

The God Question

7.1 Module Overview									
Module Number		Module Title	The God Question: An understanding of God for today						
Stage of Principal Programme			3	Semester	2	Duration. <i>(Weeks F/T)</i>	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					✓	40			
• Research, preparation and completion of assignment and presentation					✓	50			
• Exam Preparation					✓	11			
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
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in Systemic Theology or closely cognate area
	Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y
	1:120

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution				
Continuous Assessment	30%	Proctored Exam – in person	70%	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	Related MIPLO #
On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	
1. Appreciate the importance of correct discourse about God: as how we speak ultimate shapes our understanding of and attitude towards all reality	1, 2, 4, 5
2. Identify the central Christian claims about the God revealed in Jesus Christ	3, 4, 5

3. Discuss different approaches to naming God in contemporary systematic theology and explore the consequences of these names	3, 5, 6, 7
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7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

This module aims to provide a critical knowledge of key concepts/themes in and around the question of God: such as, but not limited to, naming God, the problems of distinctions in God, equality and inequality in God and the implications of our understanding of these questions for the world today. The module aims to equip the learners to have the confidence to independently think theologically about God.

Below is an indicative structure of the module content:

- Distinctions within God?
 - God as Father
 - Jesus and a unique relationship with God.
 - The Holy Spirit, Jesus and God
- The problems of relations
 - A study of the relationships in God
 - An exploration of equality and “inequality” of the three persons of the Trinity and an examination of the implications of this radical equality for the world today.
 - An exploration of necessity and freedom in God
- The God Question in Modern Theology
 - A study of Modern Developments and understandings of God [Barth, Rahner, Moltmann, Sobrino]
- The Knowledge of God
 - An exploration of the awareness of the person of Jesus of his divine nature.
 - A study of the implications of the Godly works of Jesus as judge, creator and saviour
- Towards our naming God
 - A study of the attempts to classify God and the implications of these to the hearer
 - An exploration of attempts to express the Trinity in Art and Music

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 topic on the question of God 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
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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 assessed 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. Relationships within God model for our world today
2. Towards an attempt at naming and understanding God
3. Equality and inequality in a triune God – the implications of this for our world today
4. The necessity of freedom in God

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

1. Rahner's observed that '*the economic Trinity is the immanent Trinity and vice-versa*'. Critically explore how his Trinitarian theology makes God more accessible to humanity.
2. Nicholas Lash suggests that 'any doctrine of God which has ceased to be Trinitarian in character has thereby ceased to be Christian'. Critically explore the validity of his claim and would Karl Rahner not disagree?
3. In spite of their absolute monotheistic understanding of God, some people in the New Testament times were already able to equate Jesus with God. Critically examine why this might have been possible for them as a result of what they had observed.
4. The Filioque clause has caused divisions between the Churches of the east and the west with regard to the question of God. Explore what is intended by it and offer a solution to the problem it creates.
5. To know God is to be able to search for him. Critically explore how revelation makes finding God possible.

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:

Kasper, Walter, *Mercy, The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Life* (New York, Paulist Press, 2013).

Kasper, W., *The God of Jesus Christ* (London: SCM Press, 1984).

Letham, R., *The Holy Trinity* (Allentown, NJ: R & R Publishing, 2004).

Marmion, Declan, & Van Nieuwenhove, Rik, *An Introduction to the Trinity* (Cambridge, University Press, 2011).

Marsh, T., *The Triune God: A biblical, historical and theological study* (Dublin: Columba Press, 1994).

Norris, Thomas, *The Trinity Life of God, Hope for Humanity* (Dublin, Columba Press, 2008).

O'Collins, G., *The Tripersonal God* (New York: Paulist Press, 1999).

Indicative Other Resources:

Boff, L., *Trinity and Society* (London: Orbis, 1988).

Johnson, E., *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Thought* (New York: Crossroad, 1992).

Lyons, E., *Jesus Self-Portrait by God* (Dublin: Columba Press: 1994).

LcCugna, C., *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life* (San Francisco: Harper, 1993).

Moltmann, J., *The Trinity and the Kingdom of God* (San Francisco: Harper, 1981).

Norris, Thomas, *A Fractured Relationship, Faith in the Crisis of Culture* (New York, New City Press, 2010).

Olson, R. and Christopher A. Hall, *The Trinity* (Cambridge: Eerdmans Pub. Company, 2002).

Rahner, K., *The Trinity*, trans by J. Donceel (New York: Crossroad, 1970).

Schonborn, Christoph, *God Sent His Son, A Contemporary Christology* (San Francisco, Ignatius Press, 2004).

Torrance, T., *The Christian Doctrine of God* (New York: T & T Clarke, 1996).

Webb, Eugene, *In Search of the Triune God: The Christian Paths of East and West* (Missouri, University of Missouri Press, 2013)