Theological Anthropology in Contemporary Culture

7.1   Module Overview

Module Number		Module Title	Theological Anthropology in Contemporary Culture					
Stage of Principal Programme			2	Semester	2	Duration. *(Weeks F/T)*	12	ECTS	5
Mandatory / Elective (M/E)	E	Hours of Learner Effort / Week	2					

Analysis of required hours of learning effort		
Teaching and Learning Modalities	✓if relevant to this module	Approx. proportion of total (hours)
Contact Hours		
In person face-to-face	✓	24
Synchronous		
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours		
Asynchronous		
Work Based		
Other:		
• Independent, self-directed reading	✓	44
• Preparation and completion of assessments	✓	42
• Exam Preparation	✓	15
Total		125

Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	120

Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.		
Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.	**Qualifications & experience required**	**Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y**
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in Theology or closely cognate area	1:120

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution					
Continuous Assessment	40%	**Proctored Exam – in person**	60%	**Practical Skills Based**	
Project		**Proctored Exam - online**		**Work Based**	
Capstone (Y/N)?	N	**If Yes, describe**			

7.2   Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)

MIMLO On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	Related MIPLO #
1. Articulate and discuss themes that are pertinent to Christian anthropology.	1
2. Analyse and evaluate specific aspects in Christian Doctrine.	1, 2

3. Critique contributions to the understanding of the Human as Relational, Dialogical, Embodied, and Linguistic.	**5**
4. Discuss the Christian anthropology of *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*.	**8**

7.3   Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

The aim of this module is to explore what it means to be human through a study of a number of classical theological topics that include creation, redemption, nature, grace, the body, desire, place and belonging, and prayer. The module will study in some detail the Christian anthropology that is to be had in Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes*. The themes of 'ecological conversion,' sustainability, and synodality (*Laudato Si*) will also be explored with a view to reflecting critically on what it means to be human in an ecologically responsible way.

Below is an indicative structure of the module content:

- Biblical accounts of creation and redemption as fundamental;
- The Theology of Place and Belonging (Sheldrake)
- Building Community (Church, LGBTQI+, Belonging, and Synodality)
- Prayer and Desire (Rahner and Girard)
- Sustainability in *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*

The content of the module will address the programme themes of sustainability and intersectionality.

7.4   Work-based learning and practice-placement *(if applicable)*

N/A

7.5   Specific module resources required *(if applicable)*

N/A

7.6   Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

Lectures will be delivered in two-hour lectures over a twelve-week period. The lecturer models the skills of exposition, analysis and critique in delivering the content and draws attention to the process. Lectures will facilitate the development of individual skills through critical reading and interpretation of recommended biblical, theological and texts, and group discussion of key concepts and terminology. In keeping with the principles of UDL, there are multiple means of engagement in terms of lecture visual aid and resource type (VLE audio-visual/apps/podcasts; visual and infographic guides to the Bible available in the library), in addition to hard copy and on-line reading. In-class activity will include collaborative close, active reading of theological texts.

Assessments:

Project and Portfolio: This assessment allows learners to express their understanding of topics covered in the module in the form of a project and portfolio. This use of authentic assessment reduces the likelihood of the misuse of AI and is in line with the programmes focus on UDL. (MIMLO 1 and 4).

Exam: The two-hour proctored exam examines the learners understanding of the core concepts and theories studied in the course. This form of assessment encourages learners to learn the basic skills of explaining concepts and analysing theological texts studied in the module. (MIMLO1, 2, 3, 4).

7.7	Summative Assessment Strategy for this module	
MIMLOs	**Technique(s)**	**Weighting**
1, 4	***Project and Portfolio*** Learners are required to study the theological anthropology of two sites in contemporary culture and present their findings in the form of a project and a portfolio booklet. Particular attention is to be given to the issues of environmental sustainability and the theology of place. This assignment takes theology outside of the traditional classroom environment, and, in so doing, encourages learners to engage with theology's contribution to understanding the rootedness in the places people inhabit, and the construction of religious identities.	**40%**
1-4	***Exam*** Two questions in two hours, linked to the close readings of texts during lectures; and required readings. The answers will be assessed using the College Written Assessment Marking Criteria Guidelines.	**60%**

7.8	Sample Assessment Materials

This module is assessed by 40% Continuous Assessment and 60% Written Exam.

Project and Portfolio:

Sample Title: 'A Study of the Christian Anthropology of Two Sites in Contemporary Culture'

The guidelines for the project are as project:

- Visit two sites in the local region that are presently (or were in the past) marked out as sacred sites.
- Examine and discuss the architecture of the spaces and assess how this informs what happens there (take photographs and include in the appendix).
- Study and discuss the beliefs associated with the space.
- Research and give an overview of the history of the space outlining how it has changed over time.
- Identify two skills you used in doing the essay and describe how you used these skills.
- Identify two clear links between the project and other aspects of the Module.
- Complete the project booklet and submit it with the project.
- Use Philip Sheldrake's chapter on 'A Sense of Palace' as a theoretical framework for your project.

Sample Exam Questions:

1. Discuss and critique two biblical narratives that are fundamental sources for contemporary theological anthropology.
2. 'A theological attempt to reconstruct an effective narrative of place, with room for the unheard or marginalized, must begin with a serious attention to the vocabulary of the particular.' Philip Sheldrake. Discuss this statement in light of the terms 'commitment' and 'belonging' which you have studied during the module.
3. Discuss the dynamic relationship between 'person,' 'faith,' and 'institution' as explored in the module.
4. Critically assess Karl Rahner's speculations on what human life would be like without the word 'God.'

Marking of assessments will be in line with the Marking Assessment Guidelines as outlined in Section 3.3 of the College's Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards unless otherwise indicated.

7.9	Indicative reading lists and other information resources

Indicative Core Reading:

Ross, Susan A., *Anthropology: Seeking Light and Beauty* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2012).

Saracino, Michele, *Christian Anthropology*: *An Introduction to the Human Person* (New York: Paulist Press, 2015).

Sheldrake, Philip, Spaces for the Sacred: Place, Memory, and Identity (London: SCM Press, 2001).

Sherry Turkle, 'The Flight from Conversation,' Opinion | The Flight From Conversation - The New York Times (nytimes.com) *(Published 21 April, 2012)*

Indicative Other Reading:

Loughlin, Gerard, *Aliex Sex: The Body and Desire in Cinema and Theology, Challenges in Contemporary Theology Series* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004)

Moltman, Jürgen, *Man: Christian Anthropology in the Conflict of the Present,* trans. by John Sturdy (London: SPCK, 1976)