

## 5. INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

Intercultural Studies is an area of study that facilitates engagement with the issues and processes involved in the ordered analysis of cultures and the forms of their expressions. In our globalized world where societies are increasingly multi-cultural and multi-religious in nature, it is imperative that Christians be able to fulfil their God-given vocations with sensitivity to such cultural contexts without losing their Biblical and theological moorings. Courses offered will necessarily draw on insights gained from a wide range of scholarly disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, history, science, and the arts.

### **IC101 CHRISTIANITY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

(3 credits, offered annually in Semester 2)

The world in which we live is an increasingly complex one. This complexity is seen in the dynamic interplay among socio-cultural phenomena such as ethnicity, religious beliefs, politics, and culture, within the context of a globalized world. Since Christian discipleship occurs in this world, Christians must grapple with this complexity if they are to take their discipleship seriously. This course seeks to equip Christians with frameworks of thought for responsible engagement with socio-cultural realities in our local context.

### **IC211 ASIAN RELIGIONS IN A CONTEMPORARY AGE**

(3 credits, offered annually)

Asia is the cradle to some of the world's oldest religions: Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and Hinduism. These religious traditions are still very 'alive' and important to millions of Asians. As Christians living in Asia, it is our mission to engage and dialogue with people of other faiths, so as to build bridges for the proclamation of the gospel in Asia. Despite living in such a multi-religious society, many Asian Christians still have superficial knowledge of the religious beliefs of their neighbours. The aim of this course is to introduce students to Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism and Tribal religions, and consider how we may engage these traditions meaningfully in the 21st century. Topics included in this course are the method for the study of world religions and a biblical theology of religions through an interaction of selected religious texts. Throughout the course, practical implications for gospel and culture, evangelism and inter-religious dialogue, the destiny of the unevangelised and the mission of the local church will be also explored.

### **NT/IC282 JESUS ON THE SILVER SCREEN: PORTRAYAL OF JESUS AND CHRIST FIGURES ON FILM**

(3 credits, offered bi-annually)

Through our viewing of some Jesus films, as well as clips from other movies, we will explore the portrayals of Jesus in modern films. By comparing these portrayals to those found in the New Testament Gospels and their modern interpreters, we examine how modern biblical scholarship may (or may not) influence contemporary cinema. Furthermore, we will observe what these films tell us about their makers, their expectations of the audiences, and what roles these films play in shaping them.

### **IC361 THE CHRISTIAN MIND**

(3 credits, available for Private Studies)

This course recognises the important place of the mind in shaping theological convictions and personal and social values. It seeks to encourage the cultivation of a truly Christian mind – a mind that thinks and does so biblically.

**IC391****INTERCULTURAL STUDIES GUIDED STUDY**

(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the field of Intercultural Studies. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a MCS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

Note: In 2013 – 2015, other Intercultural Studies courses offered will include: Public Theology, Christian Perspectives on the History of Philosophy, Anthropology of Religion and Understanding Culture.