

God, Beauty and the Imagination: Theology and the Arts (TMM44920)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

- To explore how God, beauty and the imagination have found expression in art, literature and / or music and how these themes have been reflected in theology.
- To give students a comprehensive awareness of relevant issues in the historical development and theological expression of the arts and/or aesthetics.
- To enable students to interpret works of art, literature and /or music from a theological perspective.
- To enable students to relate what they have learnt to ministry and mission.

Content:

- The biblical-historical foundations for and against a theology of artistic form and the role of the artist in society both past and present.
- Examination of major epochs or movements in the creation of art, literature and/or music, including leading artists and important works.
- Exploration of how artists have engaged with and have rendered Christian dogmas, such as the life, death and resurrection of Christ, the Trinity, Mary, the church etc.
- Exploration of relevant writings by contemporary and past theologians relating to themes in theology and the arts, such as imagination, beauty, divine revelation, truth and meaning, and artistic forms as a *locus theologicus*.

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

Subject Knowledge [SSK 1, 2]

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of major developments in art, music, literature and/or aesthetics, in relation to theology, ministry and/or mission.

Critically engage with and evaluate works of art, music and/or literature, making appropriate connections between artistic and pastoral/theological insights.

Subject-Specific Skills [SSS 1, 3]

Investigate a particular aspect of the arts in theology, in relation to past and/or contemporary culture.

Reflect theologically on a particular account of the purpose of human imagination and/or creativity.

Use the insights of the arts to reflect creatively upon ministerial and missional practice and how such practice might be enhanced.

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.