

Theory and Method in Practical Theology (TMM2481)

Module Level: 5

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

- To introduce students to the sub-discipline of practical theology, identifying its historical emergence and contemporary significance.
- To provide students with an overview of the differing approaches to practical theology in academic and pastoral contexts.
- To establish the theoretical and methodological basis for conducting qualitative and quantitative research within practical theology.

Content:

- An exploration of the scope, themes, approaches of, and developments in, practical theology as a discipline.
- An introduction to contemporary issues of theory and method in practical theology.
- Different approaches to practical theology and their significance for 'doing theology' in academic and ministry contexts.
- An exploration of how practical theology structures dialogue between different theoretical or contextual interpretations of practice and the methodological approaches employed in evolving theological understanding from empirical enquiry.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the module students will be able to:

Subject Knowledge [SSK 3]

Compare and contrast definitions of practical theology, and describe and evaluate key approaches and methodological issues within contemporary practical theology.

Describe the range of theoretical and practical contexts within which practical theology operates and some core research methods for understanding and interpreting human experiences in the context of the Christian practices of discipleship, ministry and mission.

Subject Skills [SSS 2, 3]

Use the tools of practical theology to analyse a range of pastoral situations and articulate and address the questions raised by them.

Reflect critically on the use of practical theology to integrate and evaluate understanding derived from theological and other relevant sources in the context of Christian discipleship, ministry and mission.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

Identify, gather, analyse and evaluate textual source materials for a range of purposes and communicating their findings effectively.

Demonstrate good reflective practice in critically evaluating different approaches, communicating effectively in a group setting.

Take responsibility for a task that involves independent inquiry; the management of time, resources and use of IT; meeting deadlines, evaluating the task and learning from it.

Modes of Teaching and Learning: Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'.

Learning Hours: Learning hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Learning Hours'.

Formative Assessment: Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on formative assessment.

Summative Assessment: Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for undergraduate modules.

Indicative Reading: Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for undergraduate modules.