



Diploma in Scripture Level 7 (NFQ)



THE PRIORY INSTITUTE
A Dominican Centre for Theological Studies

This course is aimed at those who wish to study their Christian faith at an academic level with the intention of deepening their understanding of the central themes in Christian theology following the 800-year old Dominican tradition.

Stage 1

INTRODUCTORY MODULE

1. Learning to Learn: Critical Skills (5 Credits)

This short, introductory module demonstrates how distance learning fits in with the human experience of lifelong learning. It shows how learning styles are quite personal, and involve a great deal of reflection and self-appraisal. Reading is important, as is the discipline of writing assignments. The module also touches on study skills, time management and examination techniques. There is no fee for this module.

SPRING SEMESTER

2. Scripture (15 credits)

The Scripture module begins with Genesis chapters 1-11 and shows how this text is seminal to all subsequent pages of the Bible. The student is introduced to the five books of the Pentateuch and to the early history of the Jewish people. The four gospels, together with the letters of St John and St Paul, form the main focus of the New Testament study. The final part of this module analyses the critical tools developed by scripture scholars to interpret biblical texts. The methods outlined here are essential prerequisites for the deeper study of the Bible undertaken in later modules.

3. The Gospel of Mark (15 credits)

Mark is the oldest gospel, a fact which is remarkable considering its fresh and direct style. After a detailed study of the gospel's origins, author and social context, the module presents the unfolding drama of the disciples' relationship with Jesus, leading, as it does, to their dramatic collapse of faith. This is the sustaining theme of Mark's gospel. After this collapse, hope could only be found in Galilee. The textual analysis is supplemented by several critical studies which represent the main thrust of contemporary scholarship on Mark's gospel. They show why this particular gospel is enjoying a resurgence of interest in recent times.

AUTUMN SEMESTER

4. Psalms and Prophets (15 credits)

This module studies the Psalms within their Jewish cultural context and demonstrates their formative role in Jewish spirituality and their place in the emergent Hebrew Bible. This is followed by an analysis of the psalms as quoted in the New Testament, especially as used by Jesus or of Jesus in the early Church. The module then discusses how the Psalms are experienced in prayer, and faces up to issues such as the violence and vindictiveness expressed in some Psalms. The module studies the books of Amos and Hosea, but concentrates centrally on the best-known prophetic text of all 'Isaiah' beginning with its structure and historical background, delving into the deeper theological issues contained in this fascinating text.

5. Pauline Writings (15 credits)

Paul of Tarsus was a contemporary of Jesus ... but the two never met. It was Paul's experience of the risen Christ that turned Saul into Paul, a major turning point in the emergence of the early Church. St Paul became the apostle of the resurrection, and his writings were influential in many Christian communities in the ancient world, especially the communities of the Mediterranean. The Module explores the cultural context of the Pauline mission, and outlines the exegetical methods used in probing his texts, especially the rhetorical structure of the letters. All seven undisputed letters are examined: 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Philemon, Philippians, 1 and 2 Corinthians and Romans.

Course Overview

This Diploma in Scripture by blended learning is particularly suitable for those who cannot attend classes regularly. The modules are delivered by suitably qualified and experienced scholars who are specialists in their disciplines. The Diploma provides an excellent foundation for further studies, teaching, pastoral and retreat work.

An option exists to exit the course with the academic credits/qualification earned at each stage.

Assessment

Students submit a written assignment for each module during the semester and, at the end sit a written examination. For some modules a journal of exercises is also required.

Course Duration

Each module is studied during a fifteen-week semester. The Diploma in Scripture is achievable in one year if you study two modules per semester. You may, if it suits you, work at a different pace, e.g. one module per semester.

Course Delivery

Delivery is through blended learning, with a mixture of onsite and online study.

Attendance in person at semester launch days is required. In addition, each module has two study days and two tutorial days, which students must attend either in person at St Mary's Dominican Priory, Tallaght, Dublin 24, or later online. Ongoing support is available from a coordinator and in-depth help from specialist academic tutors.

Admission Requirements

Mature students (aged 23 or over) do not need formal qualifications to undertake one of our courses.

Applicants submit a 500-word account of why they would like to study theology.

Applicants should have basic computer skills

Fees

Fees are payable at the beginning of each semester and vary depending on the number of modules taken. Consult

prioryinstitute.com for our current fees

Accreditation

The Diploma in Scripture is validated by Technological University Dublin and is aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

When to Apply

By mid January for the spring semester. You can find the cut-off dates on

prioryinstitute.com



The Priory Institute is a centre for theological, biblical and philosophical studies, established by the Irish Province of the Dominican Order and is Catholic and ecumenical in its approach. It seeks to engage with the best thinking of our times and brings the insights of different philosophical and religious thinkers to bear on the study of theology and religious studies.

Tel +353 1 404 8124
enquiries@prioryinstitute.com
prioryinstitute.com