

EVENING UNDERGRADUATE SELECTED MODULES:

MODULE DESCRIPTORS

CANON LAW AND THE CHURCH

E. Cotter

BTE 242

Canon Law as the juridical expression of the ecclesiology of Vatican II is the context for addressing fundamental questions in the Code: the rights of the faithful; decision making structures and power; sacramental celebrations; the teaching role of the Church; penal law in the Church.

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY (GRACE)

D. Marmion

BTE 232

In a context of postmodernity and pluralism, what does it mean to be a Christian and to be in relationship with God, others, society and self? This module explores this question from a variety of perspectives past and present. Insights from some of the greatest thinkers and mystics will be discussed, (including Paul, Augustine, Aquinas, medieval women mystics, and Luther). The module also looks at more recent contributions in theological anthropology since Vatican II, including liberation and feminist theologies. The aim is to offer a fresh understanding of the relationship between God and the human, between Christianity and society, between theology and spirituality in a way that overcomes many of the misconceptions of the past.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION (BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION)

P. Mullins

BTE 234

In the light of contemporary questions, this module explores the links between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and the rituals and practices of ancient near eastern cultures. It outlines the way in which these foundational Christian rites were understood and celebrated in the early centuries of the Church and the way in which they have been interpreted in the different Christian traditions. The current rites will be studied and modern-day pastoral and theological issues addressed in the light of the multifaith and secularised nature of contemporary postmodern culture.

CHURCH

J. Egan

BTE 231

The aim of this module is to understand the Church today in the light of its New Testament origins and subsequent development. After a study of scriptural teaching, the module will look at turning points in the history of the Church's self-

understanding before examining the 20th century developments, and especially the teaching of Vatican II and subsequent documents of the Magisterium.

JESUS CHRIST

J. Egan

DTE 234

In Jesus Christ Christian faith recognises God's definitive self-revelation. In this course this recognition will be explored, particularly in the light of contemporary theological challenges to it.

JOHANNINE WRITINGS

P. Rogers

BTE 222

This module will consist of a close reading of representative texts taken from the Fourth Gospel, in the context of its overall structure. The objective is threefold: to read together key texts, thereby presenting a variety of reading techniques in order to enable the student to develop her/his own approach to understanding the cultural background, historical context, and meaning of these simple yet elusive texts. Special attention will be given to the contexts of the community and surrounding culture at the time of writing. Each component will also explore potential avenues of relevance in today's evolving and multicultural settings.

PAUL AND THE EARLY CHURCH

P. Rogers

DTE 222

Against a background of the biography and missionary history of Paul, each of the authentic Pauline letters will be presented, in sequence, in the context of the social setting and the epistolary conventions of the time. While each document will be viewed in its specific situation, occasional themes which go across several letters will be traced.

PHILOSOPHY AND THE GOD QUESTION

W. Callanan

DTE 211

Natural Theology – the assertion that God's existence and attributes can be known through Reason – goes back to early Greek Philosophy and is also found in the wisdom of the East. It continues to have its advocates today, most notably within Catholicism. Opponents of this position would argue for the philosophical impossibility of knowing a Transcendent God, arguing that the existence of evil, and the superiority of the scientific world view, makes God's existence problematic. The course will explore both sides of the argument.

RESEARCH PROJECT (BA EVENING)

D. Marmion

BTE 271

This is a mini-thesis of around 6,000 words on a theme chosen by final level students in the Honours BA programme in Theology. The theme is chosen after consultation with the director of the project and is normally related to one or more of the modules taken during the two levels of the programme.

SECOND TEMPLE JUDAISM AND PSALMS

M. Byrne

BTE 221

This course offers a survey of the Wisdom Literature of Ancient Israel including the Book of Psalms. The biblical literature will be located in its historical, cultural and ideological settings. Application will be made to contemporary issues of interpreting and making the tradition relevant for the current era. A representative bibliography for each Wisdom book will be furnished.

THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY

D. Marmion

DTE 272

This course will attempt to note some of the recent convergence in theology and spirituality. The relationship between theology and spirituality will be teased out in dialogue with a number of contemporary theologians who have written on this topic. Part of the endeavour will be to come up with a definition of “spirituality”, and to examine the different ways in which the term is understood in the theological academy today. The modus operandi of the course will be decided after consultation with the participants.

THEOLOGY OF LIFE AND DEATH

M. Duffy

BTE 241

This module covers issues of birth, life and death in the light of scientific developments, ethical-theological reflection and church teaching.

VATICAN II

D. Kelly

BTE 251

This module will examine the background, and outcome of the Second Vatican Council. The Pontificates of Pius XII (1939-1958), John XXIII (1958-1963), and Paul VI (1963-1978) will be analysed in relation to the ecclesiological changes that took place as a result of the Council. The principal personalities who participated in the Council will also be studied. The context of the various constitutions, the major discussions concerning each one and the initial impact of each document will be analysed.