

Advanced Topic in Christian Ethics (TMM41520)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To enable students to undertake in-depth critical study of how Christian faith in God informs and shapes the moral life of communities and individuals, in relation to a key topic.

To help students to reflect critically on their own existing models of moral discernment and on those which are present in contemporary culture.

To develop in students an in-depth, sophisticated and rigorous understanding and critical appreciation of the theological resources available for Christian reflection on ethical issues.

To develop in students skills to apply these resources faithfully to particular moral questions, equipping them for teaching, pastoral ministry and Christian living.

Content:

This module will focus on one particular moral issue, such as sexual, medical, political or economic ethics, and will include:

in-depth, critical analysis of the chosen issue

an exploration of theological accounts of this issue, including attention to the sources on which they draw, such as Scripture, tradition, reason, moral philosophy and experience

critical analysis of selected biblical and theological concepts and themes as they have a bearing on the issue, e.g., the doctrine of creation, divine commands, justice

a critical outline of relevant features of our cultural contexts within which the particular issue is situated, e.g., utilitarianism, liberalism, capitalism.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module students will be able to:

Subject Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 3]

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of a major area of Christian ethical thinking that is informed by the methodologies and findings of research and original thinking at the current boundaries of the subject.

Understand, assimilate and evaluate critically advanced scholarship and research findings in relation to the chosen topic in ethics.

Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating the chosen topic to aspects of faith, church and society.

Subject Skills [SSS 3]

Reflect theologically on the chosen topic, exercising sound judgment when relating it to complex and ambiguous realities in church and society today.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination.

Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.

Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

Modes of Teaching and Learning

Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'.

Learning Hours

Learning hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Learning Hours'.

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on formative assessment.

Summative Assessment

Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.

Indicative Reading

Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for postgraduate modules.