Theologies in Context
(offer by the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Theology)
Telephone number 012 429 4567

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Introduction

Since the Christian church has a 2000-year history and has established itself in many countries across the world, theological study needs to give attention to the history of the Christian movement and to the ways in which the Christian faith has been articulated in various contexts. Without an acute awareness of the historical and contextual rootedness of all theologies, one cannot be a responsible theologian.

The modules grouped together in this “track” represent primarily the disciplines of Church History and Systematic Theology, but there are also modules from other disciplines that focus on the contextuality of the Christian movement. The intended outcomes of the modules in this “track” are to enable students to: show how every theology arises out of a particular context, explain the history of the church in Africa, demonstrate an understanding of their own rootedness in a theological tradition, interpret the Christian faith in relation to contemporary challenges, demonstrate the willingness to learn from other theological traditions, foster constructive relationships between individual Christians and between different church communities, strengthen the moral fabric of society through an understanding of contemporary moral issues and encourage an African consciousness and commitment.

2
Transitional arrangements

Students who have passed either TIC303D or TIC305F will not be allowed to register for TIC311D.

3
Syllabus

NB
- All modules in this subject are offered as YEAR MODULES.
- The first-level semester modules TIC101 and TIC102 are no longer offered and have been replaced by the year modules TIC111 and TIC112.

FIRST-LEVEL MODULES

TIC1116 Reflections on faith
Co-requisite (for BTh): CGM111 (or 101)
Purpose: to discover patterns of faith while reflecting on the characteristics and significance of faith, ways of practising theology, ideas on religions and being religious, and theories on faith.

TIC1128 Introduction to the study of church history
Co-requisite (for BTh): CGM111 (or 101)
Purpose: to enable students to think historically, in other words to realise the importance of history, and to use basic ‘tools’ for interpreting the past with reference to the present; to introduce them to two thousand years of Christian history by giving attention to themes such as: Christian beginnings and the ‘Great Tradition’, the Byzantine church, early contextualisation of Christianity in North Africa, the struggle for a Christian society in Europe, Christianity and the rise of the modern world, the origins and development of Christianity in South Africa.

SECOND AND THIRD-LEVEL MODULES

NB
- These second- and third-level modules, all carry 300 codes.

Prerequisite (for B.A): TWO first-level modules in this subject or any FOUR first-level modules
Co-requisite (for BTh): TIC111 (or 101), 112 (or 102), CGM111 (or 101), 112 (or 102), CMM111 (or 101), 112 (or 102), SCR111 (or 101), SCR112 (or 102), RST111 and any ONE first-level module

TIC301B Women in church and society*
Purpose: to raise the awareness of students about the realities of patriarchal social structures and the causes of sexism, unequal gender roles, discrimination and violence against women in South Africa and worldwide. It helps them to implement a contextual and feminist theological method to transform society and church.

TIC302C Ethical theory and methodology*
Purpose: to enable 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 emphasizes 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.

TIC304E Faith, church and culture*
Purpose: to enable students to explore and reflect on different understandings of being human as cultural, social and believing human beings by interacting with Anthropology, Cultural and Social Studies. It also equips them to examine the role, place and nature of churches, communities and structures of faith within society (ecclesiology).
**TIC306G  Christianity and a changing South Africa**
*Purpose:* through desegregation of their culture, history, music, art, mythologies, ethics, education and politics, South Africans are seeking reconciliation at almost every level, not least of all religiously. This module enables students to explore the impact of continuous societal changes on Christianity in South Africa.

**TIC307H  Faith, Jesus and social change**
*Purpose:* to help students to explore notions of salvation (soteriology) and bringers of salvation (Christology) within classical and contemporary approaches to theology.

**TIC308J  World Christianity and ecumenism**
*Purpose:* to assist students come to a vision of ecumenism rooted in their own denominational tradition and to widen and deepen their understanding of ecumenism in the context of the whole created universe. In this way they might be better equipped to work towards gender and racial equality and peace in the world house.

**TIC309K  Faith, the Spirit and the future**
*Purpose:* by exposing students to different theological views on the future (traditionally called eschatology) and the Spirit (traditionally called pneumatology), this module helps them to reflect on and formulate their own point of view in these matters. It allows them to start from their own spiritual awareness, as they develop their view on the interconnectedness between the future and the Spirit, and consequently take transformational responsibility here and now for the future.

**TIC310C  Faith, philosophy and science**
*Purpose:* to help 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.

**TIC311D  Church and society across the ages**
*Purpose:* to enable students to interpret the present-day diversity of Christianity in the light of the formative developments in European Christianity during the past fifteen hundred years, beginning with the medieval world, the fifteenth-century Renaissance, the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation, the counter-Reformation and modernity. We use the term ‘modern’ to refer to the period beginning with the Enlightenment movement in Western Europe during the eighteenth century.

**BTH320A  Integrated theological praxis**

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**NB**

This module can only be taken by students who major in Theologies in Context for the BTh degree in the last year of registration. It must be one of the seven second and third-level modules constituting a major in this subject.

*Purpose:* to enable a student to integrate the insights and competences gained during the course of doing the other 29 modules for the BTh. It further prepares a student for a life of ongoing theological learning and service, either through formal postgraduate study or through the practice of ministry. The module also enables Unisa lecturers, together with external examiners, to practise integrated assessment, by ascertaining whether a student has attained the outcomes envisaged for the BTh qualification.