

Theology & Religious Studies BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: 8D12 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2018/19

International students can apply



Course Overview

This degree gives you the opportunity to study Christian Theology whilst at the same time exploring other major religious traditions of the world. We live in an increasingly interconnected and fast-moving world. Ideas and people are on the move – and the ability to understand the perspectives of others, to learn from them, and to enter into conversation with them is essential for the future. Our Theology and Religious Studies degree is designed to help you to be at the cutting edge of that dialogue.

You will investigate the rich history and diversity of human religious experience, and look in detail at the ways in which the lives of billions of people across the world are shaped and affected by questions of religious identity and faith. The degree combines the study of Christian theology with an exploration of several other major World Religions, and places particular emphasis on the possibilities – and limits – for dialogue between the religions, with particular emphasis on practical issues such as ethics.

The degree embodies Hope's commitment to take faith seriously and at the same time to be intellectually stretching, stimulating and challenging. The teaching staff represent a broad range of Christian traditions, and all of our lecturers are experts in their field and well published. You will have access to our special collections archives, which house texts dating back to the 15th Century.

Entry Requirements

The standard offer level is between BBB-BBC from A levels or DDM-DMM from BTEC, or 120-112 UCAS tariff points

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2018/19 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

As well as tuition fees, you will need approximately £200 to purchase key textbooks. There are a number of optional fieldtrips each year, details of cost will be given to you with plenty of notice.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls



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Theology & Religious Studies

BA (Hons) Curriculum

Year One

Foundations in Theology and Religious Studies

Your first year is an introduction to the study of Christianity, using the dynamic relationship between the material and the spiritual as a key focus. You are also introduced to Biblical studies and you will gain an understanding of the ways in which the Christian understanding of Christ and the Trinity developed in the early Church.

You explore mystical and philosophical theology, and will look at ethics and the problem of evil, as well as Christian engagement with art. Other topics studied include the spirituality and worship in the Medieval World, and the medieval understanding of the human person in terms of sin and atonement.

Finally, you are introduced to religions such as African traditional religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islamic traditions, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Year Two

Explorations in Theology and Religious Studies

In your second year, you study the reformation, with a particular focus on history, theology and biblical interpretation. You will look at the first five books of the Bible, and the letters of the New Testament, as well as Christianity encounters in the modern world in terms of theology and the Enlightenment. Other topics studied include the missions of World Christianity and the ethical challenges to Christianity and the notion of self.

You will also focus on religion on the Indian subcontinent in your second year, exploring the definitions, history caste and core texts of Hinduism, early

history and philosophy of Buddhism, and Islam in India.

Finally, you will study contemporary religious ethics, with a focus on ethical traditions and current issues in Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Theology and Religious Studies

Your final year allows you to study key thinkers and issues facing theology in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Thinkers will include Tillich, Bonhoeffer, Mary Daly, Karl Rahner, Grace Jantzen, Henri de Lubac, James Cone. You also explore Christian theological responses to recent issues such as the holocaust, feminist thinking, the struggle for freedom and justice.

You will learn about Buddhist texts, thought and practice, as well as Buddhism Islam and Politics, particularly focusing on historical and contemporary perspectives. Along with Sufism, you also undertake advanced studies in Judaism.

Finally, you choose two of the following seminar strands:

- Systematic Theology
- Systematic and Constructive Theology
- Pastoral Theology

And you study both of the following seminar strands:

- Judaism and Islam
- Advanced Studies in Indic traditions

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups of around 15-20 students, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

In your first year, there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study you will have a number of assessments, including formal written exams, essays, case studies and portfolios. In your final year, assessments may include textual analysis, fieldwork reports and/or literature reviews. You also complete a dissertation on a research topic of your choice.

You will receive your feedback via the University's Virtual Online Learning Environment (Moodle), and you are also welcome to discuss the feedback with your tutors.



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