

## Christian Faith and Psychology (TMM46820)

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Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

**Aims:**

To introduce the discipline of psychology and communicate its relevance and importance in several key areas of theology, ministry, and mission.

To equip students with sufficient methodological and analytic skills in this subject area for them to take an informed approach to engaging with the literature and understanding both its promise and limitations as an interdisciplinary resource.

In this light, to enable students to make deep and robust connections between aspects of human life documented by secular empirical approaches and the Christian story of creation, redemption and ultimate fulfilment.

**Content:**

Classic and contemporary psychology that has been applied to faith in areas such as the nature of religious tribalism, prayer, mystical experiences, healthy vs unhealthy religion, symbolism and ritual, the origin of individual differences in God representations, character and virtue.

The epistemological and methodological assumptions in contemporary psychology.

Points of dialogue between psychology and theology (for example the nature of human flourishing, biblical and psychological approaches to parental aspects of God).

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

### ***Subject Specific Knowledge [SSK 1, 2]***

Demonstrate a depth of knowledge of a range of psychological approaches that have been applied to aspects of Christianity and other faith traditions or brought into dialogue with Christian theology.

Exercise their knowledge of psychology to illuminate specific questions in theology, mission, and ministry and to enrich their study of these questions, evidencing awareness of the methods and assumptions of contemporary psychology.

Critically evaluate the use made of psychology in contexts of theology, ministry and/or mission.

### **Subject Specific Skills [SSS 2, 3]**

Employ their knowledge to engage in depth with research publications relevant to the interface between psychology and faith.

Demonstrate practical application of theoretical knowledge of psychology in an area relevant to theology, ministry and/or mission, engaging systematically and creatively with complex issues.

### **Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]**

Communicate research into complex issues with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination.

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

Exercise 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'

Contact Hours:

Contact hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Contact 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 programmes.

Indicative Reading:

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