

Digital Media and Popular Culture: Theological Engagement and Spiritual Practice (TMM49520)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To enable students to explore how accessing of popular or mass culture impacts theologies and spiritualities and how people experience 'lived culture' today

To enable students to observe and analyse how digital technologies occupy an important place in culture and how such technologies impact experience of Christianity and spirituality today.

To enable students to explore how the digital (in all its forms) changes the way people access and engage with theology and spirituality.

Content:

An introduction to understandings of 'digital theology' and 'digital religion' and how 21st-century interactions with digital technologies form an important part of interactions with popular culture

Various aspects of how digital theology interacts with spirituality, for example the changing shape of worship, religious authority, and the autonomy of the Christian in selecting the ways they participate in Christianity and spirituality more broadly

The place of emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence) in the way that Christianity and spirituality are experienced.

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 aspects of popular culture and digital media and how they have shaped Christian faith and spirituality.

Evaluate advanced scholarship and research relating to developments in popular culture that have disrupted traditional conceptions of and norms governing social, political, ethical, and spiritual life, and how the digital relates to this.

Subject-Specific Skills [SSS 3]

Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner on texts and practices associated with popular culture and digital media as they relate to Christian faith and spirituality.

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.

