

2. THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Theology is a discipline that seeks to make sense of who God is and of humanity's place within the purposes and works of God in the world. It takes seriously the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the teachings of the Christian church as important sources of theological knowledge. It also seeks to understand the knowledge acquired from these sources in the context of societal and churchly issues which are pertinent to Christian faith and living.

TS101 THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

(3 credits, offered annually in Semester 1)

This course is an to Christian theology and therefore assumes no prior technical knowledge of theology. In this course, theology will be taught from the standpoint of faith in the context of 'the one, holy, catholic (i.e. universal), and apostolic church' as confessed in the Nicene Creed (A.D. 381). The lectures are divided according to the Trinitarian structure of the Creed with the aim of introducing students to the basic content of orthodox Christian doctrine. A conscious attempt will be made to demonstrate the necessity and relevance of theological reflection for Christian living.

TS211 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS I

(3 credits, offered annually in Semester 2)

Nothing is more foundational in theology than a right understanding of God. 'The doctrine of God one espouses largely controls countless other areas of life and thought' (Don Carson). But we can only know God in His revelation of Himself to us. And when we do this, we discover that He has revealed fundamental truth about ourselves. This course examines the great truths about God and Humankind that make up the background of the Gospel of Redemption in Jesus Christ.

TS212 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS II

(3 credits, offered bi-annually)

Theological Foundations II completes the survey of theological studies begun in Foundations I. In Foundations II we explore the topics of Jesus Christ (Christology), the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), Salvation (Soteriology), the Church (Ecclesiology) and the Last Things (Eschatology). At every point we will reflect on the personal and practical bearings of these truths on our lives and for the world today.

TS/CH222 THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IN THE EARLY CHURCH

(1.5 credits)

The course will explore the emergence of the doctrine of the Trinity during one of the most theologically creative and historically exciting periods of the Christian church, namely the patristic era. Through looking at the writings of major figures such as Tertullian, Athanasius, the Cappadocian Fathers, Augustine and John of Damascus, various trajectories set in motion by the Greek and Latin Fathers that were concerned with an emphasis on the sameness of the Father, Son and Spirit, and others that stressed their diversity, which culminated in the various Councils, will be examined and discussed. Finally, the relevance of the doctrine for contemporary issues, such as the Trinitarian theology of religions and Social Trinitarianism will be analyzed.

TS230

CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

(3 credits, offered bi-annually in Semester 1)

Apologetics is the public defence and communication of the Christian faith. From Apostolic Christianity to the 21st century, Christians of every place and culture have been criticised for their faith and compelled to make a public explanation of what they believed and how they lived. In this present day and age, the world has become a more closely-knit community, where different philosophical, cultural and religious ideas and lifestyles interact at a greater pace and proximity. While this presents greater opportunities for missions and evangelism, it also introduces diverse challenges to the Christian faith, and thus calls for a more dynamic approach to Christian apologetics. The primary object of this course is to provide students with an 'Apologetic Toolkit' that will enable them to defend their faith in a variety of contexts.

**TS240/
CH254**

WESLEY THEN AND NOW: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY OF JOHN WESLEY

(3 credits, offered occasionally)

This course examines major aspects of Wesley's theology as expounded chiefly in his *Sermons on Several Occasions*. Theological, ecclesiastical, social and intellectual environments will be probed, even as attention is given chiefly to Wesley's soteriology.

TS252

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

(3 credits, offered annually)

This course will enable students to use the Bible to investigate a range of current ethical issues and attempt to resolve moral conflicts from a Christian perspective. It will also familiarize students with the arguments and methods of secular ethics. It will deal with the following issues: social concern, work, capital punishment, human rights, war, the secular state, ecology, animal rights, marriage, divorce, remarriage, homosexuality, abortion, and euthanasia.

TS391

THEOLOGICAL GUIDED STUDY

(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of theological 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.