

College of Human Sciences

Theology



Learn without limits.

UNISA | 
college of
human sciences

Reflecting on faith in action

Theology is systematic reflection on the beliefs and practices of Christian communities. As you read through this brochure, you will notice that there are seven 'disciplines' in which one can do theological research at postgraduate level. At undergraduate level, however, these disciplines are integrated into four subjects, which combine the seven disciplines in the following way:

Scripture Studies	Old Testament and New Testament
Theologies in Context	Church History and Systematic Theology
Congregational Ministry	Practical Theology and Theological Ethics
Community Ministry	Theological Ethics and Missiology

This gives you a picture of the wide scope covered by Theology as well as the close connections between these disciplines. The scholarly study of Theology goes back 2000 years and, over the centuries, rich and complex ways of thinking about Christian faith in action have developed. It is, therefore, important to understand the historical development of theological traditions and church denominations within the Christian movement. It is also crucial to study how differing contexts influence the beliefs, worship and practices of Christian communities and their sense of mission in society. The different ways in which the Bible has understood and put into practice across the centuries and in varying cultures make the study of Theology a fascinating journey of exploration. You are heartily welcome to join us on this journey....

Unisa offers the following qualifications in Theology:

Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

Bachelor of Theology Honours (BTh Hons)

Master of Theology (MTh)

Doctor of Theology (DTh)

Programmes

Bachelor of Theology (BTh): Code: 99305

Admission requirements

To be admitted to the BTh programme, a prospective student needs to:

- Have a National Senior Certificate (degree)
- Have a Senior Certificate with matriculation exemption
- Qualify for the exemption from the matriculation board, with an achievement rating of 4 (50-59%) or better in the language of learning and teaching

Description

The BTh curriculum consists of 30 modules and it contains two fundamental modules:

- CGM1501 (Invitation to Theology), which must be done in the first semester of BTh study
- BTH3720 (Integrated Theological Praxis), which must be done in the final semester of the degree

NQF levels

The 30 modules are spread across the three levels of the NQF:

- The 8 modules at NQF-level 5 ('first year') are all compulsory
- At NQF levels 6 and 7, a student may take between 10, 11 or 12 modules respectively

The 30 modules are, therefore, spread out as follows: 8/12/10 (advisable); 8/11/11 or 8/10/12.

Majors

As explained above, four majors are offered in the BTh Degree:

Scripture Studies (code: SCR)

Theologies in Context (code: TIC)

Congregational Ministry (code: CGM)

Community Ministry (code: CMM)

The degree may contain one major, two majors, or four half-majors.

To major in a particular subject you need to take 9 modules in that subject, spread out as follows over the three NQF levels:

2 modules at NQF-level 5

3 modules at NQF-level 6

4 modules at NQF-level 7

Duration

The BTh Degree cannot be obtained in less than 3 years.

Bachelor of Theology Honours (BTh Hons)

Admission requirements

Bachelor of Theology Degree (or equivalent theological qualification) with at least 60% in the relevant discipline.

Description

The various BTh Hons programmes are described below under the different disciplines.

Duration

The BTh Hons Degree cannot be obtained in less than 1 year.

Master of Theology (MTh)

Admission requirements

Bachelor of Theology Honour's Degree (or equivalent theological qualification) with an average of at least 60%.

Description

Most disciplines offer only a Research Degree at Master's level, which means that no course work is required in the programme. A prospective student must first register for the Research Proposal Module (MPCHS92), in which s/he designs a research proposal on a theological topic in a particular discipline. When the research proposal has been accepted by the relevant department, a supervisor is assigned to oversee the research and to guide the student in writing the dissertation.

Duration

One year for the research proposal module (MPCHS92) and one or more years for the MTh dissertation. The degree cannot be obtained in less than 1 year.

Doctor of Theology (DTh)

Admission requirements

Master of Theology Degree (or equivalent theological qualification).

Description

This is a Research Degree, which means that there is no course work in the programme. Before registering for the DTh, the prospective student must pass the doctoral Research Proposal Module (MPCHS02). When this has been completed, a promoter is assigned to guide the student in conducting the research and writing the thesis. In addition, each doctoral student is expected to write an article for an accredited journal on the basis of his/her thesis.

Duration

One year for the research proposal module (DPCHS02) and two or more years for the DTh thesis. The degree cannot be obtained in less than 2 years.

The Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies

This department offers modules in the subjects New Testament and Early Christian Studies, Old Testament, Biblical Archaeology, Biblical Studies, and Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

New Testament and Early Christian Studies (Code: ECH)

These modules cover the fields of the New Testament and early Christian literature, history, and archaeology. This includes the Graeco-Roman and Jewish contexts of early Christianity, Christian origins and the historical Jesus, Christianity as a cultural phenomenon, its effective history and its contemporary manifestations and functions.

The following modules are offered in New Testament and Early Christian Studies for the BTh Degree (as part of Scripture Studies):

ECH150 Introduction to Early Christian Literature, Theology, History, and Archaeology

- ECH2601** Text Interpretation, Theory and Method
- ECH2602** Daily Life in Early Christianity
- ECH2603** Illness, Health and Healing in the Early Christian World
- ECH3701** Death, Tombs and Burials in the Early Christian World
- ECH3702** Religion, Worship and Prayer in the Early Christian World
- ECH3703** The Bible and Human Development in Post-Colonial Africa
- ECH3704** Construction of Bodies, Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity
- ECH3705** Early Christian Spirituality

Note: Modules on the Old Testament (see below) combine with these to make up the subject of Scripture Studies.

BTh Honour's in New Testament and Early Christian Studies

The following modules can be taken for the BTh Honour's Degree in New Testament and Early Christian Studies:

- HPECH81** Research in New Testament and Early Christian Studies
- ECH4802** Christian Origins: The Formation of Early Christian Discourses
- ECH4803** Making Christianities: Competing Identities in a Religiously Diverse World
- ECH4804** The Jesus Movement in its Context: Jesus Research and Christian Origins in Archaeological Perspective
- ECH4805** Digging up the Church: Early Christianity in the Roman Empire
- HRECH86** Research Report (New Testament and Early Christian Studies)

HPECH81, **HRECH86**, **ECH4802**, and **ECH4803** are compulsory. Students have to select either **ECH4804** or **ECH4805** to complete the degree.

MTh in New Testament and Early Christian Studies

At a master's level, students enrol for a degree that consists of:

- (1) A research proposal module (MPCHS92), and
- (2) a dissertation.

A master's student should conduct independent scientific research and report about it in a systematic and meaningful way. This includes the ability to understand, evaluate and integrate insights from various sources and to write in a creative way.

DTh in New Testament and Early Christian Studies

The DTh in New Testament and Early Christian Studies is awarded to a candidate who – having critically investigated and evaluated an approved research topic resulting in an independent and original contribution to the discipline and demonstrated an understanding of relevant research methods – has presented a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners. Students who intend to enrol for a Doctoral Degree must first complete the research module (DPCHS02) that consists of the formulation of an acceptable research proposal.

Old Testament

The Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies offer modules on the Old Testament and the world in which ancient Israel lived. These modules bridge the gap between Israel's context and ours by contextualising the Old Testament.

The following undergraduate modules are offered in Old Testament for the BTh Degree (as part of Scripture Studies).

- OTS1501** Introduction to Ancient Israelite Literature
- OTS2601** The Bible, Creation and Ecology
- OTS2603** Life Orientation: Biblical Perspectives
- OTS2604** The Bible and the Eradication of Poverty
- OTS3701** Politics, Power and Prophecy in Ancient Israel
- OTS3703** The Bible and African Cultures
- OTS3704** The Bible and Sexuality
- CGM3702** From Text to Sermon: Reading and Creating Religious Texts

BTh Honour's in Old Testament

The following modules can be taken for the BTh Honour's Degree in Old Testament:

- HPOTS81** Research Proposal in Old Testament
- OTS4802** Understanding the Old Testament
- OTS4803** Reading the Old Testament
- OTS4804** Contextualising the Old Testament
- HROTS85** Research Report (Old Testament)

MTh in Old Testament

At a master's level, students enrol for a degree that consists of:

- (1) A research proposal module (MPCHS92), and
- (2) a dissertation.

A master's student should conduct independent scientific research and report about it in a systematic and meaningful way. This includes the ability to understand, evaluate and integrate insights from various sources and to write in a creative and original way.

DTh in Old Testament

The DTh in Old Testament is awarded to candidates who have demonstrated that they can make an independent and original contribution to the discipline of Old Testament studies by:

- Critically investigating an approved research topic
- Understanding and using appropriate research methods
- Writing a systematic and well-designed thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners

Students who intend to enrol for a Doctoral Degree must first complete the research module (DPCHS02), which requires designing an acceptable research proposal.

Biblical Archaeology (for students in Human Sciences)

The Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies offer modules on Biblical Archaeology for students studying Human Sciences. BTh students may not include these modules in their degree. They need to do them for Non-degree Purposes (NDP).

What is Biblical Archaeology about?

Biblical Archaeology is a fascinating branch of the study of Archaeology and focuses on the material remains of people from the biblical world in order to understand their life and times better.

Why study Biblical Archaeology?

- To develop a new appreciation of the living conditions of people from the biblical world
- To be introduced to the latest excavation processes involved in the excavation of ruins
- To appreciate the latest discoveries made at well-known biblical places
- To enable you to read the Bible in a more informed manner

To whom will this appeal?

- Professional people from any field of interest: Engineering, sociology, medicine, psychology, art, anthropology, economics, law, history, journalism, etc.
- Anyone with a fascination for the material culture and lifestyles of ancient civilisations from the Near East and Mediterranean worlds
- Educationists and clergy who seek to extend their horizons and knowledge of the background to the Bible and its world

The following undergraduate modules are offered for the BA Degree (majoring in Biblical Archaeology).

- ECH1501** Introduction to Early Christian Literature, Theology, History, and Archaeology
- OTS1502** Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
- OTS2602** From Dan to Beersheba: An Archaeological Tour through Ancient Israel
- ECH2602** Daily Life in Early Christianity
- ECH2603** Illness, Health and Healing in the Early Christian World
- OTS3702** Excavating a Biblical City
- OTS3703** The Bible and African Cultures
- OTS3705** Understanding the Old Testament through Archaeology
- ECH3701** Death, Tombs and Burials in the Early Christian World
- ECH3702** Religion, Worship and Prayer in the Early Christian World

BA Honour's in Biblical Archaeology

There are two categories of students that can enrol for the BA Hons (Biblical Archaeology):

Category A

Students who majored in Biblical Archaeology with at least 60% are allowed to register for the Hons BA in Biblical Archaeology.

Category B

Students with any Bachelor Degree without Biblical Archaeology as major.

The following modules are offered for the BA Hons (BA Honour's in Biblical Archaeology). If you want to specialise in the **archaeology of Ancient Israel (Old Testament period)** the following modules apply:

- HPHBA81** Research in Biblical Archaeology
- HRHBA85** Research Project in Biblical Archaeology

Electives: Select 3 of the following modules:

HBA4802 Biblical Archaeology of the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and the Babylonian and Persian Periods

HBA4803 Applied Biblical Archaeology

HBA4804 Biblical Archaeology and Everyday Life in the Biblical World

HBA4806 Orientation to Biblical Archaeology*

*Students who did not major in Biblical Archaeology have to enrol for **HBA4806** (Orientation to Biblical Archaeology) and select another two from **HBA4802**, **HBA4803**, and **HBA4804**.

For specialisation in **Early Christian Archaeology (New Testament and post-New Testament period)** the following modules apply:

HPECH81 Research in New Testament and Early Christian Studies

HRECH86 New Testament and Early Christian Studies Research Report

ECH4804 The Jesus Movement in its Context: Jesus Research and Christian Origins in Archaeological Perspective

ECH4805 Digging up the Church: Early Christianity in the Roman Empire

And ONE of the following:*

ECH4802 Christian Origins: The Formation of Early Christian Discourses

ECH4803 Making Christianities: Competing Identities in a Religiously Diverse World

*If you have a Bachelor's Degree but did not major in Biblical Archaeology, then you have to register for **ECH4807** (Orientation in Early Christian Archaeology).

MA in Biblical Archaeology

At a master's level, students enrol for a degree that consists of:

- (1) A research proposal module (MPCHS92), and
- (2) a dissertation.

A master's student should conduct independent scientific research and report about it in a systematic and meaningful way.

DLitt et Phil in Biblical Archaeology

The DLitt et Phil in Biblical Archaeology is awarded to a candidate who – critically investigated and evaluated an approved research topic resulting in an independent and original contribution to the discipline and demonstrated an understanding of relevant research methods – presented a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Students who intend to enrol for a Doctoral Degree must first complete the research module (DPCHS02) that consists of the formulation of an acceptable research proposal.

Biblical Studies (for BA students)

The Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies offer modules concerning Biblical Studies for students enrolled for a BA Degree. The modules are similar to those for Scripture Studies in the BTh Degree (see above).

The following undergraduate modules are offered for the BA Degree (majoring in Biblical Studies). Students have to select modules from both Old Testament (OTS) and New Testament (ECH) so that they will eventually have 10 modules for the major (2 modules on NQF-level 5, 3 modules on NQF-level 6 and 5 modules on NQF-level 7). 5 of these modules should come from Old Testament and 5 from New Testament.

OTS1501 Introduction to Ancient Israelite Literature

ECH1501 Introduction to Early Christian Literature, Theology, History, and Archaeology

OTS2601 The Bible, Creation and Ecology

OTS2603 Life Orientation: Biblical Perspectives

OTS2604 The Bible and the Eradication of Poverty

ECH2601 Text Interpretation, Theory and Method

ECH2602 Daily Life in Early Christianity

ECH2603 Illness, Health and Healing in the Early Christian World

OTS3701 Politics, Power and Prophecy in Ancient Israel

OTS3703 The Bible and African Cultures

OTS3704 The Bible and Sexuality

ECH3701 Death, Tombs and Burials in the Early Christian World

ECH3702 Religion, Worship and Prayer in the Early Christian World

ECH3703 The Bible and Human Development in Post-Colonial Africa

ECH3704 Construction of Bodies, Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity

ECH3705 Early Christian Spirituality

BA Honour's in Biblical Studies

The curriculum comprises five modules, two of which concern research in Biblical Studies. The degree can be taken in one of two directions, namely: **New Testament and Early Christian Studies (NEW)**, or **Old Testament (OLD)**.

Students must indicate clearly on the registration form for which direction they wish to register.

New Testament and Early Christian Studies (NEW)

- HPECH81** Research in New Testament and Early Christian Studies
ECH4802 Christian Origins: The Formation of Early Christian Discourses
ECH4803 Making Christianities: Competing identities in a Religiously Diverse World
ECH4804 The Jesus Movement in its Context: Jesus Research and Christian Origins in Archaeological Perspective
ECH4805 Digging up the Church: Early Christianity in the Roman Empire
HRECH86 New Testament and Early Christian Studies Research Report
- This degree consists of **HPECH81**, **HRECH86**, **ECH4802**, **ECH4803**, and either **ECH4804** or **ECH4805**.

Old Testament (OLD)

- HPOTS81** Research Proposal in Old Testament
HROTS85 Old Testament Research Report
OTS4802 Understanding the Old Testament
OTS4803 Reading the Old Testament
OTS4804 Contextualising the Old Testament

MA in Biblical Studies

At a master's level, students enrol for a degree that consists of:

- (1) A research proposal module (MPCHS92), and
- (2) a dissertation.

A master's student should conduct independent scientific research and report about it in a systematic and meaningful way. This includes the ability to understand, evaluate and integrate insights from various sources and to write in a creative and original way.

DLitt et Phil in Biblical Studies

The DLitt et Phil in Biblical Studies is awarded to a candidate who – having critically investigated and evaluated an approved research topic resulting in an independent and original contribution to the discipline and demonstrated an understanding of relevant research methods – has presented a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners. Students who intend to enrol for a Doctoral Degree must first complete the research module (DPCHS02) that consists of the formulation of an acceptable research proposal.

Ancient Near Eastern Studies (for students in Human Sciences)

The Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies offer modules concerning Ancient Near Eastern Culture for student studying in the Human Sciences.

What is the focus area of Ancient Near Eastern Culture?

- This course focuses on the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Mesopotamia (Iraq), Anatolia (Turkey), Persia (Iran), and Syria-Palestine (i.e., Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon) before the Graeco-Roman period. Lesser known civilisations such as those of Nubia, Libya, the Hurrians, Edomites and Moabites are also included
- The course covers a study of the cradle of civilisation reflected in the variety of topics including world views, ideologies, mythology, religion and future expectation of these peoples of the ancient world. Their daily life and activities such as manufacture, education, family life, agriculture, sport, games, recreation, literature and art are also scrutinised
- The cultural treasure of the Ancient Near East contains an abundance of written and unwritten sources
- The written documents comprise a huge variety of literary and non-literary works, while the unwritten documents consist of various archaeological and iconographic (symbolic artefacts) material

Who might be interested?

- Any person with an avid interest in the ancient world
- Prospective students with interest in acquiring a background to the Bible, without necessarily incorporating the languages of the Bible
- Students in Theology, ministers and pastors with past theological training and interested in acquaintance with the cultural treasure of the ancient Near East
- Students of African Renaissance and African history with an interest of the important cultural contribution of, especially, northern Africa (Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya, etc.) to world culture
- Tour guides and travel agents interested in furthering their knowledge on the Middle East – a region that at present holds the attention of the entire world

The Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies offer the following modules in the Discipline of Ancient Near Eastern Studies:

NB: Any module can be taken for Non-degree Purposes (NDP), or Ancient Near Eastern Culture can be taken as a major subject for a BA Degree.

- ATC1601** Introduction to the Ancient Near Eastern Cultures
- ATC1502** Mythology of the Ancient Near East
- ATC2601** Verbal Communication in the Ancient Near East
- ATC2602** Nonverbal Communication in the Ancient Near East
- ATC2603** Cultural Change in the Ancient Near East
- ATC3701** Archaeology of the Ancient Near East
- ATC3702** Comparative Literature of the Ancient Near East
- ATC3703** Ancient Near East and its 'Outside' World
- ATC3704** Detailed Study of One of the Major Cultures of the Ancient Near East
- ATC3705** Essay and Seminar

Honour's BA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Students from a related human science discipline who did not pass the third-level course in Ancient Near Eastern Culture may be allowed to register for the Hons BA (Ancient Near Eastern Studies) by simultaneously registering for ATC1013 and ATC1024 for NDP (Non-degree Purposes). The curriculum consists of five compulsory modules each having internal choices. Only one internal option should be taken wherever there is more than one option.

- HPANE81** Research in Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- HRANE85** Research Report: Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- ANE4802** Religious World of the Ancient Near East
- ANE4803** Society of the Ancient Near East
- ANE4804** Material Culture of the Ancient Near East

MA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

At a master's level, students enrol for a degree that consists of:

- (1) A research proposal module (MPCHS92), and
- (2) a dissertation.

A master's student should conduct scientific research and report about it in a systematic and meaningful way. This includes the ability to understand, evaluate and integrate insights from various sources and present it in a creative way.

DLitt et Phil in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

The DLitt et Phil in Ancient Near Eastern Studies is awarded to a candidate who – having critically investigated and evaluated an approved research topic resulting in an independent and original contribution to the discipline of Biblical Archaeology and demonstrated an understanding of relevant research methods – has presented a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Students who intend to enrol for a Doctoral Degree must first complete the research module (DPCHS02) that has the formulation of an acceptable research proposal.

The Department of Christian Spirituality, Church History and Missiology

Christian Spirituality

The phenomenon of Christian Spirituality is like a mushroom: Although it can be found everywhere, when the conditions are right it can be nurtured into something exceptional; it is a thoroughly earthy matter, finding its home in the most basic of circumstances, yet it can lead to the most elevated tastes and experiences. In this discipline, offered only at very few universities worldwide, we study what happens in the dynamism between our inner-most selves and our higher-most values. Our beings and aspirations merge, to form experientially who we are and what we become.

The study of Christian Spirituality makes certain existential and intellectual demands that call for spiritual and academic maturity. Therefore this discipline is available only at postgraduate level, Honours, Master's and Doctorate. Due to the backgrounds of the academic staff members of this discipline, Christian Spirituality at Unisa offers an internationally recognised strength in Biblical Spirituality, whereas the Honour's Degree is general in its overview of the discipline. In the Master's (by dissertation only) and Doctorate students choose their own area of specialisation, in consultation with a supervisor.

Modules offered for BTh Honour's in Christian Spirituality

- CSP401E** Research in Christian Spirituality: An Overview of Research Methodologies within the Discipline of Christian Spirituality
- CSP410F** Introductory Issues in the Study of Christian Spirituality: What is Spirituality? What is Christian Spirituality and How Does it Relate to Other Spiritual Traditions, to Other Theological Disciplines, and to the Bible?
- CSP411G** History of Christian Spirituality: An Overview of the Phases of Spirituality over Two Millennia of Christian History
- CSP412H** Christian Mysticism: What is Mysticism? With a particular focus on John of the Cross
- CSP413J** Research Project: With Guidance from a supervisor, the student completes a research project of 40 pages (12 000 words), focused on a specific aspect of Christian Spirituality

MTh in Christian Spirituality

This is a Research Degree that does not contain any course work. A student is required to write a dissertation based on independent research, but before starting on the dissertation, s/he has to complete the research proposal module (MPCHS92). After completing this module, a supervisor is appointed to help the student conduct the research and write the dissertation in a systematic and creative way. A Master's Degree cannot be completed in less than one year.

DTh in Christian Spirituality

This is a Research Degree, in which a student has to demonstrate the ability to do independent research on a specific topic in the field of Christian Spirituality. Before writing the thesis, however, the student must successfully complete the doctoral Research Proposal Module (DPCHS02). After that a promoter is appointed to guide the student to carry out the research project in a critical and creative way and to write the thesis. A doctoral thesis is required to make an original contribution to the discipline of Christian Spirituality and cannot be completed in less than two years.

Church History

Understand the present by uncovering the past

Have you ever wondered:

- How the church got to where it is today?
- Why different churches believe, worship and act in particular ways?
- How the past has influenced the present?

Find answers to these and other important questions in the courses offered by the discipline of Church History.

Undergraduate modules

The following Church History modules may be taken as part of a BTh or a BA Degree:

First year (NQF-level 5)

Introduction to the Study of Church History (TIC1502)

A historical perspective is essential in any academic study. This certainly applies to Theology. One cannot understand the present situation of churches without clear insight into the factors that have shaped and challenged them. In this module we give an overview of 2 000 years of church history, to give you a glimpse of the richness of the subject and to help you to start thinking in historical terms.

Second year (NQF-level 6)

Christianity in a Changing South Africa (TIC2602)

Christian churches have been involved in various ways in the history of South Africa, often landing up on different sides of social, economic and political divides. Many South African Christians have been working all along to overcome these divisions, but since 1994 this process of reconciliation has accelerated and broadened. This module enables students to explore the impact of ongoing societal changes on Christianity in South Africa.

World Christianity and Ecumenism (TIC2604)

Ecumenism deals with collaboration between churches and with their shared commitment to a united, just and peaceful world. This module will equip you with to a holistic understanding of ecumenism, help you gain information on the current state of Christianity in the world, and give you skills to nurture tolerance and to advocate justice and transformation in society.

Third year (NQF-level 7)

Christian Foundations: The Early Centuries (TIC3703)

Many Christians do not have a clear understanding of how the doctrine, worship and other practices of the church developed in the first four centuries. This module fills that gap, showing how key dimensions of the Christian tradition developed, as it was both stimulated and challenged by its context.

Christianity in Africa (TIC3704)

This module offers an overview of the history of African Christianity from the first century to the present, an analysis of missionary thought and practice and an exposition of current approaches to African Christian Theology.

Church and Society across the Ages (TIC3705)

This module helps students to interpret the present day diversity of Christianity in the light of the formative developments in European Christianity during the past five hundred years.

Postgraduate programmes

BTh Honour's in Church History

The BTh Honour's Degree in Church History consists of five modules; four offered by the discipline of Church History itself and one that can be chosen from another theological discipline. These modules are designed to give you a variety of choices in the wide field of periods, countries, churches and themes in Church History.

HMKEG80 Church Historiography and Methodology

KEG4802A Detailed Study of a Text

KEG4803 Detailed Study of a Theological Theme or Theologian

HRKEG81 Research Essay

MTh in Church History

This is a Research Degree that does not contain any course work. A student is required to write a dissertation based on independent research in Church History, but before starting on the dissertation, s/he has to complete the research proposal module (MPCHS92). After completing this module, a supervisor is appointed to help the student conduct the research and write the dissertation in a systematic and creative way. This degree cannot be completed in less than one year.

DTh in Church History

This is a Research Degree, in which a student has to demonstrate the ability to do independent research on a specific topic in the field of Church History. Before writing the thesis, however, the student must successfully complete the doctoral Research Proposal Module (DPCHS02). After that a promoter is appointed to guide the student to carry out the research project in a critical and creative way and to write the thesis. A doctoral thesis is required to make an original contribution to the discipline of Church History and cannot be completed in less than two years.

Missiology

Exploring transformative encounters

Mission is at the 'cutting edge' of the Christian movement, where people become part of God's liberating mission in society. A missional church strives to transform communities through projects of evangelism, healing, teaching, reconciliation, development, ecology, church planting and liberation. Missiology is the systematic, critical and creative study of the transformative activities of Christian churches and organisations. It can also be called 'encounterology', since it is the exploration of how Christians respectfully and transformatively encounter 'others'. Christian witness, in the light of Gospel, can only be genuine if it takes place in an attitude of humility and from an awareness of a shared humanity.

Undergraduate modules (BTh)

The following Missiology modules may be taken as part of a BTh or a BA Degree:

First year (NQF-level 5)

The Dynamics of Mission (CMM1502)

An introductory module to contextual missiology that uses a 'praxis cycle' to explore the various dimensions of transformative encounters.

Second year (NQF-level 6)

Youth Ministry in Communities (CMM2602)

This module enables a student to develop the knowledge and skills required for a community-based approach to youth ministry.

Intercultural Christian Communication (CMM2603)

This module explores the numerous dimensions of culture and how these influence the way Christians communicate and embody the gospel.

Third year (NQF-level 7)

Christian Action for Anti-racism and Reconciliation (CMM3701)

This module enables students to come to terms with the dynamics of racism and mobilises Christian resources to overcome it.

The Dynamics of Interreligious Encounter (CMM3704)

This module helps students to relate to people of other faiths in a respectful way while exploring what it means to be faithful to the gospel.

Postgraduate programmes

BTh Honour's in Missiology

The BTh Honour's Degree in Missiology consists of five modules, which cover the wide field of contemporary missiology.

Research in Missiology (HPMSG80)

This module equips students to design and carry out a missiological research project.

Redeeming Memories: Constructing New Mission Histories (MSG4802)

This module enables students to understand the turning points in ecumenical mission history and to develop new mission histories in their own contexts.

Missiology Today: Discerning Trends and Challenges (MSG4803)

This module helps students to access information on the latest publications, conferences and trends in global missiological research, to enable them to develop contextual responses to the challenges facing them.

Called and Sent: Missional Ecclesiologies (MSG4804)

This module enables students to discern explicit and implicit missional ecclesiologies at work in faith communities, to critically assess these in relation to Scripture, and to interact creatively with emerging expressions of the church in different contexts.

Research Project (HRMSG82)

The purpose of this module is to assist and guide students in formulating a viable research proposal for a small research project in missiology; to carry out the research project; and to write a well-structured research report. This module is the culmination of the BTh Hons Degree in Missiology.

MTh in Missiology

There are two MTh programmes in Missiology: A structured MTh and a research MTh

Structured MTh in Missiology

This programme consists of three modules of course work and a dissertation of limited scope:

MTHMS15 Introduction to Missiology

MTHMS26 Exploring a Field of Specialisation

MPCHS92 Research Proposal

DIS523L Dissertation of Limited Scope

Research MTh in Missiology (DFMIS95)

This is a Research Degree that does not contain any course work. A student is required to write a dissertation based on independent research in Missiology, but before starting on the dissertation, s/he has to complete the research proposal module (MPCHS92). After completing this module, a supervisor is appointed to help the student conduct the research and write the dissertation in a systematic and creative way. This degree cannot be completed in less than one year.

DTh in Missiology (TFMIS05)

This is a Research Degree, in which a student has to demonstrate the ability to do independent research on a specific topic in the field of Missiology. Before writing the thesis, however, the student must successfully complete the doctoral Research Proposal Module (DPCHS02). After that a promoter is appointed to guide the student to carry out the research project in a critical and creative way and to write the thesis. A doctoral thesis is required to make an original contribution to the discipline of Missiology and cannot be completed in less than two years.

The Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology

This department comprises of four different disciplines: Philosophy; Practical Theology; Systematic Theology and Theological Ethics. In this brochure only the theological programmes offered by this department are included.

Practical Theology Undergraduate modules (BTh)

The following Practical Theology modules may be taken as part of a BTh or a BA Degree:

First year (NQF-level 5)

CGM1502 First Steps in Practical Theology

Second year (NQF-level 6)

CGM2602 Preaching in a Context of Poverty

CGM2603 Exploring Celebration and Worship

Third year (NQF-level 7)

CGM3703 Caring for All: Exploring the Field of Pastoral Work

CGM3704 The Research Challenge: Doing Empirical Research in Theology

CGM3705 Christian Leadership and Church Management

Postgraduate programmes

BTh Honour's in Practical Theology

The BTh Honour's Degree in Practical Theology consists of five modules:

HPPTH81 Research in Practical Theology

PTH4802 Preaching and Worship in an African Context

PTH4803 Religious Education and Christian Ministry

PTH4804 Advance Pastoral Care and Counselling

HRPTH85 Research Project in Practical Theology

MTh in Practical Theology

This is a Research Degree that does not contain any course work. A student is required to write a dissertation based on independent research in Practical Theology, but before starting on the dissertation, s/he has to complete the research proposal module (MPCHS92). After completing this module, a supervisor is appointed to help the student conduct the research and write the dissertation in a systematic and creative way. This degree cannot be completed in less than one year.

DTh in Practical Theology

This is a Research Degree, in which a student has to demonstrate the ability to do independent research on a specific topic in the field of Practical Theology. Before writing the thesis, however, the student must successfully complete the doctoral Research Proposal Module (DPCHS02). After that a promoter is appointed to guide the student to carry out the research project in a critical and creative way and to write the thesis. A doctoral thesis is required to make an original contribution to the discipline of Missiology and cannot be completed in less than two years.

Systematic Theology

In Systematic Theology we are privileged to be exposed to many diverse views, worlds and contexts of past and present theologians, religiologists and theoreticians of faith. We, as lecturers, are also therefore privileged to accompany students from different worlds, context, experiences and views on this wonderful journey. We all, young and old, join in the joy, intensity and satisfaction which each of us bring to the journey through faith studies.

Undergraduate modules (BTh)

The following Systematic Theology modules may be taken as part of a BTh or a BA Degree:

First year (NQF-level 5)

Invitation to Theology (CGM1501)

This is a foundational module of the BTh Degree. It introduces Theology as an interdisciplinary field of study, in which Scripture, history, doctrine, ministry and mission are closely and dynamically interrelated.

Reflection on Faith (TIC1501)

This module is aimed at discovering patterns of faith while reflecting on the characteristics and significance of faith in context.

Second year (NQF-level 6)

Faith, Church and Culture (TIC2601)

This module in the field of ecclesiology enables students to explore different understandings of being human by interacting with Anthropology, Cultural and Social Studies. It equips students to examine the role, place and nature of churches, communities and structures of faith within society.

Faith, Jesus and Social Change (TIC2603)

This module helps students to explore notions of salvation (soteriology) and bringers of salvation (Christology) within classical and contemporary approaches to Theology.

Third year (NQF-level 7)

Faith, the Spirit and the Future (TIC3701)

By exposing students to different theological views on the future (traditionally called eschatology) and the Spirit (traditionally called pneumatology), this module helps them to formulate their own point of view on these matters. It allows them to start from their own spiritual awareness, as they develop their points of view on the interconnectedness between the future and the Spirit, and take transformational responsibility here and now for the future.

Faith, Philosophy and Science (TIC3702)

This module helps students to explore the origin and history of the contemporary debate between studies of faith or philosophy and the notion of science. It demonstrates that Theology (or a theory of faith) should have no qualms about considering itself a special science or a theoretical discipline.

God, Creation and Environment (CMM3702)

This module helps students to discover the many and varied factors that cause the current environmental crisis globally and in South Africa; to face the challenge that the environment crisis poses to the Christian faith; and to develop a Theology that can foster an environmentally friendly society.

Postgraduate programmes

BTh Honour's in Systematic Theology

The BTh Honour's Degree in Systematic Theology consists of five modules:

- STH4801 Approaches to Theology
- STH4802 History of Theology
- STH4803 Themes in Theology
- HPSTH84 Research in Systematic Theology
- HRSTH85 Research Project in Systematic Theology

MTh in Systematic Theology

This is a Research Degree that does not contain any course work. A student is required to write a dissertation based on independent research in Systematic Theology, but before starting on the dissertation, s/he has to complete the research proposal module (MPCHS92). After completing this module, a supervisor is appointed to help the student conduct the research and write the dissertation in a systematic and creative way. This degree cannot be completed in less than one year.

DTh in Systematic Theology

This is a Research Degree, in which a student has to demonstrate the ability to do independent research on a specific topic in the field of Systematic Theology. Before writing the thesis, however, the student must successfully complete the doctoral Research Proposal Module (DPCHS02). After that a promoter is appointed to guide the student to carry out the research project in a critical and creative way and to write the thesis. A doctoral thesis is required to make an original contribution to the discipline of Missiology and cannot be completed in less than two years.

Theological Ethics

Faith, health, poverty, justice, abuse and compassion: Are they right and desirable? Which should we admire and live out and which should we avoid in our personal lives and social interaction? Why? These are some of the experiences and concepts that are dealt with in the study of Theological Ethics. What is morality and how can we become morally good persons who build just and compassionate societies? What link is there between faith in God and daily life? If you have pondered these matters and find yourself discussing them with your family, friends and colleagues, register now for these modules.

Undergraduate modules (BTh)

The following modules in Theological Ethics may be taken as part of a BTh or a BA Degree:

First year (NQF-level 5)

Ethics and Life (CMM1501)

This module enables students to make defensible ethical decisions by giving attention to the relationship between ethics and context; the use of the Bible in the formation of ethical norms and values, and central ethical theories and criteria. Students learn to put this approach to ethical decision making into practice by making ethical judgments on issues such as AIDS, leadership, land redistribution, economic justice, ecology, women and children.

Second year (NQF-level 6)

Ethics and Spirituality (CGM2601)

This module enables students to gain an integrated understanding of Christian ethics and spirituality that has relevance to their personal, faith community and social existence. Through the identification and evaluation of a range of historical and contemporary ethical and spiritual traditions, students are enabled to reflect upon and renew their own faith journey and make a constructive contribution to the faith experience and social involvement of other individuals and groups.

Women in Society and Church (CMM2601)

This module analyses the circumstances of women in church and society and evaluates whether these conform to the Biblical and Christian norms and values. These norms and values include issues of justice, solidarity, fairness, righteousness, peace, human dignity. In line with the understanding that women and men are both created in the image of God, it explores the question of how the attitudes of church and society can be transformed to give credence to Biblical imperatives.

Third year (NQF-level 7)

Sexual Ethics (CGM3701)

This module introduces theological approaches to the field of sexual ethics and enables students to understand how people experience and interpret their sexuality. The module further enables students to critically evaluate the interrelationship between sexuality and morality and to make a contribution to personal and interpersonal sexual healing and justice in churches and communities.

Christian Social Ethics (CMM3703)

This module helps students to examine the development of Christian social teaching from its biblical origins to its current status in various churches and in the academic discipline of Christian social ethics. It helps students develop a strong character and social conscience, in order to become effective church leaders, teachers and social participants.

Christian Moral Decision Making (CMM3705)

This module enables students to continue the moral learning journey begun in the first level module, by introducing them to the various aspects of ethics and morality. It emphasises the tripartite nature of morality as consisting of being, doing and community building. By studying these three aspects, students gain a better understanding of the role of ethics in personal, social and structural transformation. They are further encouraged to search for and to uncover meaningful theories and methods to help bring about such transformation.

Human Rights, Values and Social Transformation (HRV1601)

This module enables students to contribute to the development of a human rights culture, and to analyse situations in which there are tensions between human rights and cultures; interpret human rights discourse and add their own voice to it; and make ethically justifiable decisions in ambiguous situations.

NB: This is a foundation module in the B A Degree. It offers the opportunity to students from various disciplines to register for this module.

Postgraduate programmes

BTh Honour's in Theological Ethics

The discipline of Theological Ethics offers two BTh Hons programmes:

BTh Honours in Theological Ethics

The specialised BTh Honour's Degree in Theological Ethics consists of five modules:

- HPTHE81** Approaches to Research in Theological Ethics
- HPTHE4801** Comparative or Sexual or Medical Ethics
- THE4802** Social or Environmental Ethics
- THE4803** Feminist/Womanist Ethics or Ethics and Spirituality
- HRTHE85** Research Report in Theological Ethics

BTh Honours in Christian Leadership

This interdisciplinary BTh Honour's Degree in Christian Leadership consists of five modules:

- HPCLC81** Research Approaches to Christian Leadership
- CLC4801** Exploring the Nature and Context of Christian Leadership
- CLC4802** Facilitating Christian Discipleship and Leadership Development
- HRCLC85** Research Report in Christian Leadership

Plus one of the following:

- THE4801** Comparative or Sexual or Medical Ethics
- THE4802** Social or Environmental Ethics
- THE 4803** Feminist/Womanist Ethics or Ethics and Spirituality

MTh in Theological Ethics

The discipline of Theological Ethics offers two Master of Theology programmes: a) a specialised research dissertation on a theme in Theological Ethics; and b) a dissertation on Christian leadership and church leadership in context. Since these are Research Degrees, no course work is included. Before starting on the dissertation, a student has to complete the research proposal module (MPCHS92). After completing this module, a supervisor is appointed to help the student conduct the research and write the dissertation in a systematic and creative way. This degree cannot be completed in less than one year.

DTh in Theological Ethics

This is a Research Degree, in which a student has to demonstrate the ability to do independent research on a specific topic in the field of Theological Ethics. Before writing the thesis, however, the student must successfully complete the doctoral Research Proposal Module (DPCHS02). After that a promoter is appointed to guide the student to carry out the research project in a critical and creative way and to write the thesis. A doctoral thesis is required to make an original contribution to the discipline of Missiology and cannot be completed in less than two years.

The chairpersons of the departments

Biblical and Ancient Studies

Prof EB Farisani fariseb@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 4410

Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology

Prof RS Tshaka tshakrs@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 4053

Church Christian Spirituality, Church History and Missiology

Dr ZJ Banda Bandazj@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 4377

Secretaries of departments

Biblical and Ancient Studies

Mrs HM Rootman rootmhm@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 4711

Ms LF van Vuuren vvuur@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 6812

Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology

Ms KL Mmako mmakokl@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 4420

Church Christian Spirituality, Church History and Missiology

Ms P van der Merwe vdmerp1@unisa.ac.za +27 12 429 4040

Mrs M Mahloko mahlomm1@unisa.sc.za +27 12 429 4477

To register as a student write for registration forms to:

The Registrar (Academic and Student Affairs),
University of South Africa,
PO Box 392,
0003, Pretoria,
South Africa

E-mail: CHS@unisa.ac.za

