

## Ecclesiology: Our Apostolic Church Today

7.1 Module Overview									
<b>Module Number</b>		<b>Module Title</b>	Ecclesiology Our Apostolic Church Today						
<b>Stage of Principal Programme</b>			3	<b>Semester</b>	2	<b>Duration.</b> <i>(Weeks F/T)</i>	12	<b>ECTS</b>	5
<b>Mandatory / Elective (M/E)</b>	E	<b>Hours of Learner Effort / Week</b>	2						
Analysis of required hours of learning effort									
<b>Teaching and Learning Modalities</b>					<b>✓if relevant to this module</b>	<b>Approx. proportion of total (hours)</b>			
<b>Contact Hours</b>									
In person face-to-face					✓	24			
Synchronous									
<b>Indirect/Non-Contact Hours</b>									
Asynchronous									
Work Based									
Other:									
• Independent self-directed reading					✓	40			
• Research, preparation and completion of assignment and presentation					✓	50			
• Exam Preparation					✓	11			
<b>Total</b>						125			

<b>Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title</b>	N/A
<b>Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title</b>	N/A
<b>Maximum number of learners per instance of the module</b>	120
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.	
<b>Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.</b>	<b>Qualifications &amp; experience required</b>
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in Systematic Theology or closely cognate area
	<b>Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y</b>
	1:120

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution					
<b>Continuous Assessment</b>	30%	<b>Proctored Exam – in person</b>	70%	<b>Practical Skills Based</b>	
<b>Project</b>		<b>Proctored Exam - online</b>		<b>Work Based</b>	
<b>Capstone (Y/N)?</b>	N	<b>If Yes, describe</b>			

7.2 Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)	
<b>MIMLO</b> On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	<b>Related MIPLO #</b>
1. Understand the nature of Ecclesiology and its connection to other theological disciplines	1, 2, 5

2. Be able to distinguish between a) the pre-critical and historico-critical approach to the question of the foundation of the Church by Jesus and b) the Church and the Kingdom	<b>2, 5, 6</b>
3. Demonstrate an ability to critically assess the functioning of the Church today with respect to its origins as found in the New Testament Communities	<b>2, 4, 5, 6</b>
4. Demonstrate an awareness of the huge significance of the Vatican II documents, 'Lumen Gentium' and 'Gaudium et Spes' for a renewal in ecclesiology	<b>5, 6, 7</b>

### 7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

This module aims to provide a basic knowledge of key concepts in ecclesiology while exploring the links between ecclesiology and the other theological disciplines. The module will introduce the learner to key ecclesiological themes in light of the Second Vatican Council. In exploring the origin, mystery, and mission of the Church this module will encourage the learner to then reflect on the manner in which Church today might best function in our world taking cognisance of equality and inclusion. Strong emphasis will be placed on the theological development of our understanding of the Church since the Second Vatican Council.

Below is an indicative structure of the module content:

- The Nature of Ecclesiology
  - Introductory lectures on the theological discipline of ecclesiology
  - A view of its interdisciplinary nature
  - Its contemporary relevance
  - An exploration of the Church as it is found in our Scriptures
- The Church and The Kingdom
  - A exploration of a pre-critical and historical-critical study of the origin of the Church.
  - The necessity of separating the Church and the Kingdom
  - Magisterial Teaching on the similarity, difference and necessity of maintaining a bond between Church and Kingdom
- Models of the Church for our world today:
  - A comparative and evaluative study of some of the popular models of the Church
  - The Synodal Church – is this a journey towards receiving the Council?
- An Apostolic Church
  - An exploration of the claim to be apostolic
  - An application of a claim to be apostolic: the question of Intercommunion between Churches and Ecclesial Communities
  - Successors to the Apostles: the magisterium, its importance and forms.
- A Conciliar Church
  - Vatican II: the theological contribution of the Council to our understanding of Church today
  - What is Church today? An exploration of the role of Church in our world today

### 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

The content of this module is delivered in lectures and recommended reading. In keeping with the principles of UDL material will be made available in a variety of modes on the VLE; text, video, podcast, with lecturers slides posted at the beginning of the course so that the learners may download in advance as a means of following the material being presented throughout the semester. Lecturers will involve some group work and a learner presentation. The essay assignment will take some contemporary ecclesiological issue to encourage the learner to reflect on this. Learners will also be asked to make an in-class presentation on a topic chosen by the lecturer or the learner, but as agreed.

## 7.7 Summative Assessment Strategy for this module

MIMLOs	Technique(s)	Weighting
2	Oral Presentation	10%
1-4	Essay	20%
1-4	Exam	70%

## 7.8 Sample Assessment Materials

Assessment will be composed of three parts

1. Presentation: 20 minute in-class presentation to include questions from fellow learners (10%)
2. Essay: 750 words (20%)
3. Final Exam: (70%)

This module is assess by 30% continuous assessments and 70% terminal exam.

**Oral Presentation:** A short reflection on a chapter of a book given to the learner some weeks in advance to allow time to prepare. The learner presents this using powerpoint to his or her peers and take questions from the floor.

**Essay:** A short Essay, 750 words, on a chosen topic.

Sample Essay title:

1. Synodality: How will this change our Church?
2. How can we claim the Church has its origin in Jesus?
3. Separating the Church and the Kingdom – why is this beneficial?
4. Magisterium – Church teaching and our response

**Exam:** Five question paper from which the learners must choose two based on topics covered during class lectures. Sample questions could include:

1. We follow in the footsteps of the Apostles. Critically explore the nature of the Catholic Church's understanding of its apostolicity.
2. The Church is not the Kingdom to which humanity is intended. Assess the importance and merits, therefore, of theology maintaining a distinction between the Kingdom and the Church.
3. Models help understanding but they can, on occasion, also hinder insight. With this in mind critically explore an understanding of the Church that might best serve the world today.
4. 'For bishops are preachers of the faith, who lead new disciples to Christ, and they are authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach to the people committed to them the faith they must believe and put into practice.' (*Lumen Gentium* 25)  
Critically explore the role of the Magisterium in the Church in our world today.
5. Raymond Browne points to the blueprint and historical critical methods of assessing the origins of the Church. Using the most appropriate of these, critically explore how theology can suggest that the Church has its origins in Jesus.

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:

Cwiekowski, Frederick, *The Beginnings of the Church* (New York: Paulist Press, 1988).

Dulles, Avery, *Models of the Church* (New York: Image Books, 2002).

Gaillardetz, Richard, *By What Authority? Foundations for Understanding Authority in the Church* (Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 2018).

McBrien, Richard, *The Church* (New York: Harper Collins, 2009).

Sullivan, Francis, *Magisterium* (New York: Paulist Press, 1983).

### Indicative Other Reading:

Fullenbach, John, *The Kingdom of God* (New York: Orbis, 1998).

Gaillardetz, Richard, *A Church with Open Doors: Catholic Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium* (Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 2015)

Gaillardetz, Richard, *The Church in the Making: Lumen Gentium, Christus Dominus, Orientalium Ecclesiarum* (New York, Paulist Press, 2006)

Kung, Hans, *The Church* (New York: The Modern Library, 2001).

Lohfink, Gerard, *Does God Need the Church* (Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 1999).

Rausch, Thomas, & Gaillardetz, Richard, *Go Into The Streets! The Welcoming Church of Pope Francis* (New York, Paulist Press, 2015)

Ryan, Dermot, *Method to Mission: The Ecclesial Vocation of a Theologian* (Rome: PUG, 2010).

Zizioulas, John, *Eucharist, Bishop, Church: The Unity of the Church in the Divine Eucharist and the Bishop during the first three centuries* (Holy Cross, Orthodox Press, 2007).