

Advanced Theory and Method in Practical Theology (TMM42920)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

- To enable students to identify the place of practical theology within the historical development of theology.
- To provide students with an overview of the differing approaches to practical theology in academic and pastoral contexts.
- To enable students to examine approaches to relating theory and practice in theology and non-theological disciplines.
- To evaluate the place of empirical research (quantitative and qualitative) within practical theology.
- To foster in students an empathy with theological positions other than their own.
- To increase students' capacity to be reflexive.
- To encourage students' openness to critical perspectives on their own theological tradition - being willing both to *witness* to cherished beliefs and to *risk* considering other perspectives.

Content:

- An exploration of practical theology as a discipline that exposes students to the diverse aims and methodological approaches to practical theology.
- The historical emergence of practical theology and how contemporary approaches are situated within the total enterprise of theology.
- How practical theology is used to critically examine the interconnection of theory and practice in ministry and Christian practice and how practical theology is deployed to develop theological understanding of human experiences, social situations, ethical norms, political positions and cultural practices.
- Use of a project or case study to enhance students' skills in theological reflection by drawing upon a range of methodologies for conducting qualitative and quantitative research within practical theology.

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

Subject Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 3]

Articulate a comprehensive and nuanced definition of practical theology that is informed by current research and thinking in the field.

Identify, differentiate and evaluate key approaches and methodological issues within contemporary practical theology, drawing on contemporary research in the field.

Express critical appreciation of a range of theoretical and practical contexts within which practical theology operates.

Subject Skills [SSS 1, 2, 3]

Apply their understanding of practical theology to undertake independent analysis of complex pastoral situations, reaching valid conclusions and communicating them clearly, sensitively and effectively.

Evaluate and apply the methods of practical theology to integrate and evaluate understanding derived from theory and practice.

Apply practical theological method to relate together interpretations of practice from theological and non-theological disciplines.

Evaluate a specific, contemporary, complex area of practice, or a particular social situation, by drawing systematically and creatively on theological and non-theological sources of theory, exercising sound judgment.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.

Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

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

