

Western Christian Mysticism (TMM49820)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims: To enable students to have an overview of the historical development of the Western Christian mystical traditions.

To enable students to identify and analyse key historical figures and movements within that tradition, as well as contemporary scholarly debates around Christian Mysticism.

To enable students to examine both apophatic and cataphatic strands of the Christian mystical traditions and their relationship.

To enable students to explore particular genealogies of mysticism, how they relate to one another, and the (in)appropriateness of defining such genealogies.

Content: Evaluation of the term 'Mysticism' and currently scholarly debates around hermeneutical issues.

Detailed study of key figures and movements in the Western Mystical tradition, and apophatic and cataphatic strands.

Methodological approaches to the study of Christian Mysticism, such as psychological, hermeneutical, theological and historical.

Analysis of the continued existence and importance of the mystical element of Christian theology and spirituality today.

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

Subject Knowledge [SSK 1, 3]

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of aspects of Western Christian Mysticism, informed by current scholarship

Demonstrate an in-depth engagement with methodological approaches to the study of Western Christian Mysticism.

Subject-Specific Skills [SSS 1, 3]

Apply their knowledge to undertake independent investigation of aspects of Western Christian Mysticism and report these findings effectively.

Reflect systematically and creatively on contemporary spiritual practices in light of Western Christian Mysticism.

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.

