

Department of Theology and Religion Open Day 2023



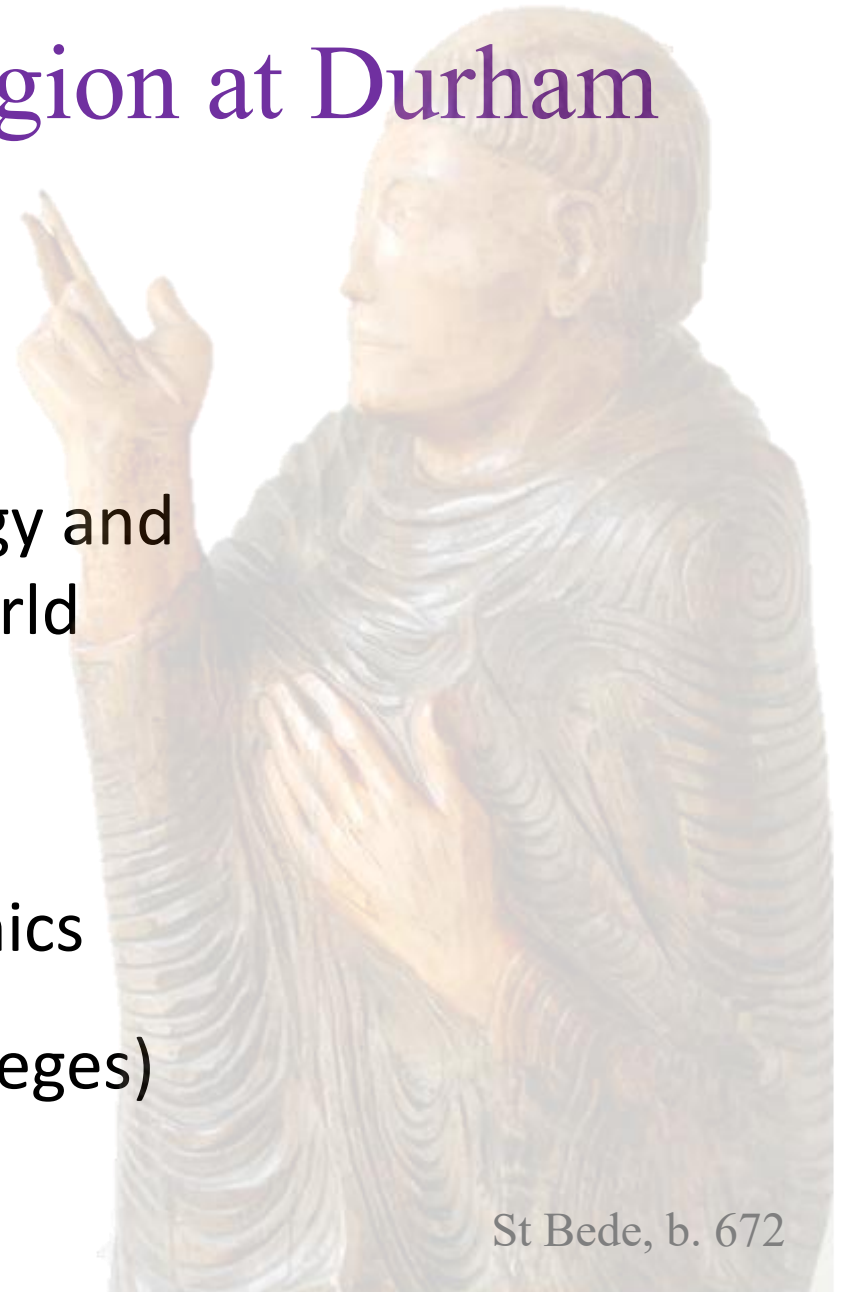
Durham
University

Why study Theology and Religion?

- You're interested in the big questions of life...
- You want to learn about religion...
- You want to learn about the world...
- You want a broad arts-based education...
- You want to keep your career options open ...
- You want to!

Theology and Religion at Durham

- A tradition going back over 1300 years
- Some of the finest theology and religion scholars in the world
- Three main areas: Biblical studies, study of religion, Christian theology and ethics
- A collegial context (17 colleges)

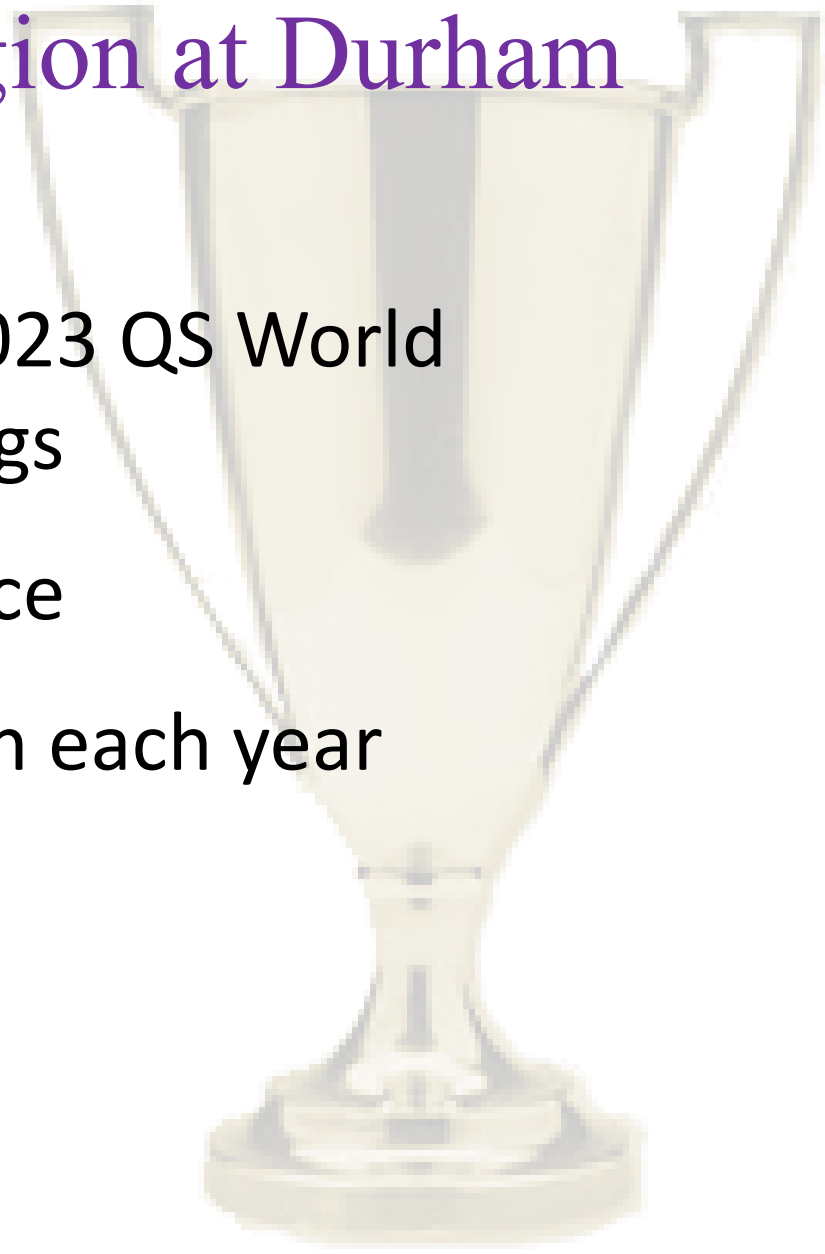


Theology and Religion at Durham

6th in the world by the 2023 QS World University Subject Rankings

Gold in Teaching Excellence

34 staff and **75** students in each year



Theology and Religion at Durham

- Where 'belief' and 'worldview' are taken seriously (respected, analysed), whether religious or non-religious
- Helping you to think independently, as well-informed, critical citizens, with skills for all walks of life

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

Year One (in each year, 6 year-long modules)

- Worldview, Faith and Identity
- Introduction to Biblical Studies
- Introduction to the History of Christianity
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Biblical Hebrew
- New Testament Greek
- God and Evil
- God and the Good
- Islam Observed
- *A module from another department*
- *A modern language module*

BA in Theology and Religion

- **Worldview, Faith and Identity**
- **Introduction to Biblical Studies**
- **Introduction to the History of Christianity**
- **Introduction to Christian Theology**
- Biblical Hebrew
- New Testament Greek
- God and Evil
- God and the Good
- Islam Observed
- *A module from another department*
- *A modern language module*

BA Religion, Society and Culture

- **Worldview, Faith and Identity**
- Introduction to Biblical Studies
- Introduction to the History of Christianity
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Biblical Hebrew
- New Testament Greek
- **God and Evil or God and the Good**
- **Islam Observed**
- *A module from another department (e.g. Sociology or Anthropology)*
- *A modern language module*



BA Philosophy and Theology

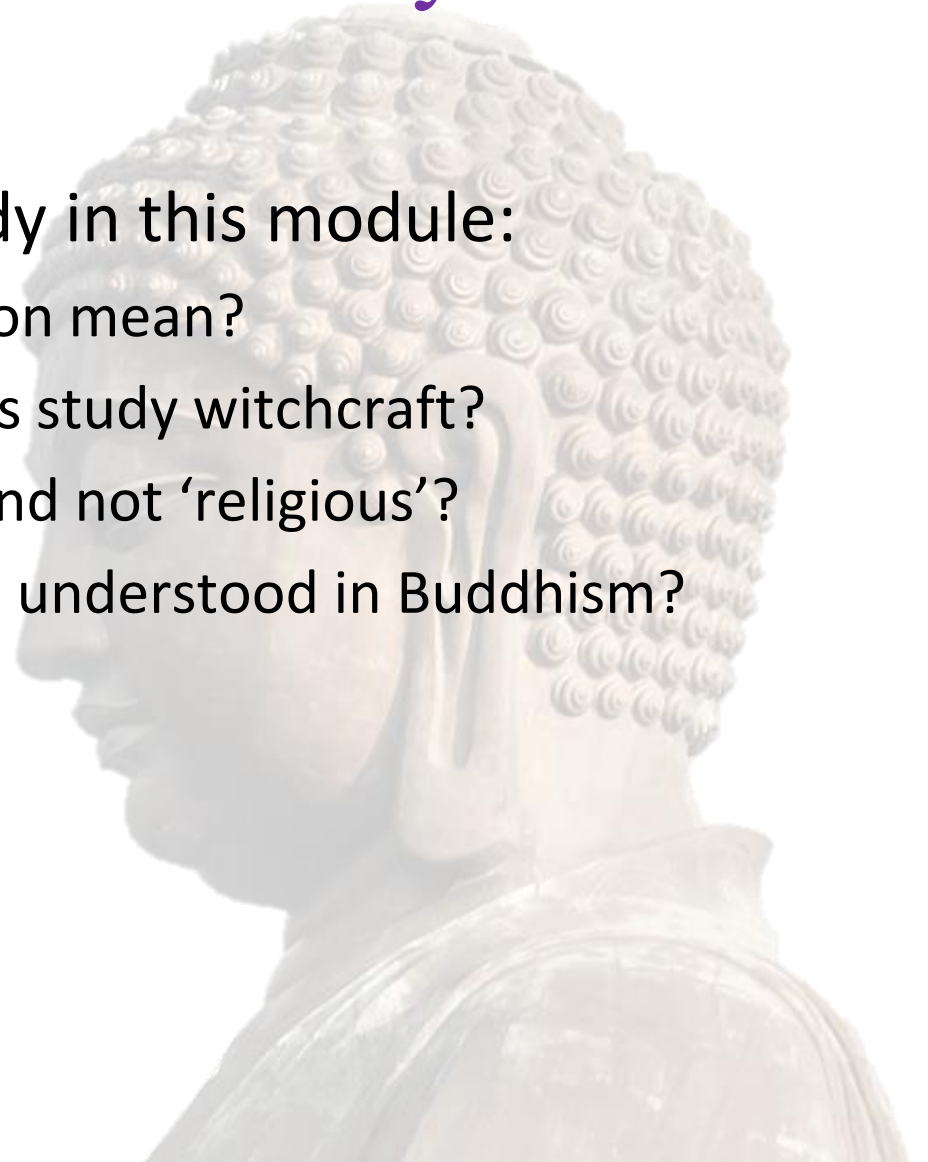
- Worldview, Faith and Identity
- **Introduction to Biblical Studies**
- Introduction to the History of Christianity
- **Introduction to Christian Theology**
- Biblical Hebrew/New Testament Greek
- God and Evil *or* God and the Good
- Islam Observed
- **Ethics and Values (Philosophy)**
- **Knowledge and Reality (Philosophy)**
- **Reading Philosophy (Philosophy)**
- *A modern language module*



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?



God and Evil

Questions you might study in this module:

- Is the existence of evil compatible with the existence of God?
- What is the relation between sin and evil?
- How have Christians and Jews responded to the Holocaust?

Year Two

Science and Theology

Atheism, Belief, and the Edge of Reason

Topics in Christian Ethics

God and the Universe of Faiths

Emotion, Religion, and Identity

Death, Ritual and Belief

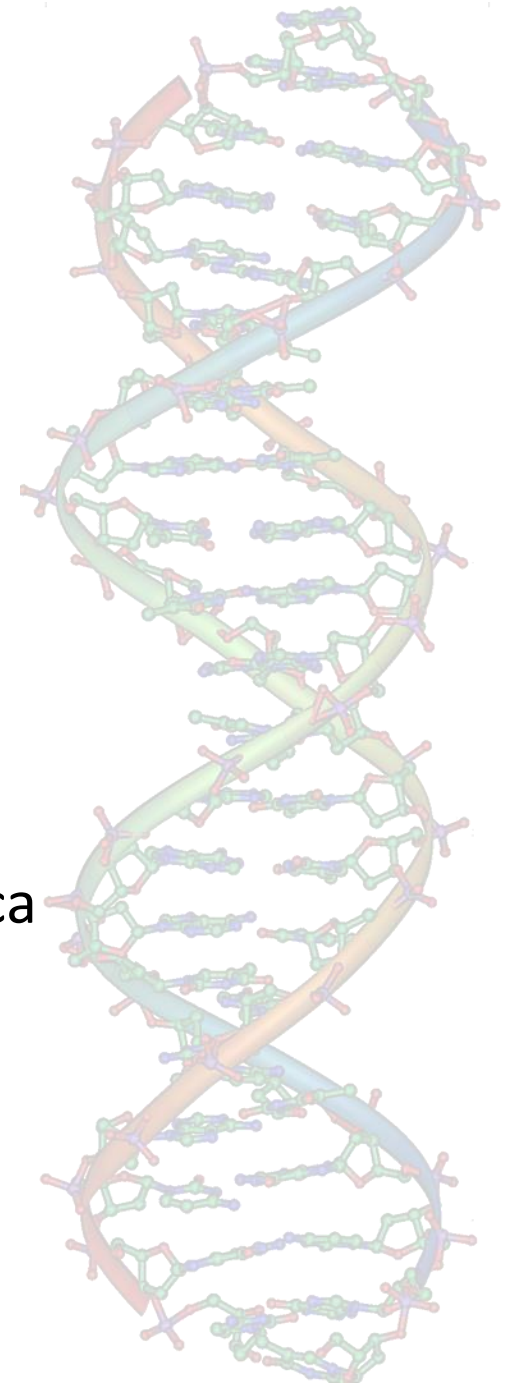
Myth and Meaning

Faith, Identity and Power in Latin America

Issues in Old Testament Studies

Hebrew Prose Texts

The Jewish Religion in Antiquity



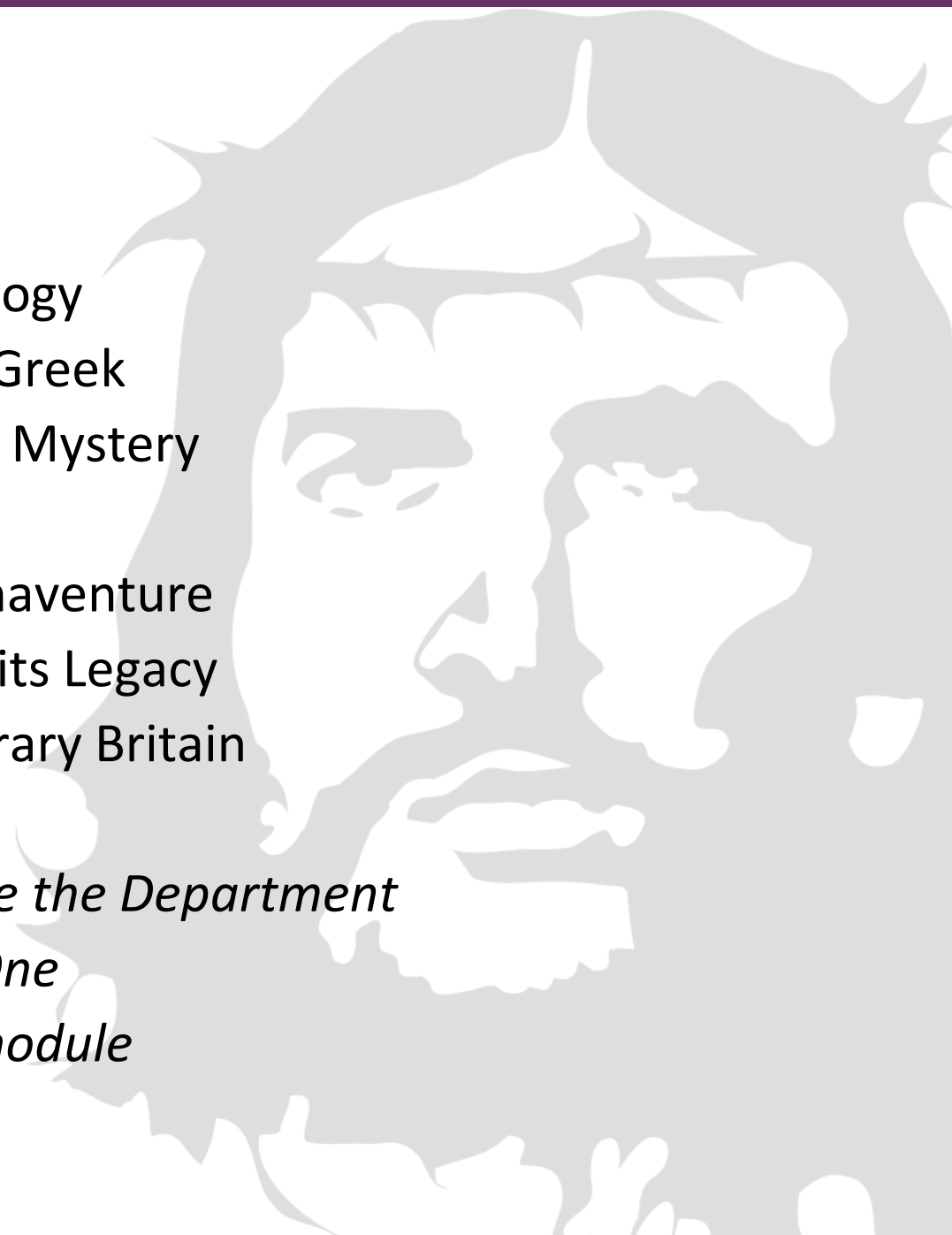
Year Two

New Testament Theology
Passion Narratives in Greek
Christ and the Human Mystery
Augustine of Hippo
The Thought of St Bonaventure
The Reformation and its Legacy
Religion in Contemporary Britain
Research Project

A module from outside the Department

A module from Year One

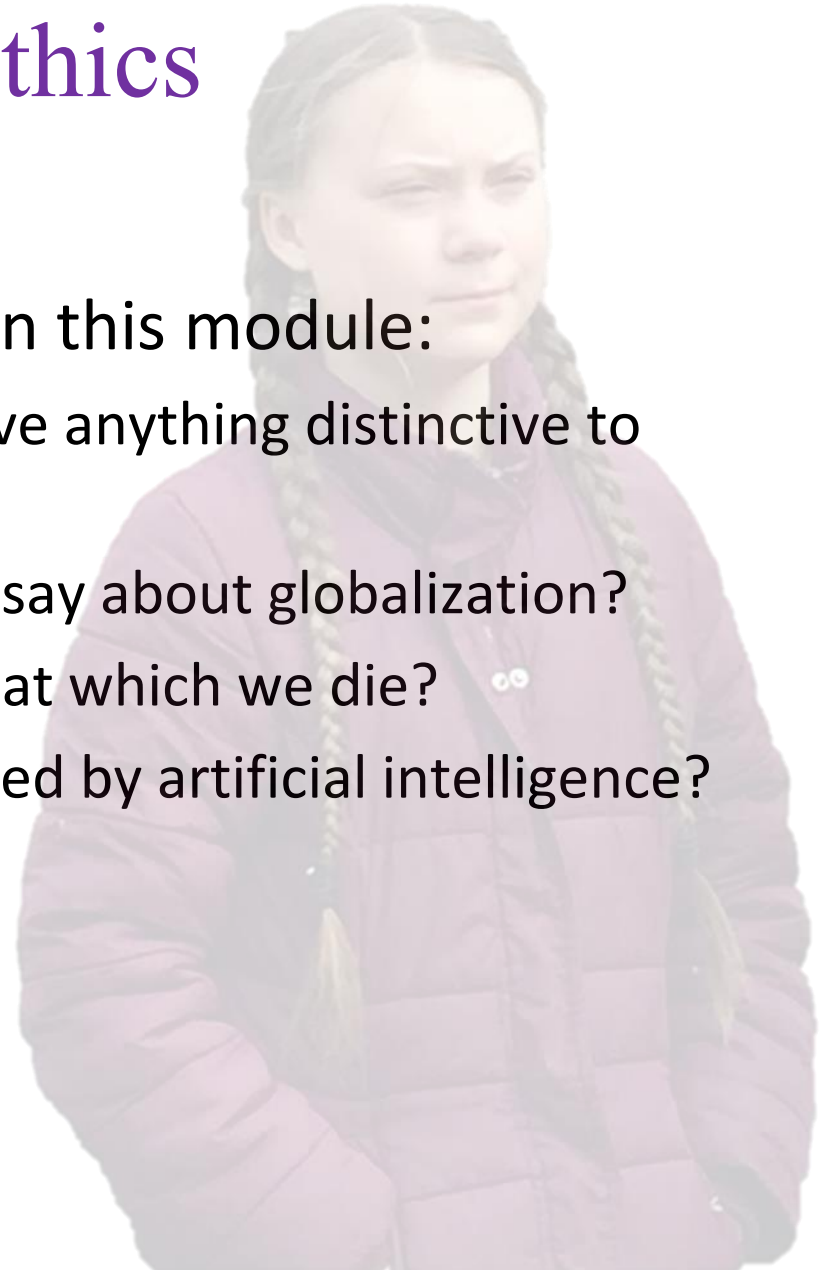
A modern language module



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 titles from 2022:

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

Optional modules (take four). Recent examples include:

Religion and Film

Sacred India

Religious Diversity in the African Context

Biblical Theology

Advanced Greek Texts

Competing Gospels: Jesus Inside and Outside the Canon

Thomas Aquinas

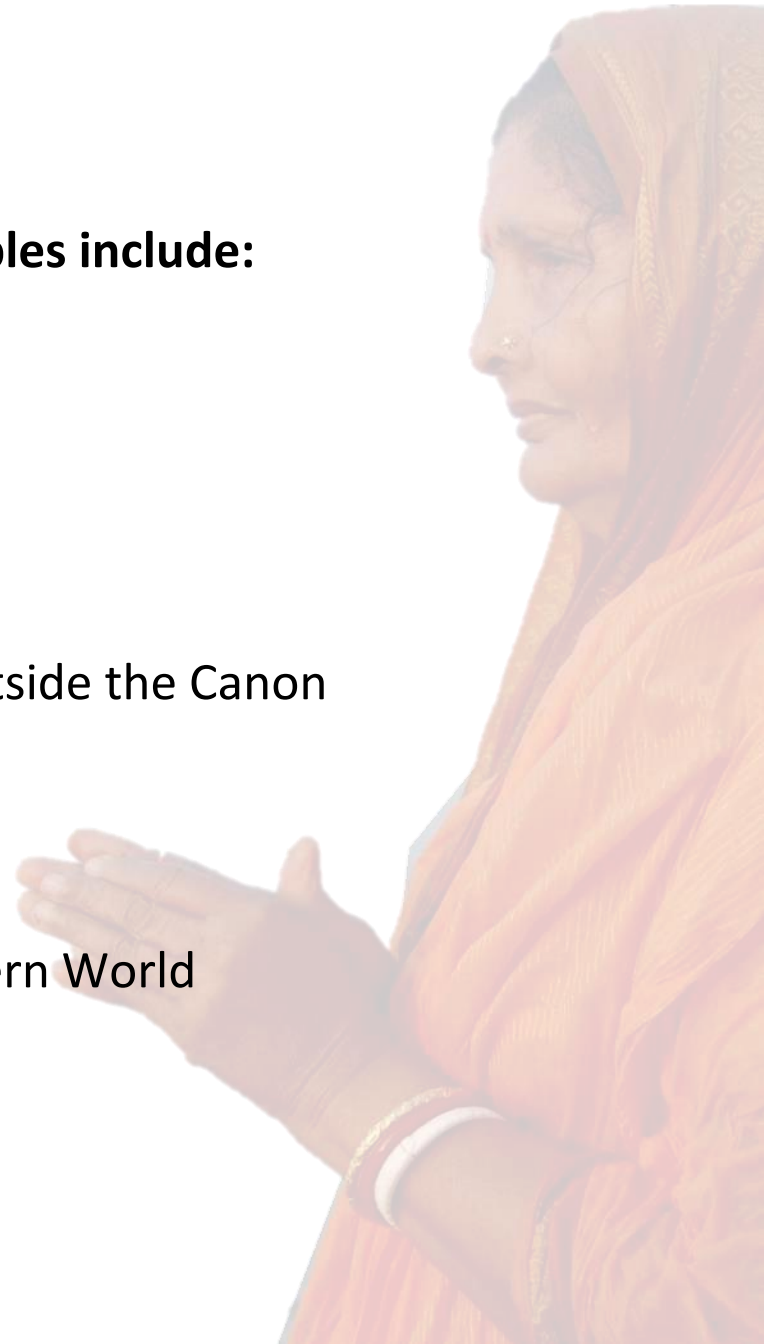
Anthropology of Religious Controversy

Emotion and Identity in Religion

Christian Fundamentalism and the Modern World

A module from another department

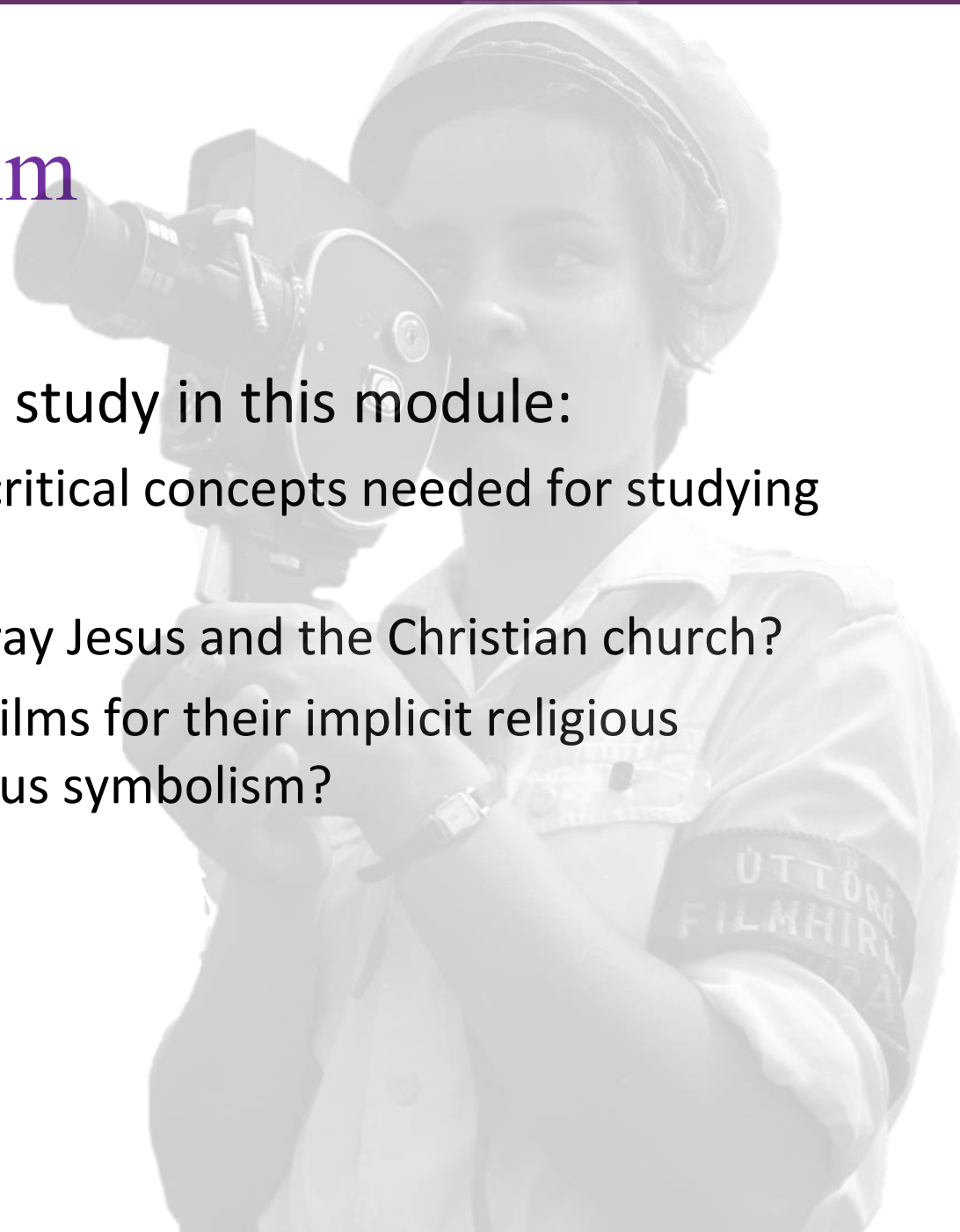
A module from Year Two



Religion and Film

Questions 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



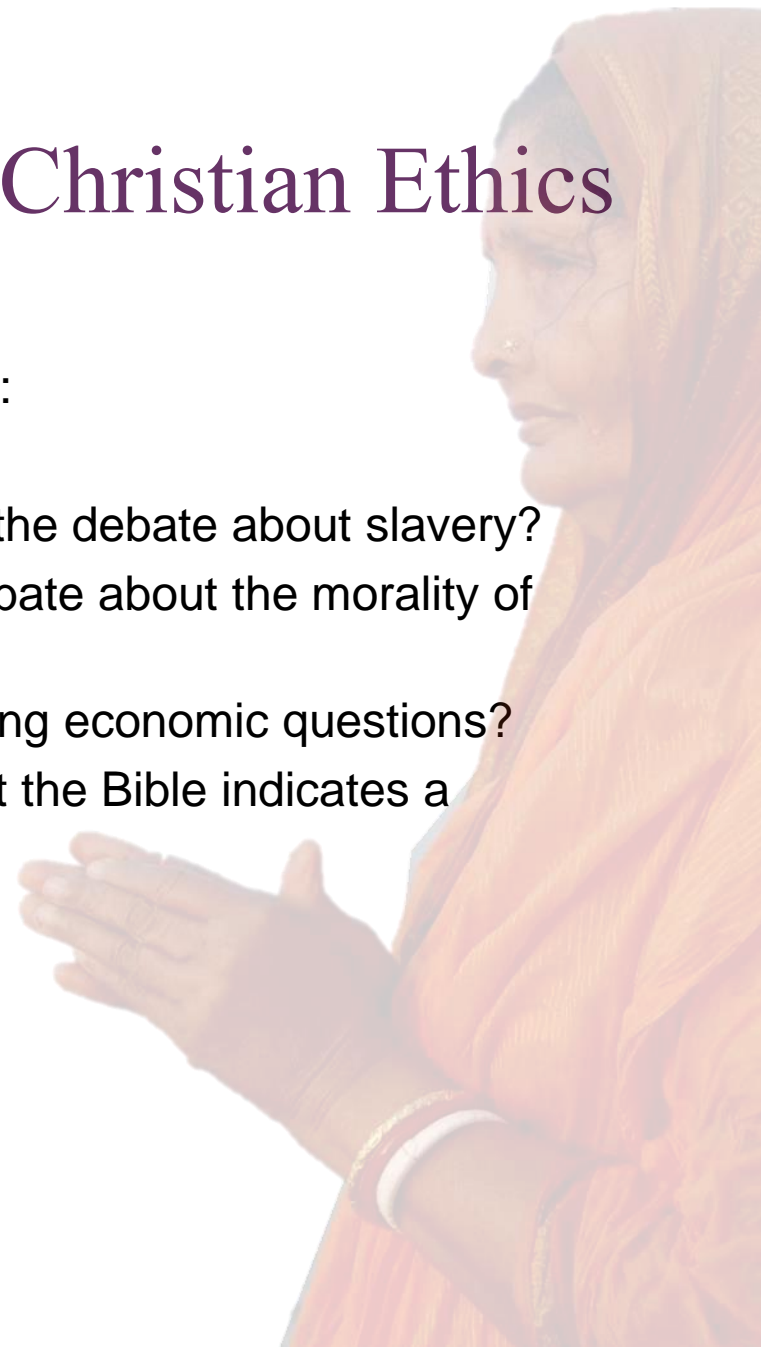
Topics that you might study in this module:

- 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:

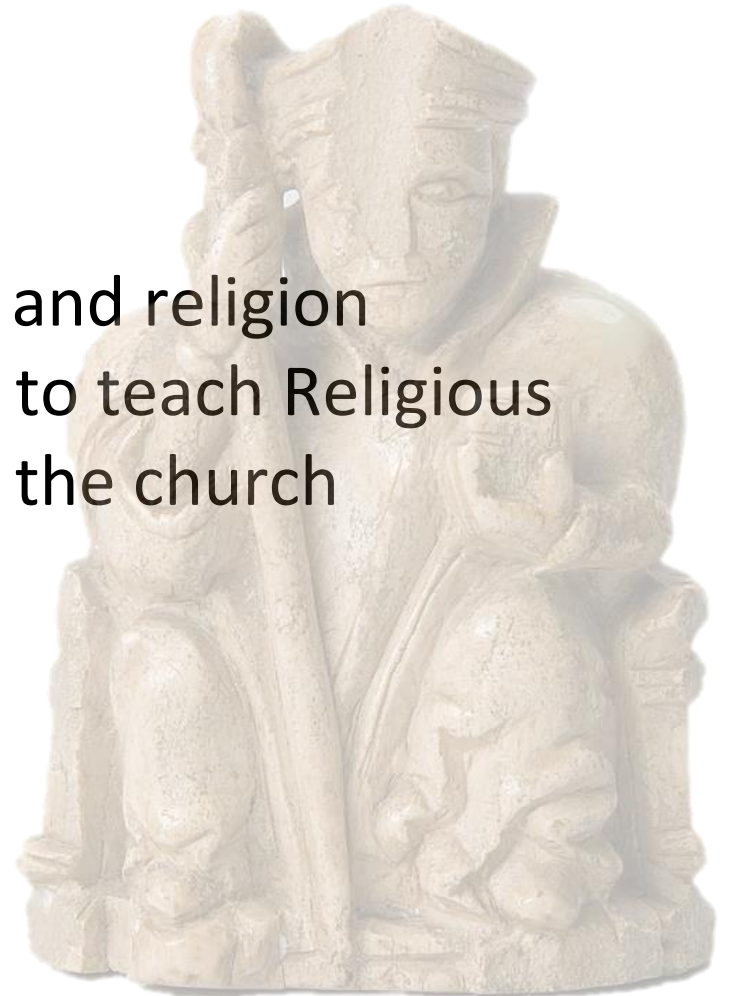
- Why was the Bible used on **both** sides of the debate about slavery?
- How is the New Testament used in the debate about the morality of same-sex relationships?
- Is the New Testament of value in addressing economic questions?
- Is Liberation Theology correct to claim that the Bible indicates a 'preferential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



Careers & Employment

Myth:

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



Careers & Employment

Truth:

A Theology and Religion degree will open up many options:
See videos on our website and on YouTube (TRS-UK)

- law, the city, accountancy, management
- Politics, human resources
- journalism, TV, other media
- charities and NGOs
- teaching, social work
- further study

Complete University Guide 2020: Joint 2nd nationally on graduate prospects
Guardian University Guide 2020: 89% in graduate-level career or further study
within 15 months of graduation

Applying to Durham

A-Level standard offers:

- BA Theology and Religion AAB (IB 36/665)
- BA Religion, Society and Culture AAB (IB 36/665)
- BA Philosophy and Theology AAA (IB 37/666)

There are no required A-Level subjects

We have c. 75 places a year