Conference Centre directly to avail yourself of the above special rates.

ASSESSMENT

All core courses will be assessed by means of coursework (50% of total mark) and end-of-year examination (50% of total mark); electives may be assessed by means of coursework only.

CORE COURSES

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Systematic Theology is divided in to three parts:

Part A

Introduction to Ecclesiology

This module in ecclesiology aims to introduce students to the theological understanding of the Church as it emerges in Scripture and as it unfolds in the course of history. Particular attention is given to the ecclesial vision of Vatican II and the work of contemporary theologians. Within this context the following topics will be dealt with: understanding the Church as founded by Jesus Christ, the Church as universal sacrament of salvation, the Church's relationship to other ecclesial communities and the relationship between ecclesiology and Mariology.

Suggested introductory reading:

Raymond Brown, The Churches the Apostles left behind, NY: Paulist Press, 1984
Francis O'Sullivan, The Church we believe in, NY: Paulist Press, 1988

Part B.

God, Revelation, Jesus Christ

God:

- the search of humankind for God
- the search of God for humankind

Revelation:

- the Old Testament revelation of God
- the New Testament revelation of God in Christ and the Holy Spirit

From Revelation to Christology:

- The Passion, Death and Resurrection as the nucleus of New Testament Christology
- Great Christological Councils
- Jesus Crucified and Forsaken as the Face of God for Today

Suggested introductory Reading:

The Second Vatican Council, The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*
Gerald O'Collins, *Christology*, Oxford University Press, 1995.

Part C.

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Healing and Communion

- Key principles of Catholic sacramental theology
- Contemporary theological literature
- The Church as Sacrament
- The Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

- The Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick
- The Sacraments at the Service of communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony
- Issues relating to the Sacraments in the context of the contemporary mission of the Church in Ireland

Suggested introductory reading:

Philippe Béguerie, and Claude Duchesneau, *How to Understand the Sacraments*, London: SCM Press, 1991.

Assessment

Students will write ONE essay in Systematic Theology. Participants may choose an essay that is related to Parts A **or** B **or** C. The end of year examination will examine participants on the remaining two parts of the course. 50% of the Systematic Theology marks are awarded to the essay.

MORAL THEOLOGY

Moral Theology is divided in to three parts:

Part A

Introduction

- what being moral means
- why be moral?
- how do we make moral judgments?
- making moral judgments in a Christian context
- moral responsibility

Part B

Are we responsible for ourselves, each other, our world ?

- respect for life
- truthfulness in communication
- truthfulness in relationships: an ethic of gender and sexuality
- the environment
- technology and ethics
- masters or stewards?

Part C

Are we responsible for society?

- is there a 'common good'?
- what is social justice?
- natural law and human rights
- religion, morality and law
- morality and public policy
- morality in public life

Assessment

Students will write ONE essay in Moral Theology. Participants may choose an essay that is related to Parts A **or** B **or** C. The end of year examination will examine participants on the remaining two parts of the course. 50% of the Moral Theology marks are awarded to the essay.

SCRIPTURE (Provisional)

Section One: The Good News and its Worlds: an Introduction to the New Testament in its historical, literary, theological and pastoral dimensions.

The NT section of the Scripture module introduces participants to the critical reading, interpretation, and actualisation of the New Testament. By its end, students will have an overview of the NT, its history and its literature and be attuned to the concerns of contemporary NT interpretation.

The NT section has two parts: Part A and Part B

Part A looks at what the New Testament is and how it can be read. It furthermore explores the history and concerns of First Century Judaism, the concerns of and the challenges facing early Christians. Upon this basis, it seeks to approach the Apostle Paul as rabbi, convert and pastor and begins to read Pauline literature through these lenses.

Part B approaches the Gospels as witnesses to the risen Lord. It seeks to permit what is unsaid to be heard. Building upon contemporary parable criticism, it begins to explore Gospel portraits of Jesus, God and the Church.

Section Two: Made in God's likeness: reading Israel's story in the Old Testament as God's hope for all his creation.

This section of the Scripture module will introduce students to a contemporary reading of some Old Testament themes and texts. By its end, students will have developed greater confidence in reading Old Testament narrative and poetic texts; will be more aware of the Jewish roots of the whole of Christian scripture (Old and New Testaments) and become more attuned to some of the theological issues in contemporary Jewish-Christian dialogue.

The OT section has two parts: Part A and Part B

Part A begins by looking at the Exodus Story as the central expression of Israel's faith in God and how the Book of Exodus, in its narratives and motifs, shapes successive expressions of Israel's faith—both scriptural and liturgical—right into NT times. Learning to read the Old Testament Short Story will provide the foundation for a reading of the Creation Stories in the context of Genesis 1–11 and of the contemporary world.

Part B begins with an introduction to the witness of the Prophets and will explore the prophetic call to justice, the Prophets' expression of Israel's hope, and the emergence of Messianism in the OT. It will conclude with an introduction to the Psalms as a key locus for "the beginning of Wisdom." (see Ps 111)

Textbook: In order to support participants in this foundational module, both sections of the module are taught in dialogue with a course textbook. Participants will be expected to read about 15 pages of this textbook per week. Other resource materials, many of them online, will be indicated during the module.

NT Section Textbook: Bart D. Ehrman, A Brief Introduction to the New Testament. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

OT Section Textbook: John J. Collins, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004.

Assessment

In dialogue with section lecturer, course participants will write ONE project in EITHER the Old Testament OR the New Testament sections of the course. The end of year examination will examine the remaining section. 50% of the Scripture Course marks are awarded to the project.

Foundations of Worship

Why Liturgy?

This section will begin by exploring the questions: why celebrate? why do human persons need to ritualise? Some basic concepts from the disciplines of anthropology, ritual studies and liturgical studies will be introduced. Topics: What is human ritual? Its role in constructing a community of meaning. Myth, Symbol, Rite. Time and its experience. Space and Music. Ritual and Culture. Why do we celebrate?

4. ELECTIVE COURSES (please note: elective courses may change for 2011 entry)

Foundations in Religious Education

The first aim of the course is to provide an introduction to contemporary understandings of religious education. To this end, terms such as religious education, catechesis, religious formation, and religious instruction will be explored. Contemporary approaches to religious education will also be examined. Particular attention will be paid to how the core process of catechesis is understood today.

The second concern of the course is to propose foundations for a participatory and empowering approach to religious education: The Shared Christian Praxis Approach. Participants will be invited to use this approach as a rich resource for the teaching of religion in many contexts such as the secondary school.

Jerusalem through the eyes of a Fourth Century Pilgrim

This elective course explores the diary of a fourth century pilgrim called Egeria who gives a pilgrim's view of the life and worship of Jerusalem in the 4th century. Students will be introduced into a variety of topics related to the place of pilgrimage and worship. In studying Egeria's diary, links will also be made with worship today.

Church History

The Catholic Church in Ireland 1795-1922

The aim of the course is to expose students to the range of issues facing the Church as it emerged from the penal era and set itself the goal of being the final arbiter of public opinion in Ireland. Topics will include: the Church and the Union, Catholic Emancipation, relations between Church and State, the idea of a devotional revolution, Gallicanism versus Ultramontanism in the Irish Church, Cardinal Cullen's impact socially and politically, the Church and Nationalism, the Church and violence, the Home Rule movement, education at primary and university level, the Church and the Rising, conscription and partition. The focus, however, will not simply be Ireland. Irish developments will be linked with the papacy's struggle to consolidate its influence in European affairs following the Congress of Vienna in 1814. The British aspect will also be a major consideration as Irish and English Catholicism went their separate ways following Emancipation. The often strained relations between Irish and English Catholics created a climate of distrust at a political level, the consequences of which have not been entirely dissipated even to this day.

Introduction to Islam

This course aims to introduce students to key elements of Islam. It will examine the five pillars and main articles of faith. Drawing on the historical development of Islam, it will reflect on the relationship of Christianity and Islam. The contemporary situation of Islam in Ireland will also be examined.

“From Pope to Parish Councils” – Canon Law and the running of the Church.

This elective gives us the opportunity to look at some of the Church's activities, at local and international level, to see how well our theological understandings are expressed in practical aspects of the Church's activities. Here our theological reflections come face to face with the coalface of the Church's daily work. In other words, we will explore how the Code of Canon Law can put key theological ideas into tangible form.

Spirituality, Theology and Daily Life.

This course will offer an opportunity to explore (1) the vital relationship between Theology and Spirituality and (2) the rich significance of this relationship for our own personal faith journey and praxis. As this is a broad topic particular attention will be given to the significance of The Trinity, The Incarnation and The Paschal Mystery for Christian living. This course aims to encourage students to (A) identify and explore their own spirituality whilst (B) gaining a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the riches of the Christian Tradition and (C) to be enriched by the wisdom and experience of all participating in the course.