

Trinity: A God One and Three

7.1 Module Overview									
Module Number		Module Title	Trinity: A God One and Three						
Stage of Principal Programme			3	Semester	1	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:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent self-directed reading 					✓	40			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Systematic 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 On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	Related MIPLO #
1. Appreciate the importance of a discussion of the Trinity for theology – in spite of its problematic and enigmatic nature	2, 4, 5

2. Be familiar with the development of the Trinitarian doctrine of God in the early Church and theology	3, 6, 7, 8
3. Discuss different approaches to retrieving the doctrine of the Trinity in contemporary systematic theology	3, 5, 6, 7
4. Explore the manner in which the doctrine of the Trinity has such radical consequences for Christian life today	4, 5, 6

7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

This module is intended to build upon the learners understanding of the Trinity as a central concept in Christian theology today. It will facilitate learners in exploring the Christian understanding of God as it emerges from the history of Israel and through the person of Jesus. The study will, by tracing the development of a Trinitarian doctrine, explore ways in which an understanding of the Trinity has very real consequences, not only for theology but also, life today, making demands on us with regard to care of the environment and a radical call to equality and inclusion.

This module aims to equip the learners to develop an appropriate language and understanding of the Trinity. It aims to emphasise the important in all theology of maintaining an awareness of the triune nature of God and the resultant impact this has on theology, faith and the Christian existence.

Below is an indicative structure of the module content:

- God as the object of theology
 - The Trinity, in spite of what we have learned, how it remains a neglected doctrine.
 - The Trinity an enigma in theology – and its real importance in, and contribution to, all theology.
 - An attempt towards reclaiming a neglected doctrine.
- A Triune God and Us
 - The Trinity viewed as an invite into an existential relationship
- Our knowledge of God
 - A study of attempts to discover the triune God in the fathers of the Church, Ireaneus, Origin and Tertullian
 - An Exploration of Karl Rahner’s Grundaxiom; suggesting an understanding of the Trinity is possible.
- Tracing an understanding of the Trinity:
 - The Old Testament - clues contained in anticipation? [The God of the OT; The creation of humanity - in our image; Israel’s monotheism and its implications for an understanding of the Trinity]
- The Trinity and life
 - An exploration of the possible implications of a triune God for our lives/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 question on the triune nature 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
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. Trinity – An enigma in Theology, but an imperative for life
2. Trinity – An attempt to reclaim a neglected doctrine
3. How understanding the Trinity shapes how we view the world
4. Trinity – A call to radical inclusion

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

1. Early Christian writers had the unenviable task of trying to explain a Triune God and in so doing create a language to express belief. Critically explore the work of Irenaeus, Tertullian **or** Origen and their contribution to our understanding of God.
2. Many great minds have attempted to explain the Trinity. Outline, and critique, the contribution of **either** Augustine **or** Aquinas to how we understand God.
3. Arius claimed, 'there was a time when he was not'. Explore his theory and its implications on our understanding of a Triune God and examine why, at times, heresy helps.
4. Man, God or Puppet – Critically explore the freedom of Jesus.
5. Naming God has proven controversial. Explore humanity's search for names and images of God.
6. If we don't know who God is we cannot find him – critically explore the importance of our understanding the Trinity.

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).

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

Lorenzen, L., *Introduction to the Trinity* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1999).

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)

Indicative Other Reading:

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

—, *Holy Trinity: Perfect Community* (New York: Maryknoll, 2000).

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

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).

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

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

Omerod, N., *The Trinity, Retrieving Western Tradition* (Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2005).

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

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