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Patrick Rogers CP, BA, LSS, STD.  
Liam Swords, MA.  
Gesa Thiessen, M Phil (Ecum), Dip Hist Europ Painting, PhD.  
Bernadette Toal, BA, MA, PhD.

## PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr. Thomas Grenham SPS is the Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the Milltown Institute and teaches courses in the area of pastoral theology and ministry. He has broad experience in ministry, particularly in parishes and hospitals in different parts of the world. He is a member of St. Patrick's Missionary Society and served as a missionary for many years among the Turkana of Kenya. He received his interdisciplinary Ph.D in religion and education from Boston College in 2002 and a Masters in Pastoral Ministry at the same university. His publications include *The Unknown God: Religious and Theological Interculturation*, published by Peter Lang, Bern, Switzerland, 2005. as well as numerous articles in journals and chapters in books.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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Awarding Body:  
Duration:  
Delivery:

National University of Ireland (NUI)  
2 years or 4 years depending on chosen academic track  
2 nights per week September to April (Tues & Thurs) 6.30 – 9.45pm.



## BA (HONS) IN THEOLOGY (Evening Programme)

### INTRODUCTION

This programme is designed to provide the possibility for students, who have already completed the approved NUI Diploma in Theology, to advance their qualification to the level of an Honours Bachelor Degree, specialising in Theology. The programme operates on a modular basis, enabling students to enrol for either (a) the Full Programme (2 years), or (b) Selected Courses (4 years), chosen according to personal interests and time availability. Thus the full programme may be completed either over two or four years depending upon the chosen route. The programme will provide an academic qualification

in Theology, which should be of interest to several different categories of applicants, e.g. those wishing to qualify as teachers of religion, those seeking credits for CPE programmes associated with hospital chaplaincy, those engaged in pastoral ministry in parish and other locations, etc. Many applicants wish to engage in the study of Theology at an academic level for their own personal enrichment as well as achieve a recognised competence in theological reflection that enhances their adult faith development. The specific modular design and flexibility of the programme aims to provide an opportunity for applicants to engage in an array of evening modules in order to bring enhancement and support to their other professional and family commitments.

### AIMS OF PROGRAMME

This programme aims to deepen students' theological reflection skills and knowledge by building on the foundations already laid in the approved NUI Diploma in Theology, or its equivalent, allowing them to advance to an Honours Bachelor's Degree. The modules on offer will include Scripture, Moral Theology, Systematic Theology and History, Pastoral Theology, Ecumenism, and Canon Law.

*Specific objectives of the programme include:*



- Fostering a deeper appreciation of the nature and message of the Scriptural texts, with specific reference to three important sections of the Old Testament (a) the Wisdom Literature and the Psalms, (b) the Pentateuch, and (c) the Prophets, and the different Johannine writings of the New Testament
- Developing skills in moral analysis and argument with particular reference to issues of life and death. Students will be expected to dialogue with competence on issues such as abortion, euthanasia, suicide, and contemporary bio-ethical issues raised by stem cell research, and genetic engineering, among others.
- Enabling students to increase their knowledge and appreciation of tradition with respect to major tracts in systematic theology. Specific areas of study will include ecclesiology, the theology of grace, the sacraments and Mariology. Students should develop good pastoral and theological skills in reflecting on the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage and the Eucharist.
- Developing research and writing skills with a view to writing a short thesis on a chosen topic, under supervision, reflecting a specific student interest and engaging with the particular modules being studied during the programme.

## ACCESS, TRANSFER AND PROGRESSION ROUTES

This award is chiefly intended for mature students who already have some background in theological studies.

### *Specific requirements will include:*

- Successful completion of the approved NUI Diploma in Theology programme at the Milltown Institute, at an honours level
- The equivalent of the Diploma in Theology will, in exceptional circumstances, be considered but there must be some assurance that the basic foundational modules of the Diploma in Theology have already been adequately covered elsewhere to the required level of attainment.
- Students are welcome to attend selected modules from the modules on offer in this proposed Honours Bachelor Degree, but they must provide evidence of some previous study of Theology at the appropriate level
- Applicants will be required to come for interview prior to acceptance.

## MODULES IN THE PROGRAMME

Modules run over four semesters, a semester being a 12-week block of teaching. Modules take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6.30 - 9.45 p.m. Each evening involves four lecture periods of 40 minutes duration. Certain modules involve two lecture periods per evening. Other modules involve a single lecture period per week. This programme operates on a two-year cycle. This means that an entirely different set of modules will be on offer, during both semesters, on alternate academic years of the programme. It will be possible to join the programme in any academic year and just follow through the two-year cycle of modules. Within the programme structure there are 20 modules –19 specific lecture modules and 1 module related to the Research Project, all of which are mandatory. Twelve of

these modules will involve two lecture periods each week of the semester in which they occur. The remaining 7 modules will involve one lecture period per week during the semester in which they occur. The double period modules will carry a greater overall weighting for purposes of assessment and the allocation of marks, and in the computation of the overall marks and grade of each candidate. The content of the programme reflects a wide range of theological reflection that addresses not only traditional aspects of Christian belief and witness, but it also has a general and specific focus on contemporary issues such as postmodernism, interreligious dialogue, ecumenism, secularisation, and the development of the link between the Christian Tradition and the reality of pastoral/practical theology in the world today. Special emphasis is given to the many ways in which the Christian tradition is made relevant and meaningful especially for the 21st century.

### MODE OF DELIVERY

The teaching involved in each module will involve the presentation of resource material in lecture format in combination with class participation and discussion. Critical reflection that enables every student to make relevant connections between their lived human experiences and the variety of theological resources presented is highly encouraged. A conversational or dialogical approach is favoured in the method of empowering learners to bring their lives and questions to the material offered in every module. Students will be expected to engage in a regular reading schedule of specific sources in connection with each of the modules they attend. The module on Pastoral Reflection and Liturgical Practice will include input from a range of experienced personnel actively involved in both pastoral ministry and liturgical service.

### MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment is via continuous assessment, e.g., essays, extended book reviews, and reactions papers. Students in the final year of the programme are required to complete a written research project on a topic of their choice.

### TAX RELIEF

This course is eligible for tax relief under Section 473A, Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 by the Department of Education and Science.

### APPLICATION DATE

1st September (First Semester) and 6 January (Second Semester). Early application is always advisable.

### CORE TEACHING STAFF

Finbarr Clancy SJ, BA (Mod), H Dip Ed, Ph D, Bacc Phil, BD, D Phil.  
Thomas Cooney OSA, BD, MA, Dip Cat, Dip Communications, MA Clinical Pastoral Counselling, Dip CPE, Dip Spir Dir.