

Department of Theology and Religion

Open Day 2025



Why study Theology and Religion at Durham?

- You want to learn about theology and religion: its practice, ideas, texts, history, its role in ethics, politics, art, film ...
- You're curious about the big questions of life: how do we make sense of everything? What is good? What is true?
- You have broad interests: many aspects and methods, one overarching perspective...

Why study Theology and Religion at Durham?

- You want to learn how to analyse complex phenomena, involving logic and emotion, precision and the big picture, and all aspects of the human condition
- Theology *and* religion: to examine these subjects both sympathetically, from inside, and rigorously, from the outside – which is an essential life skill!

So what skills will you learn?

- To **read** complex, difficult sources coming from unfamiliar perspectives and with challenging ideas: to get inside them, tease out their meaning, analyse them critically and draw your own conclusions
- To **write** clear, precise, nuanced, well-structured and well-researched arguments that can make a subtle case crisply and effectively
- To **think** with rigour and imagination, with clarity and subtlety, with self-awareness and an open mind, and to challenge, resolve and refine your own beliefs

Theology and Religion at Durham

1st in the UK in the 2026 Complete University Guide; **2nd** in the UK in both Times and Guardian University Guides, 2025

6th in the world by the 2026 QS World University Subject Rankings

Gold in Teaching Excellence

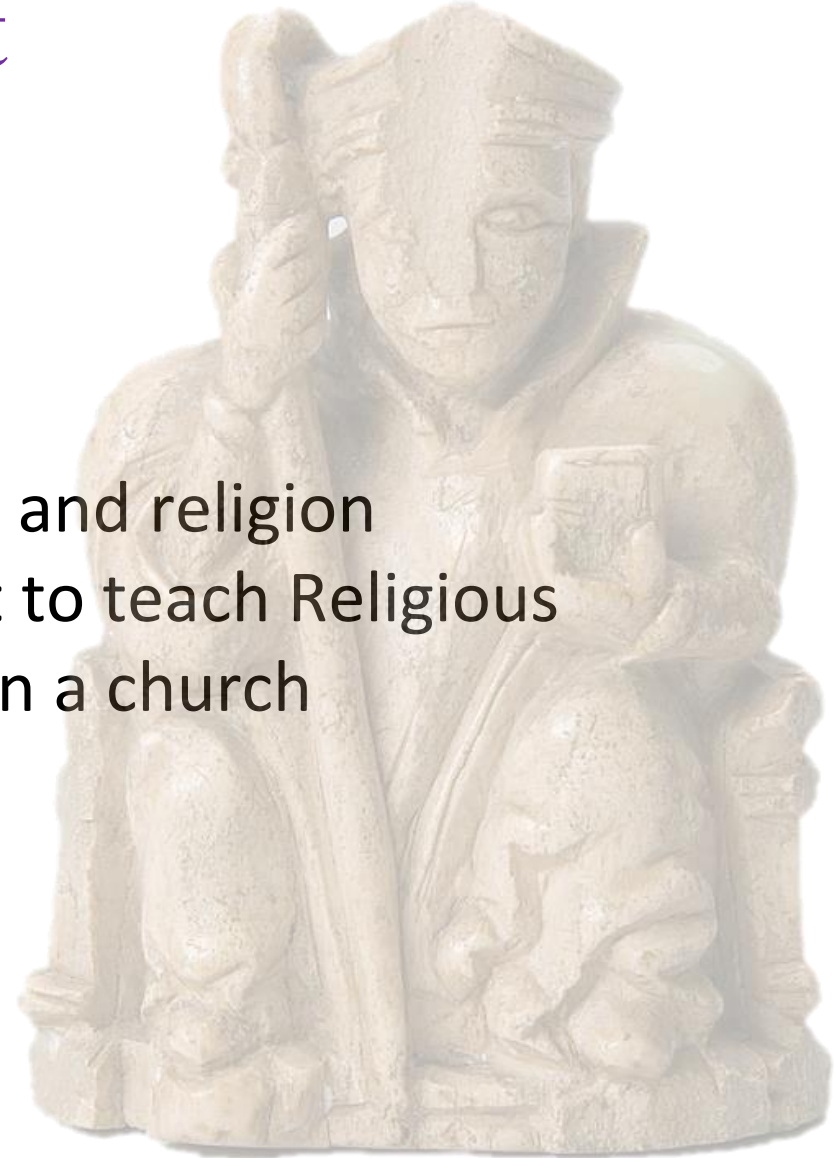
About **50** staff and about **100** students in each year: the largest intake in the UK – but still on a human scale



Careers & Employment

Myth:

The study of theology and religion
is only for people who want to teach Religious
Studies or to work in a church



Careers & Employment

A Theology and Religion degree will open up many options:

See videos on our website and on YouTube (TRS-UK): <https://youtu.be/woCgbVWFRIg>

- law, finance, accountancy, management
- politics, human resources
- journalism, TV, other media
- charities and NGOs
- teaching, social work
- further study

Complete University Guide 2026: top in the UK for graduate prospects (92%)

Times University Guide 2025: top in the UK for graduate prospects (92%)

Guardian University Guide 2025: top in the UK for graduate prospects (94%)

2022-3 graduates: 92% in work or full-time study six months after graduation: median salary of graduates six months after graduation: £26,250

Theology and Religion at Durham

- V614 BA Theology and Religion
 - V617 BA Religion, Society and Culture
 - VV56 BA Philosophy and Theology (Joint Honours)
- All have an option of Year Abroad (after year 2)

Please note: all programme and module details are currently correct, but they are subject to change

BA in Theology and Religion: Year 1

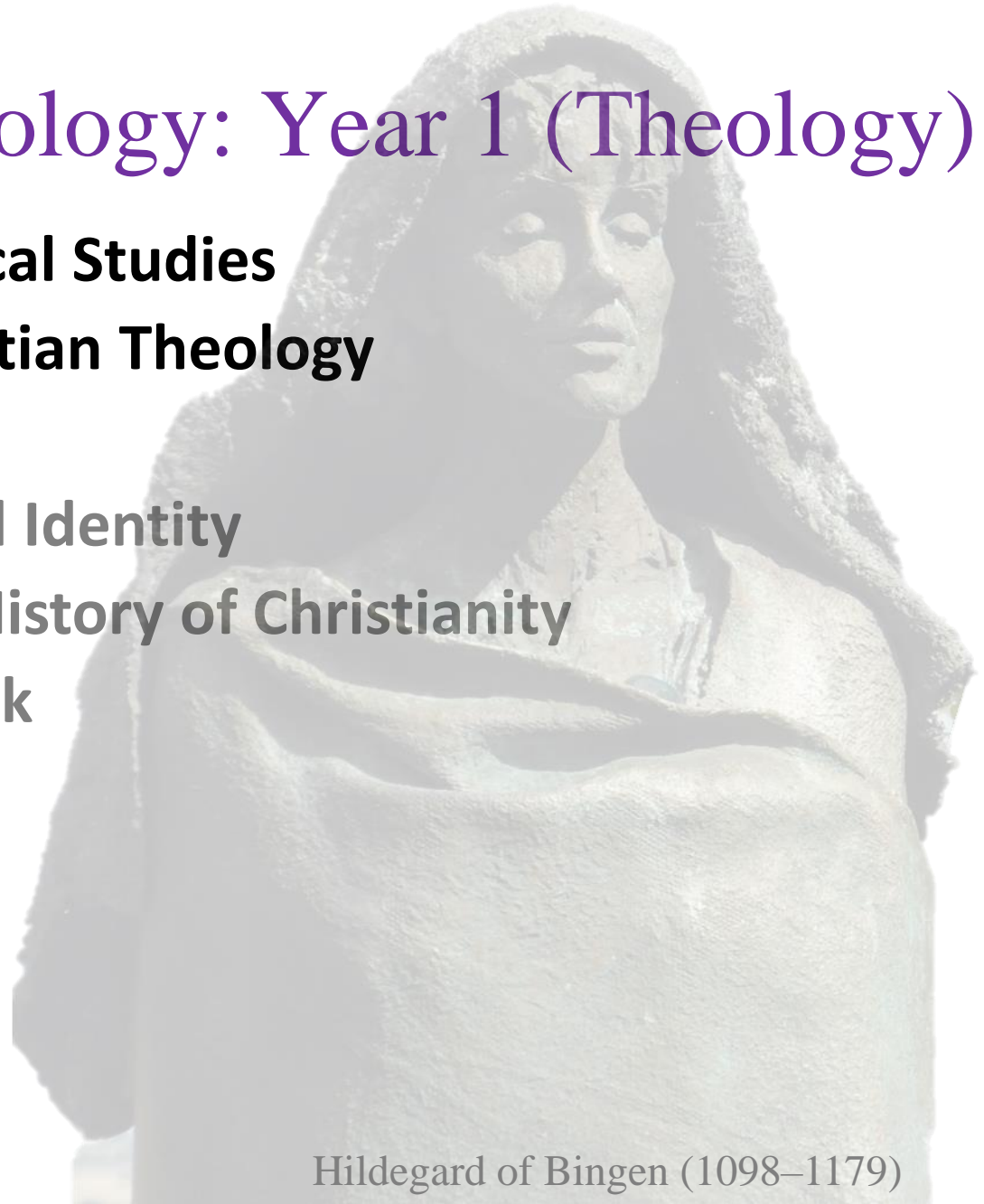
- **Worldview, Faith and Identity**
- **Introduction to the Bible: Texts, History and Culture**
- **Introduction to the History of Christianity**
- **Introduction to Christian Theology**
- **Research Workshop**
- New Testament Greek
- Islam Observed
- Sources of the Self
- *A module from another department*
- *A modern language module*

BA Religion, Society and Culture: Year 1

- **Worldview, Faith and Identity**
- **Introduction to the History of Christianity**
- **Islam Observed**
- **Research Workshop**
- Introduction to the Bible
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- New Testament Greek
- Peoples and Cultures
- Societies in Transition
- Classical Sociology Theory
- *A module from another department or a modern language module*

BA Philosophy and Theology: Year 1 (Theology)

- **Introduction to Biblical Studies**
- **Introduction to Christian Theology**
and one of
- **Worldview, Faith and Identity**
- **Introduction to the History of Christianity**
- **New Testament Greek**
- **Islam Observed**
- **Sources of the Self**



BA Philosophy and Theology: Year 1 (Philosophy)

- **The Philosophical Traditions**
and one of
- Ethics and Values
- Knowledge and Reality
- Reading Philosophy
- Being Human: An Introduction to Post-Kantian Philosophy
- Science, Medicine and Society



Research Workshop

Strands might include:

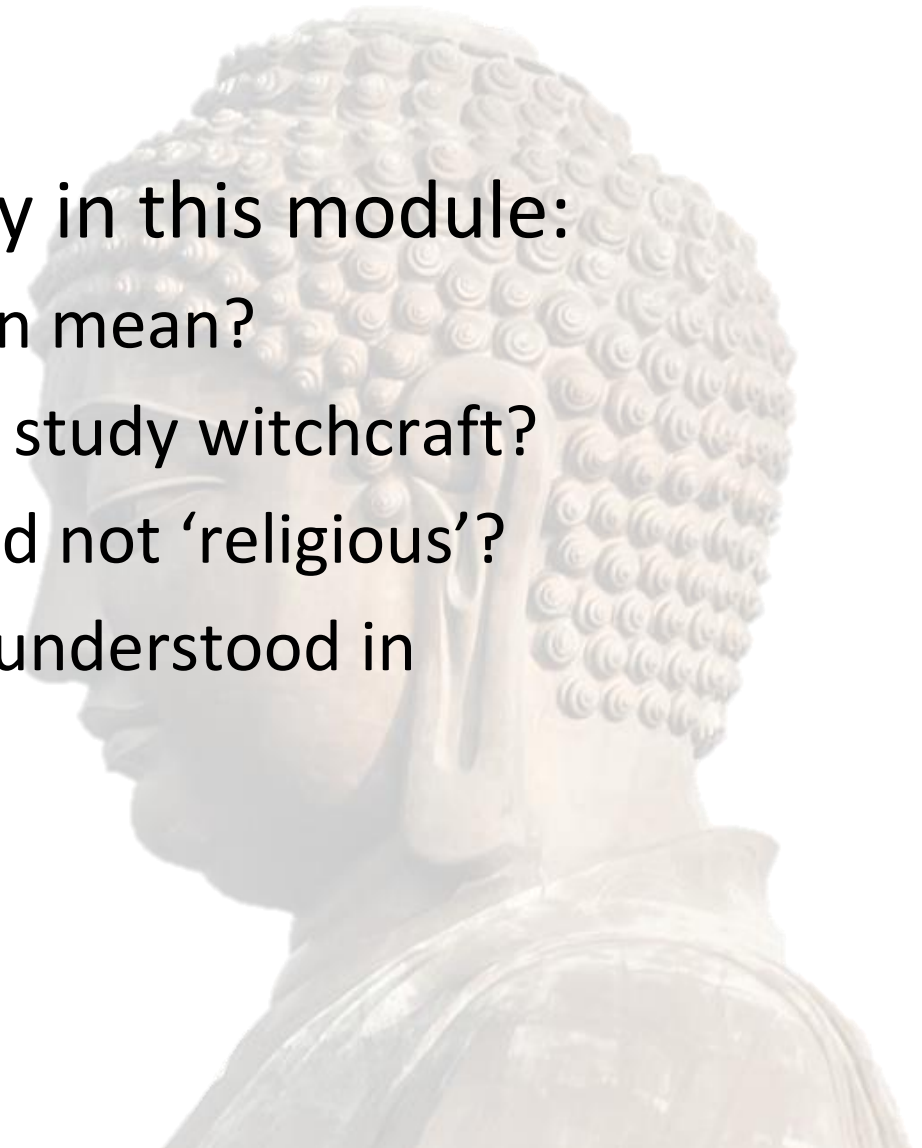
- The Age of Witch-hunting
- The Meaning of the Cross
- Studying Global Pentecostalism
- Rewriting Scripture
- Church Debates about Same-Sex Marriage



Worldview, Faith and Identity

Questions you might study in this module:

- What does secularization mean?
- How do anthropologists study witchcraft?
- Can one be 'spiritual' and not 'religious'?
- How is 'enlightenment' understood in Buddhism?

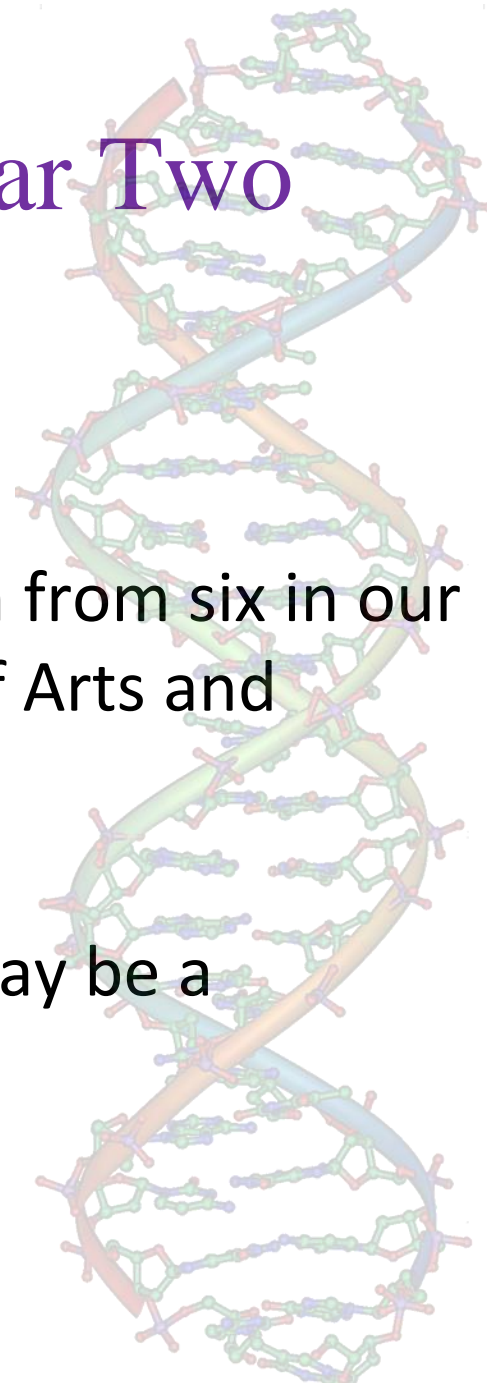


Theology and Religion: Year Two

Research Project and Colloquium

Two **single-term elective modules** chosen from six in our Department, or from across the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Three **specialist modules**, one of which may be a modern language.

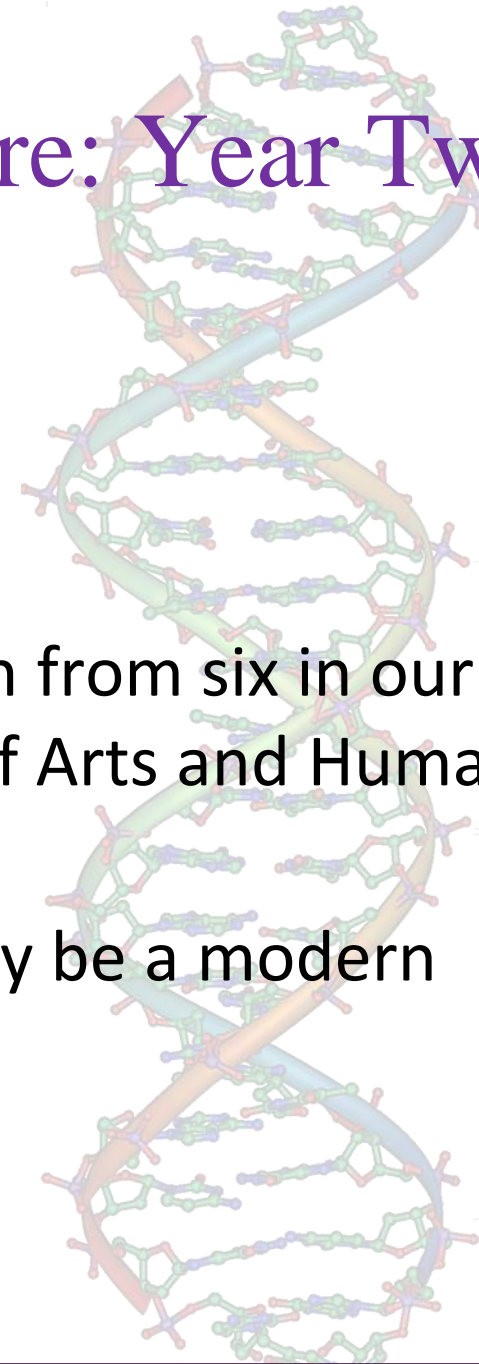


Religion, Society and Culture: Year Two

Research Project and Colloquium Death, Ritual and Belief

Two **single-term elective modules** chosen from six in our Department, or from across the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Two **specialist modules**, one of which may be a modern language

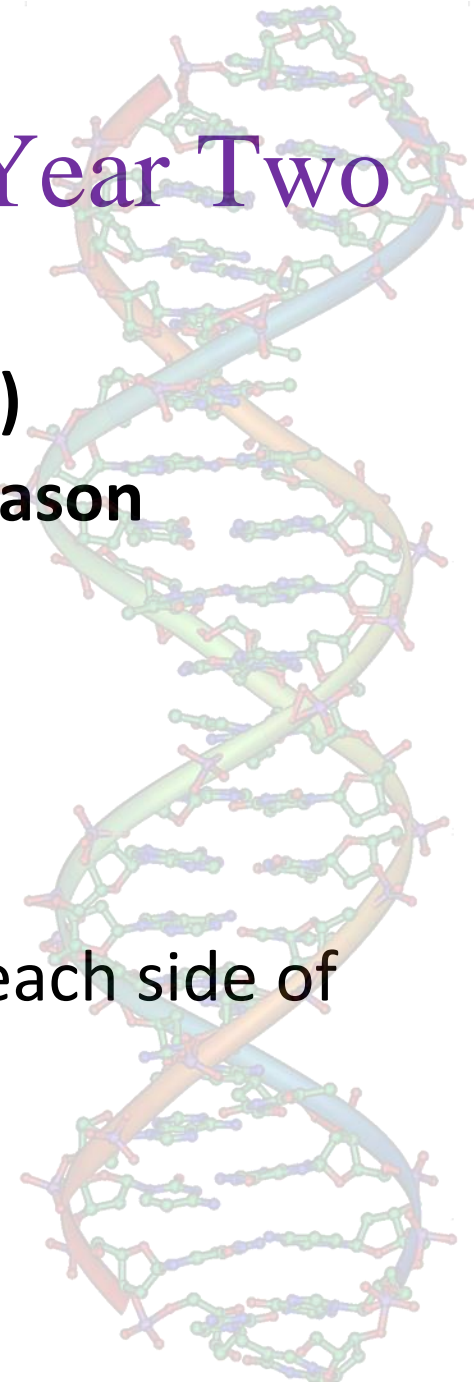


Philosophy and Theology: Year Two

**Philosophy of Religion (Philosophy)
Atheism, Belief and the Edge of Reason
(Theology)**

and

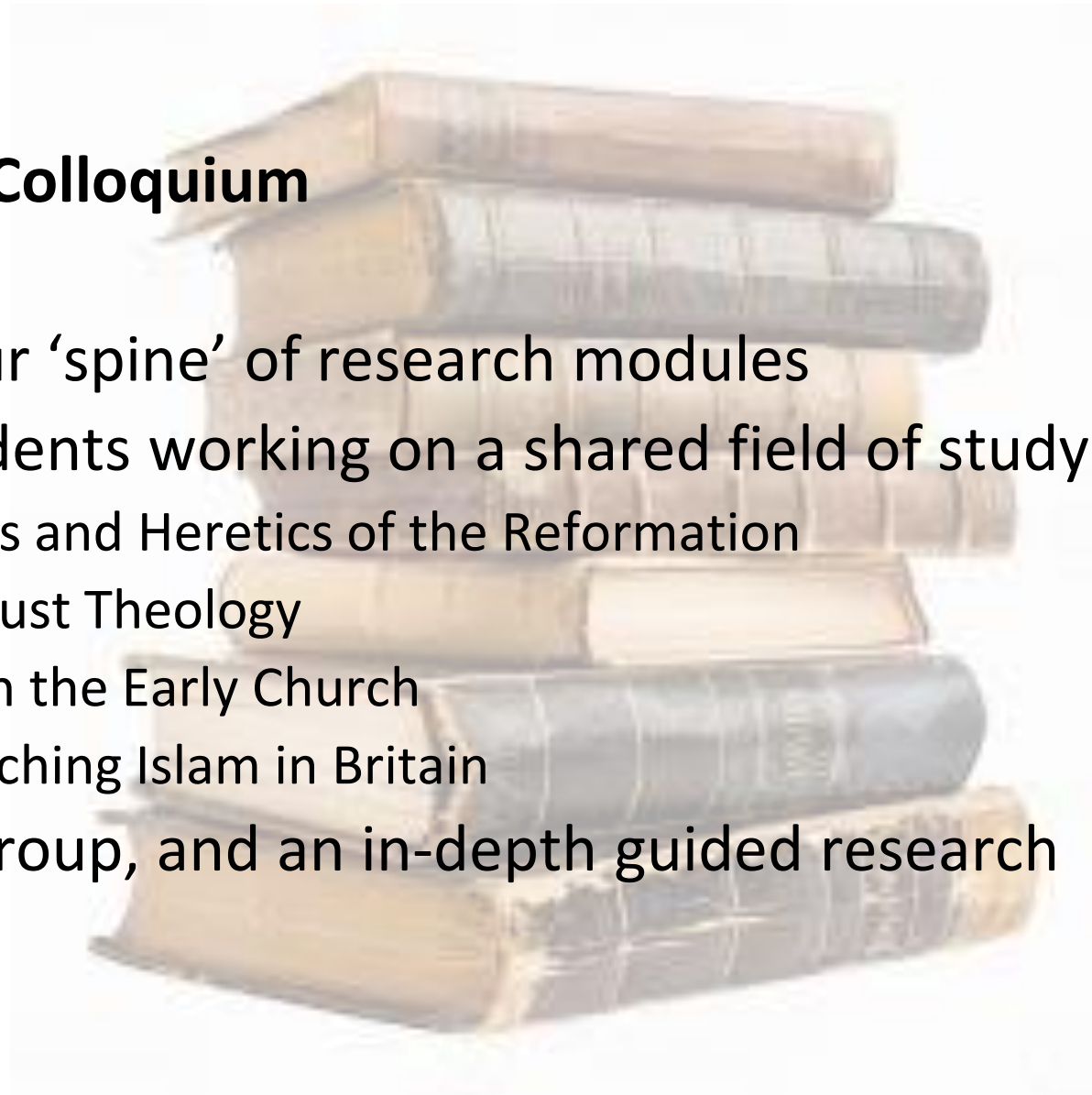
Four specialist modules, two from each side of
the degree



Year Two

Research Project and Colloquium

- The second stage in our 'spine' of research modules
- A group of up to 9 students working on a shared field of study
 - Examples: Martyrs and Heretics of the Reformation
Holocaust Theology
Mary in the Early Church
Researching Islam in Britain
- Presentation to your group, and an in-depth guided research project of your choice



Year Two: single term elective modules

Our department will offer **six** of these:

- **Two** in the area of the study of religion
- **One** each in:
 - Biblical studies
 - Early Christianity
 - Historical theology / the history of Christianity
 - Systematic / philosophical theology
- You can also choose from modules offered by other departments

Year Two: three more optional modules, such as ...

Death, Ritual and Belief

Reading the New Testament in Greek

Atheism, Belief and the Edge of Reason

Topics in Christian Ethics

The Reformation and its Legacy

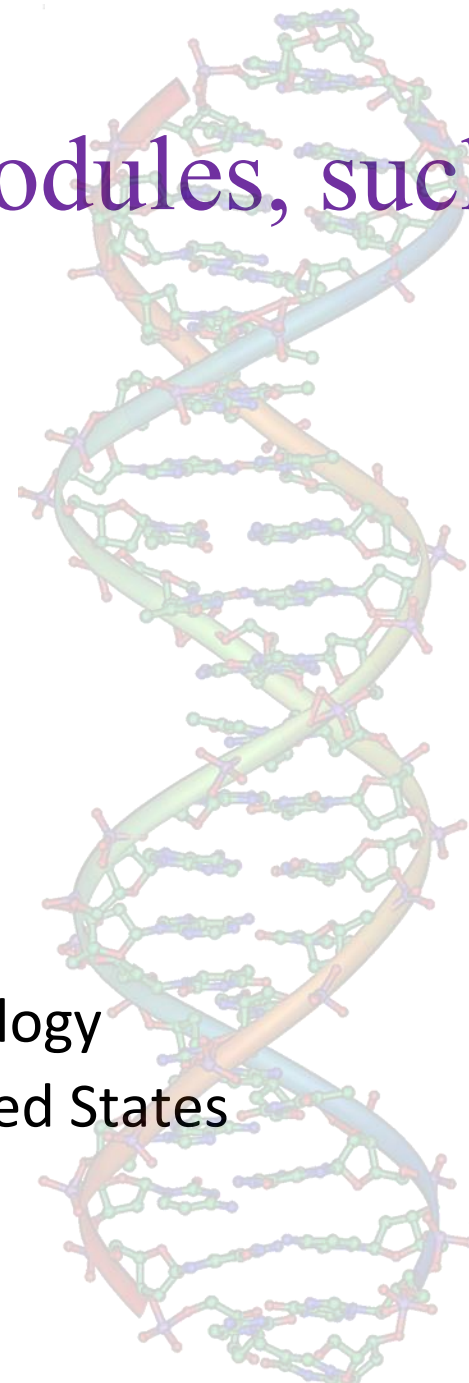
Biblical Hebrew

Decolonising the Bible

Theology and Comedy

Early Christian Doctrine: Trinity and Christology

War and Faith in Great Britain and the United States



Topics in Christian Ethics

Questions you might study in this module:

- Does Christian theology have anything distinctive to say about climate change?
- What does Christian ethics say about globalization?
- Is brain death the moment at which we die?
- What ethical issues are raised by artificial intelligence?

Atheism, Belief and the Edge of Reason

Questions you might study in this module:

- Is it possible to believe in God in a secular age?
- How did the great modern thinkers address the question of God?
- What might Christian theology say to Friedrich Nietzsche?

Year Three Modules

Core module:

Dissertation (double module)

Some recent titles:

Neuroscience, Religious Experience and Enchantment

The Catholic Church and the Ethics of Organ Donation

Women in the Gospel of Mark

Modesty and Dignity among Orthodox Jewish Women in the UK

Christian Morality and Horror Films

Martin Luther and Niccolò Machiavelli: A Comparison

Year Three Modules

Four optional modules. Recent examples include:

Religion and Film

Sacred India: Land, Politics, Identity

The New Testament and Christian Ethics

Christian Tradition and the Practice of Politics

The Cross of Christ

Christian Fundamentalism and the Modern World

Queer Theology

Religion, Violence and Peacebuilding

Thomas Aquinas: Background, Context and Legacy

A module from another department, or a modern language



Religion and Film

Questions that you might study in this module:

- What are the key critical concepts needed for studying film?
- How do films portray Jesus and the Christian church?
- How can we read films for their implicit religious themes and religious symbolism?

Sacred India



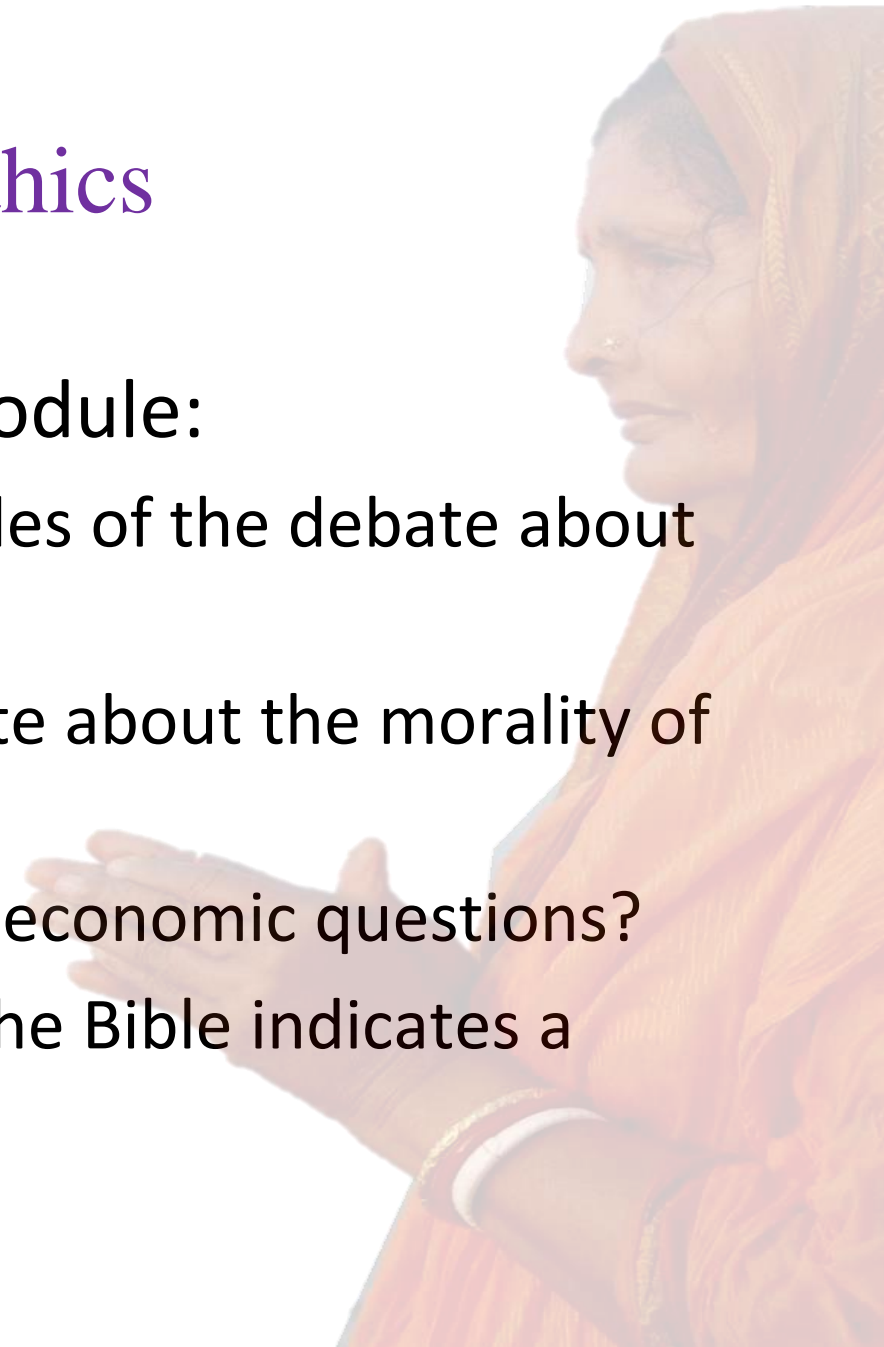
Topics that you might study in this module:

- The claim that Jainism is an 'eco religion'
- The projects and controversies that surround a feminist reading of Hinduism
- A critical comparison of just-war theory in Hinduism and Buddhism
- The role of religion in the politics of partition

The New Testament and Christian Ethics

Questions that you might study in this module:

- Why and how was the Bible used on both sides of the debate about slavery?
- How is the New Testament used in the debate about the morality of same-sex relationships?
- Is the New Testament of value in addressing economic questions?
- Is Liberation Theology correct to claim that the Bible indicates a 'preferential option for the poor'?



College Allocation and Preferences

- We no longer ask you to make a college preference on your UCAS Application Form. The only option listed at UCAS is 'Durham City'
- Your college is NOT linked to your degree subject
- Before we allocate your college you will be invited to rank the colleges in the order of your preference
- You will be allocated your college in or around May

To find out more visit the Colleges Hub on the top floor of the Teaching and Learning Centre



Questions?