**Description of Certificate level modules (level1) delivered at Irish Bible Institute**

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NOTE: The modules highlighted in blue can only be taken as part of one of our university validated programmes of study, they cannot be studied as standalone modules.

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# **1AT01 Ministry and Personal Development 1**

Reflective practice is a fundamental element of many professional spheres of work. For students seeking to enhance their Christian practice, both in terms of ministry and personal development, it is a critical skill to develop and be able to use. This module is designed to enable students to develop and use the skills of reflective practice to facilitate and demonstrate the integration of IBI’s teaching and learning strategy (the holistic integration of head, heart and hands) in their specific ministry contexts and in their own personal development. The module aims to enhance students’ ministry practice and facilitate personal development by providing a range of resources, tools and skills. The assessment strategy for the reflection papers has a built-in formative element: the first reflection paper will be submitted and assessed at the end of semester 1 and will provide an element of formative feedback for the second reflection paper at the end of semester 2.

This module aims to:

* develop skills of reflection and reflective practice to enhance ministry and personal development;
* provide students with resources to explore their spiritual gifting;
* encourage reflection on personal spirituality and spiritual growth;
* develop responsible attitudes to study and personal life;
* develop skills to enable students to integrate IBI learning into personal life and ministry;
* provide resources that will be of value for the rest of the programme and for future ministry.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. utilise a model of reflection to identify and reflect on personal strengths and areas for development in life and ministry;
2. demonstrate personal responsibility in developing attitudes, values and practices that foster spiritual development and Christian maturity;
3. reflect on how they can integrate aspects of their learning in IBI to life and ministry.

# **1AT02 Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Youth Ministry)**

This module is compulsory on the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry.

Reflective practice is a fundamental element of many professional spheres of work. For students seeking to enhance their Christian practice in youth ministry and personal development, it is a critical skill to develop and be able to use. This module is designed to enable students to develop and use the skills of reflective practice to facilitate and demonstrate the integration of IBI’s teaching and learning strategy (the holistic integration of head, heart and hands) within specific youth ministry contexts and in their own personal development. The assessment strategy for the reflection papers has a built-in formative element: the first paper will be submitted and assessed at the end of semester 1 and will provide an element of formative feedback for the second paper at the end of semester 2.

This module aims to:

* develop skills of reflection and reflective practice to enhance ministry and personal development;
* provide students with resources to explore their spiritual gifting;
* encourage reflection on personal spirituality and spiritual growth;
* develop responsible attitudes to study and personal life;
* develop skills to enable students to integrate IBI learning into personal life and youth ministry;
* provide resources that will be of value for the rest of the programme and for future youth ministry.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. utilise a model of reflection to identify and reflect on personal strengths and areas for development in life and youth ministry;
2. demonstrate personal responsibility in developing attitudes, values and practices that foster spiritual development and Christian maturity;
3. reflect on how they can integrate aspects of their learning in IBI to life and youth ministry.

# **1AT03 Introducing Biblical Theology**

It is increasingly recognised that the primary location of most theological activity is within communities of practice. A central purpose of theological study, therefore, is for students to enhance their attitudes, knowledge and skills as people helping the church fulfil its missional calling of bearing witness to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But to do this well, students need a clear understanding of how that gospel, and many other significant Bible themes, fit within the overall narrative of the Bible. It is within this story that the character and purposes of God, and his intentions for the church and the world, are revealed. The purpose of this module is for students to appreciate the narrative structure of Christian doctrine and to use this biblical theological knowledge to develop their understanding of how the doctrines examined can apply to ministry practice and personal spirituality. This module provides a broad biblical and theological foundation for subsequent study.

The module aims to:

* enable students to describe the overall “storyline” of the Bible and introduce central Christian beliefs and how they fit within the overall Bible story;
* consider how the gospel of Jesus Christ is understood within the Bible’s storyline;
* engage in reflection on personal and practical implications of theological themes raised.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify and discuss selected doctrines within the context of the Bible’s story-line;
2. reflect on how theology informs and enriches Christian faith;
3. communicate an aspect of Christian theology in a specified context.

# **1AT04 Interpreting and Applying the Bible**

The Bible is a foundational document for the church, for theology and for ministry within the church. Within the context of a faith community, it is read as a source of doctrinal content, moral teaching and devotional guidance as well as a set of historical documents. Informed and responsible applied theology/ministry practitioners need to be aware of issues that the interpretation of the Bible raises and how these relate to personal understanding, to other areas of study on this programme, and to ministry practice. This module will draw on the resources of scholarly approaches to interpretation to explore and develop knowledge, attitudes and skills for handling the Bible.

This module aims to:

* consider the issues of genre and context and their implications for interpretation;
* introduce students to the use of Bible commentaries and other resources for interpretation;
* introduce students to how the Bible and its literature functions;
* enable students to employ the resources of academic study of the Bible alongside practical and devotional reading of the Bible;
* enhance the skills required to relate the Bible to the rest of the students’ studies in IBI, to their personal lives and ministry contexts, and to the life situation of others;
* provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning and development of skills;
* begin to explore personal attitudes about the Bible.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify and explain the significance of issues of genre and context for Bible interpretation;
2. apply the Bible responsibly and relevantly to the contemporary context of church and mission;
3. reflect on their own attitudes to the Bible and the process of interpretation in light of their learning on this module.

# **1AT05 Overview of the Old Testament**

The Old Testament tends to be a ‘forgotten’ and ‘neglected’ document within the context of contemporary Christian communities. There may be many reasons for this: the text itself is ‘ancient’, there are issues of historicity that are not easily resolved, there are significant ethical and moral challenges raised by the text. However, the Old Testament is the first testament of the Christian Scriptures and it is important that students studying applied theology are able to engage with and handle it responsibly and have the resources to enable others to do the same. This module provides students with a foundation for approaching the Old Testament (which, if students choose, they can build on in subsequent levels).

This module aims to:

* develop an appreciation of the Old Testament as part of the ‘big story’ of the Christian Scriptures;
* enable students to appreciate the historical, geographical, religious and cultural context of the Old Testament;
* introduce students to selected tools and resources for engaging with the issues raised by the Old Testament (authorship, chronology, genre, historical context, etc.);
* expose students to a range of Old Testament theological perspectives;
* encourage students to reflect on their assumptions about and attitudes towards the Old Testament;
* develop students’ appreciation for the value of the Old Testament for contemporary Christian life and ministry;
* enable students to be able to communicate aspects of the Old Testament to a non-specialist audience.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. describe selected historical, geographical, religious, and cultural contexts of the Old Testament;
2. reflect on their assumptions and attitudes about the Old Testament and its value for Christian life and ministry;
3. communicate key events of the story of the Old Testament for a non-specialist audience.

# **1AT06 Life and Teaching of Jesus**

The life and teaching of Jesus Christ is central to Christian faith. From the beginning of the church, it has formed the foundation and framework for Christian thought and practice. However, the manner in which the gospels are to be appropriated for contemporary Christian experience had been and continues to be a subject of debate, both within the community of faith and in the wider world. This module provides students with an opportunity to explore important methodological issues in Jesus and gospel studies and to examine the theological significance of key elements in the life and teaching of Jesus. In the context of an Applied Theology award, historical enquiry must move to answer questions of contemporary significance. This module enables the student to reflect on the personal and practical implications of the ministry of Jesus for Christian faith in the 21st century.

This module aims to:

* explore methodological issues in connection with gospels study;
* develop an appreciation for the distinct ways each gospel presents the life of Jesus;
* provide an understanding of a general chronology of the life of Jesus;
* develop an understanding of how the gospels function as a literary genre;
* examine the sources, content and context of the ministry of Christ;
* explore the meaning of the kingdom of God in the teaching of Jesus;
* facilitate personal reflection on the implications of the life and teaching of Jesus for contemporary faith;
* enable students to relate to the person of Jesus in a way that fosters values and attitudes for spiritual development and Christian maturity.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify and explain key aspects of the teaching of Jesus;
2. reflect on the personal significance of Jesus’ life and teaching for Christian life and ministry;
3. construct a summary of major aspects of the life and teaching of Jesus.

# **1AT07 The Story of the Church (this module may not be available in 20202/21)**

The Christian church has had a somewhat chequered history. In order to understand many of the present trends in church, it is important to learn from the past. One way to do this is to read church history with a theological lens. This will enable students who wish to develop and enhance their ministry practice to locate current issues and developments in contemporary church life and practice within a much larger framework of the unfolding story of the church. Theologically, this story of the church can be engaged as the continuing unfolding of the purposes of God. This module will address aspects of the history of the church in this way.

This module aims to:

* consider some of the main developments in the story of the church;
* enable students to engage with aspects of story of the church theologically;
* introduce students to some of the main characters of story of the church;
* capture the imagination of students;
* demonstrate the relevance of good historical study;
* enable students to reflect on their own perspectives on the story of the church;
* consider how the story of the church can be communicated to the contemporary church;
* develop a humility in students about their life and ministry in the light the story of the church.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify key developments in the history of the church;
2. reflect on an aspect of church history that has captured their imagination;
3. communicate the relevance of an aspect of church history for the contemporary church.

# **1AT08 Introduction to Pastoral Caring**

Christian caring is an essential expression of theological and biblical principles and understanding. It is a critical part of applied theology. Pastoral caring in local churches needs to recognise the potential of a caring community and the effectiveness of listening and caring in that context. The emphasis of this module is to encourage students to reflect theologically and biblically on their involvement in community-based care and to provide them with the tools to analyse and reflect on their caring practice.

This module aims to:

* facilitate an empathetic understanding of the impact of a selection of common pastoral care issues;
* encourage students to reflect on church-based pastoral care;
* enable students to develop their caring skills;
* explore the motives, character, skills and attitudes of effective carers;
* develop the students’ appreciation of the importance of listening;
* enable students to evaluate their listening practice.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. articulate theological and biblical principles that underpin Christian caring;
2. reflect on the attitudes and skills needed for authentic caring;
3. evaluate their own practice in the light of theological and biblical principles.

# **1AT09 Discipleship**

The concept of discipleship has a long tradition in Christian faith and practice and can be worked out in many arenas of Christian service in both church and world. However, like many aspects of Christian faith, it is a concept that has been informed and shaped not just by the Bible and theological insights but also by a range of other cultural and societal trends and pressures. It is, therefore, important for any student wishing to enhance their Christian practice in this area (either for their own lives or in connection with others) to reflect biblically and theologically on the traditional and contemporary understandings of discipleship and to develop tools and resources to help them explore and facilitate the process of Christian growth in discipleship. This module will enable students to develop their own framework for discipleship and to foster specific skills for working with others within Christian ministry practice.

This module aims to:

* enable students to engage biblically and theologically with concepts of discipleship;
* reflect on selected issues of discipleship;
* develop tools and resources to explore and facilitate discipleship;
* enable students to reflect on their own journey of Christian discipleship;
* develop skills of teamwork;
* develop skills of reflective practice for application to discipleship in a ministry context.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify and explain selected aspects of Christian discipleship;
2. evaluate their own development as a disciple;
3. develop a discipleship strategy.

# **1AT10 Communication in a Ministry Context**

Communication is a key part of Christian faith and practice, for example in Christian education, apologetics and in acts of worship. As in any context, the effectiveness of such communication is influenced by a range of factors. For students who wish to enhance their Christian practice in this area it is important to consider how the Bible and theological concepts can be communicated effectively in the context of contemporary life and ministry. This module will examine the issues of effective communication and will enable students to be better equipped to apply and communicate the knowledge they learn through the other parts of this programme.

This module aims to:

* enable students to engage with and apply aspects of communication theory;
* develop skills of communication;
* offer a broad and integrative approach to Christian communication in a variety of contexts;
* provide opportunities for students to plan, prepare, deliver and self-assess a communication event;
* apply reflective practice skills for the development of students’ own ministry practice.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify and evaluate the implementation of principles of effective communication;
2. reflect on their skills, values, and attitudes as communicators;
3. plan, prepare, and deliver a piece of communication for a Christian ministry context.

# **1AT11 Youth Ministry**

This module is compulsory for award on the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry. It is also an elective module for the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology and the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Caring.

The latest census figures show that Ireland continues to have a significant number of young people as part of the overall population (with the youngest population in the EU). As a result, youth are a significant sector within Christian communities. It is important for students who wish to develop their Christian practice in this area to consider a range of issues in regard to youth ministry within Christian communities, particularly in the light of the specific challenges posed by contemporary societal and cultural trends. This module will provide a context for biblical and theological reflection on youth ministry practice.

This module aims to:

* develop a framework for Christian youth ministry;
* explore Christian youth ministry programme design;
* examine good practice for working with youth under 18;
* explore youth ministry within the wider faith community;
* explore selected issues of contemporary youth culture;
* develop virtue in students in regard to youth ministry;
* reflect on attitudes to Christian youth ministry.

Learning Outcomes

*Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to*:

1. identify and discuss selected aspects of Christian youth ministry;
2. reflect on their attitudes to Christian youth ministry;
3. develop a strategy for youth ministry in a specific ministry context.