PART IIA 2019-20

Paper B1a – Intermediate Hebrew
Paper B1c – Intermediate Sanskrit
Paper B1d – Intermediate Qur’anic Arabic
Paper B2 – Israel in Exile: Literature, History and Theology [BTh23]
Paper B3 - The Shaping of Jewish Identity (332 BCE – 70 CE)
Paper B4 – The letters of Paul [BTh24]
Paper B5 – The Johannine Tradition [BTh26]
Paper B6 – Christianity in Late Antiquity (to circa 600) [BTh13]
Paper B7 – Themes in World Christianities: Context, Theology and Power
Paper B8 – Great Christian Theologians [BTh15]
Paper B10 – Philosophy of religion: God, freedom and the soul
Paper B11 – Ethics and faith
Paper B14 – Life, thought and worship of modern Judaism
Paper B15 – Introduction to Islam
Paper B16 – Life and thought of religious Hinduism and of Buddhism
Paper B17 – Philosophy: Meaning [Philosophy Faculty]
PAPER B1A – INTERMEDIATE HEBREW [BTh21]

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Nathan MacDonald

Course description
This paper is intended for those in their second year of studying Hebrew. The study of the Hebrew texts is designed (apart from their intrinsic interest) to lead students on to a fuller appreciation of the grammar, vocabulary and syntax of prose texts. The lectures will focus mainly on linguistic aspects of the texts, but students are expected to acquire an appreciation of the exegetical and literary aspects of the set passages. Students will expected to display an understanding of the grammar and syntax of Hebrew prose, and to show knowledge of elementary features of BHS. An understanding of basic text-critical questions, using BHS, will be required.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the year students should be able to (a) translate intermediate Hebrew texts into English, and translate short prose English passages into classical Hebrew using appropriate syntactic structures; (b) parse and comment on the meaning of Hebrew words; (c) identify common syntactic structures of classical Hebrew prose; (d) explain some aspects of the content and interpretation of the set texts; (e) discuss some basic issues in textual criticism.

Set Texts:
Deuteronomy 5–11; Judges 13–16; Jonah.

The edition of the Hebrew Bible to be used is Karl Elliger and Willhelm Rudolph, eds, Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft [German Bible Society], 1977 [and subsequent reprintings]).

Students are recommended also to consult the relevant BHQ volumes (Biblia Hebraica Quinta, Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft):
Deuteronomy, ed. C. McCarthy, 2007;
Judges, ed. Natalio Fernández Marcos, 2011;
The Twelve Minor Prophets [Jonah], ed. A. Gelston, 2010:

Recommended Reading


PAPER B1B – INTERMEDIATE NEW TESTAMENT GREEK [BTh22]

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Simon Gathercole

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will contain passages for translation, textual, exegetical and theological comment from such portions of text as the Faculty Board will from time to time prescribe.

Prescribed Text:
Mark 1-5; Galatians

Learning Outcomes
The overall objective will be to introduce students to the language, syntax, exegesis and theology of Mark and Galatians on the basis of the Greek text. Students will acquire not only a more advanced knowledge of New Testament Greek and the basic skills of exegesis, but will also relate these to the identification and interpretation of key historical and theological issues in a gospel and an epistle.

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour paper with three questions; students will be required to answer all questions. In question 1 students will be required to translate and comment linguistically and exegetically on one passage (from a choice of two) from one of the set texts. In question 2 students will be required to translate and comment linguistically and exegetically on one passage (from a choice of two) from the second set text. In question 3 students will be required to translate one unseen passage (from a choice of two) from the texts prescribed by the Faculty board, with vocabulary provided for words that occur less frequently in the New Testament. Questions 1 and 2 are worth 40 marks each; question 3 is worth 20 marks. Copies of the Greek New Testament will be provided.

Teaching
Sixteen lectures will address issues relating to each of the prescribed texts, including authorship, setting, date, text, linguistic features, composition, historical and theological significance, as well as covering some key topics in the interpretation of each text, and the syntax and grammar of their Greek.

Sixteen reading seminars will address issues relevant to the translation and exegesis of the prescribed texts, with special attention to developing skills in reading and understanding NT Greek.
PAPER B1C – INTERMEDIATE SANSKRIT

Course Coordinator:
Dr Vincenzo Vergiani

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will contain passages for translation from a number of texts which the Faculty Board shall from time to time prescribe, together with questions on the language and content of those texts.

Prescribed Texts:
Rgvedasamhitā 1.1, 7.86, 10.14, 10.90, 10.129 (in A.A.Macdonell, A Vedic Reader for Students);
Mānavadharmaśāstra, chs.1, 4, 12 (P.Olivelle, Manu’s code of law: a critical edition and translation of the Mānava-Dharmaśāstra, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005);
Sāmkhyakārikā, vv.1-21, 53-69 (G.J. Larson, Classical Sāmkhya, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1983);

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper. Candidates will be required to translate three passages from the prescribed texts from Sanskrit into English, to answer questions on their language and content, and to translate one unseen passage from Sanskrit to English.
Paper B1D – INTERMEDIATE QUR’ANIC ARABIC

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Timothy Winter

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will contain passages for pointing, for translation, and for linguistic and exegetical comment from portions of the Qur’an, Qur’anic commentaries and other Islamic literature which the Faculty Board shall from time to time prescribe. The paper will also contain a passage for translation from English into Arabic.

Prescribed Texts:

Aims
This paper aims to build on the knowledge acquired by students who have taken Paper A1d of the Arabic grammatical features and vocabulary most commonly encountered in the Qur’an and other early Islamic religious literature. The paper may include passages for pointing, for translation, and for linguistic and exegetical comment from portions of the Qur’an, a fatwa, a Qur’anic commentary, a maghazisira work, and a dictionary of saints. Candidates are also required to translate a passage from English into Arabic.

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper. Candidates will be required to translate one out of two passages from the Qur’an, commenting on specified words and concepts, and three out of four passages from the remaining texts, to point one out of two passages, selected from any of the prescribed passages, and to translate one short passage from English into Arabic.

Teaching
Teaching for this paper continues to be based on the introductory grammar by Haywood and Nahmad, and a collection of graded materials from the Qur’an, Hadith and Sira literature, drawing students’ attention to literary features such as cohesion and iltifat.
Two 1.5 hour classes and a 1 hour class are held each week through Michaelmas and Lent Terms, and two 1.5 hour classes each week through the four teaching weeks of Easter Term.
Supplementary Regulation

This paper will be concerned with Old Testament history from the reign of Hezekiah to the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus and with theological and literary responses to the Babylonian invasions and their consequences in the literature of the time, with particular reference to relevant sections of Genesis-Numbers; Deuteronomy; Joshua-2 Kings; Job; exilic elements in the Psalter; Isaiah 40–55; Jeremiah 1–25; Lamentations; Ezekiel. The Faculty Board will prescribe a portion of the Old Testament for special study.

Prescribed texts
Jeremiah 1-25

Course Description

The exilic age has long been regarded in scholarship as a watershed for the faith of Israel, with important theological understandings formulated in this period. It is also a crucial time in the history of Israel and a time of the collection and writing of formative documents. This course seeks to give a thorough understanding of the literature, history and theology of the period leading up to the Exile, of the Exile itself and of the repercussions that followed it. It involves study of texts from different genres of Old Testament material, including some detailed textual work. It also involves engagement with scholarly methods of analysing literary texts, of evaluating historical claims with the assistance of archaeological finds and ancient Near Eastern parallels and of seeking an overall sense of the theological developments of the period.

Form and Conduct of Examination

The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper, which will be divided into three sections. Section A will contain five essay questions on prophecy and a gobbet question on the set text. Section B will contain five essay questions on the Pentateuch and Joshua-2 Kings. Section C will contain five questions on poetic and wisdom literature. Candidates will be required to attempt four passages from a choice of eight in the gobbet question in Section A and three essay questions taken from at least two sections of the paper. NRSV and Hebrew Bibles will be available for use in the examination, but candidates are not expected to show greater precision in Biblical references as a result of the availability of Bibles.
PAPER B3 – THE SHAPING OF JEWISH IDENTITY (332 BCE – 70 CE)

Paper Coordinator:
Dr James Aitken

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will be concerned with an essential period for our understanding of the formation of Judaism (and the context from which Christianity arose). It will examine the social, historical and political contexts in which ancient Jews shaped their identity and how as a result they came to fashion new forms of literature and beliefs. It will focus on the land of Israel in the time from the rise of Alexander the Great (332 BCE), when it became incorporated into the Greek empires, up to and including the First Roman Revolt.

Course Description
The paper will examine how Jewish ideas and literature developed in the context of the political and social changes of the period, extending the history of Israel from the end of the narrative of the Hebrew Bible, as well as informing on the Jewish context in which the New testament arose. It was a time when the authoritative books of the bible were read and reinterpreted by individuals such as the scribe Ben Sira and the community attested in the Dead Sea Scrolls. New literature arose such as the Jewish novella, as seen in the tale of seduction and decapitation in the Book of Judith. And the historian Josephus wrote in Greek fashion of the life of Herod, leaving a memorial of him that is far from flattering. Against the background of the political upheavals under Alexander the Great and his successors, followed by Jewish independence under the Hasmoneans, and finally intervention under the Herodians and Romans, we see developments in Jewish practices such as the synagogue, prayer life, the role of the temple (and competing temples), reading of the scriptures, and treatment and beliefs over the dead. How Jews shaped their identity in a turbulent period of history is viewed in a multi-faceted way through literature, historical writings, theology, archaeology, and manuscripts.

The course will also introduce the historical and artistic significance of such evidence as Jewish manuscripts and coins through practical seminars in the University Library and Fitzwilliam Museum. The Board may from time to time prescribe particular texts for study.

Prescribed Texts

- Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 44–50 (NRSV)
- 1 Maccabees 1–2 (NRSV)
- Judith 8–16 (NRSV)
Aims

Set texts and teaching for this paper are intended to assist knowledge and understanding of the literature and sources for ancient Judaism. In particular, the paper aims:

- To develop exegetical skills and an engagement with Jewish literature of the period
- To help students understand and evaluate critically the current scholarship on the period
- To assist in the appreciation of the development of Jewish thought in the period
- To introduce students to the issues involved in handling material artefacts
- To help students appreciate the historical importance of a range of evidence

Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students should attain:

(a) Knowledge of:

- the key historical events that shaped Jewish life in the set period
- the key sources for the evaluation of the period
- the principal beliefs and practices that were formed in the period
- the main debates between scholars on the interpretation of the evidence

(b) The Ability to:

- identify major issues and problems inherent in the study of Judaism in the time period
- evaluate the difficult and conflicting nature of the primary sources, and to be aware of the limited nature of such material
- handle and evaluate a variety of types of sources, including archaeological, literary and epigraphic
- distinguish and assess critically conflicting interpretations of Judaism in secondary literature
- develop generic transferable skills of synthesis, analysis, critical reasoning, and communication

Form and Conduct of Examination

The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper, which will contain selections for comment from the prescribed sources and essay questions. Candidates
will be required to comment on three from a choice of ten selections from prescribed sources, and to attempt three essay questions from a choice of at least twelve. NRSV Bibles (including the Apocrypha) will be available for use in the examination but candidates are not expected to show greater precision in biblical references as a result of the availability of Bibles.

**Teaching**

In Paper B3 questions are not set on the period later than First Jewish Revolt (70 CE), although an understanding of the period afterwards and the formation of rabbinic Judaism may be helpful. 16 lectures over the two terms will examine issues and the historical context. Alongside the lectures, classes will look more deeply into the sources and set texts.

**Supervisions**

Six supervisions are recommended, covering both set texts and broader themes in the subject area. Guidance for supervisors is available from the paper coordinator.
PAPER B4 – THE LETTERS OF PAUL [BTh24]

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Justin Meggitt

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will study the Pauline ‘corpus’, including Ephesians and the Pastoral epistles. There will be questions on historical, literary and critical problems, but the emphasis will be on the theological thought and practice of the apostle Paul. The Faculty Board may also prescribe a particular text or texts for special study.

Prescribed Texts
1 Corinthians

Course description
This course will consider the theological thought and practice of the apostle Paul, the finest mind among the early followers of Jesus. Paul's theological emphases have always been prominent in the Christian tradition. Aspects of his teaching provoked controversy in the early centuries - and still do today. Paul's own letters as well as letters traditionally considered to be 'Pauline' will be studied, including Ephesians, and the Pastorals. Special attention will be given to I Corinthians, the set text for this paper.

Learning Outcomes
The objective of the course will be to gain a good knowledge of the Pauline corpus of letters with special reference to their central theological emphases and to their settings in the Graeco-Roman world. Study in depth of the set text will enable students to gain a keen understanding of the issues at stake between Paul and the Corinthians, and a firm grounding in exegetical method.

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper. Candidates will be required to comment on up to four passages from the prescribed text (quoted in Greek and in English) and to attempt three essay questions out of a choice of at least ten. NRSV Bibles and Greek New Testaments (Nestle-Aland 28th Edition) will be available for use in the examination but candidates are not expected to show greater precision in Biblical references as a result of the availability of Bibles.
PAPER B5 – THE JOHANNINE TRADITION

Paper Coordinator:
Professor George Van Kooten

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will be concerned with central issues (arising from the primary sources and critical scholarship) in the study of the Fourth Gospel and Johannine Epistles, with due attention to their Graeco-Roman context. Although students will be expected to read the full text of the Gospels and Epistles, specific texts for more detailed study will be announced by the Faculty Board.

Prescribed Texts
John 1–6, 17–20; 1 John 2–3, 3 John

Course Description
The paper will involve detailed investigation of main themes and issues involved in the study of the Gospel and Epistles of John. Specific attention will be paid to the Graeco-Roman setting of John’s Gospel, and the interweaving of the Jewish “warp” and the Greek “weft” threads. The main topics that will be dealt with will include: The genre, structure, and main themes of the Gospel of John: the function of its prologue, its distinctive signs and dialogues, the temple feasts that propel the argument, the nature of the Johannine last supper, the death of Jesus as the Passover lamb, the divine generation of Christ and the believers, and the relation towards Jews/Judeans, Samaritans, Greeks, and Romans (Pilate). The main approaches to the Gospel will be critically discussed: the source-critical approach, the redaction-critical approach, and the “linguistic turn” offered by the narrative-critical approach, and attention will be paid to the relation between the Gospel of John and the Synoptics. The entire course benefits from the recently published Oxford Handbook of Johannine Studies (OUP 2018). In addition, the Johannine letters will be discussed, allowing us to understand the Johannine literature in the wider context of Greek (mythological) religion, Docetism, Gnosticism, and the Nicene Creed. Although students will be expected to be familiar with the Gospel and Epistles of John, specific chapters will be set for more detailed analysis.

Aims
• To build on and develop skills acquired in Part I (specifically, Paper A3, although study of this is not a prerequisite); in particular, exegetical skills and engagement in critical approaches to and analysis of New Testament texts
• To enable students to engage in the close study and critical analysis of relevant primary sources
• To help students understand and evaluate current scholarship and debates about main issues concerning the Johannine tradition within the field of New Testament study.

Learning outcomes
As a result of taking this course, students should attain the following:
(a) Knowledge of:
• the main issues that arise in studying the Gospel and Epistles of John
• the principal ideas and theoretical frameworks that underpin current understanding of the examination of the subject
• the methods and tools of critical New Testament scholarship

(b) The Ability to:
• identify major issues and problems inherent in the study of the Gospel and Epistles of John
• evaluate the distinctive character of the Johannine literature, including both its theological and its historical dimensions, including its relation to the Graeco-Roman world
• distinguish and assess critically conflicting interpretations of the Johannine tradition in secondary literature
• integrate close study of texts with critical discussion of major themes and debates
• develop generic transferable skills of synthesis, analysis, critical reasoning, and communication

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will take the form of a three-hour written paper. This will consist of two Sections. Candidates will be required to attempt the one question in Section A, and three further questions from Section B. Section A will contain three passages for comment from the set chapters, of which candidates will be required to attempt two. Section B will contain at least ten essay-type questions, of which candidates will be required to attempt three. NRSV Bibles will be available for use in the examination but candidates are not expected to show greater precision in Biblical references as a result of the availability of Bibles.

Teaching
Teaching for the course will take place during the Michaelmas and Lent term and will be by means of 16 one-hour lectures, and 8 one-hour classes on the set texts in Lent term. The classes, for which students will be expected to prepare, will be devoted to study of the chapters set for detailed analysis.

Supervisions
Suggested supervision essay areas are available for the benefit of students and potential supervisors. Specific bibliographies are given with the handouts for lectures available via Moodle.
PAPER B6 - CHRISTIANITY IN LATE ANTIQUITY (TO CIRCA 600) [BTh13]

Course Coordinator
Dr Thomas Graumann

Supplementary Regulations
This paper is concerned with the main historical and theological developments in Christianity in Antiquity set within the social, historical, political and cultural contexts of the Roman Empire and its immediate successors.

Prescribed Texts
There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available in the Faculty Library and on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

Course Description
Many important features of Christianity emerged and developed in the antique period. The paper examines the development of Christian churches and groups, their organisation, institutions, identities and ways of life in the context of the political, social and cultural life of the Roman Empire. It studies main strands of Christian theological reflection and discussion the period, and introduces exemplary texts from what is often called the “Golden Age” of patristic literature.

Aims
Teaching for this paper is intended to assist knowledge and understanding of Christianity in the patristic period (to ca. 600). In particular the paper aims:

• To aid the knowledge and understanding of the history of Christianity in the context of the Roman Empire
• To assist in the appreciation of the development of Christian thought in the period
• To introduce students to primary texts by major patristic authors and teach them skills of close analysis and interpretation of such texts
• To help students understand and evaluate critically current scholarship on the period

Learning Outcomes
As a result of taking this course, students should attain:

(a) Knowledge of:
• the key historical events and developments that shaped Christian life and culture in the set period
• the main discussions that informed Christian theological reflection in the period
• the principal elements in the intellectual and social formation of the Church in the period
the variety of sources available for the evaluation of the period

(b) The ability to:

- identify major issues and problems inherent in the study of Christianity in the period
- assess critically the character, limits and tendencies of the primary sources
- analyse and interpret primary sources in a variety of genres and address the difficulties and challenges in this task
- analyse and discuss the main theological and historical developments in the church of the time in critical conversation with scholarship

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper consisting of twelve questions, of which students must answer four.

Teaching
The course will be taught by 16 hours of lectures and 8 hours of classes. Lectures will provide an outline of the main theological and historical developments in Christianity of the period, present important sources and introduce central debates in modern scholarship. Classes will engage in a close reading and interpretation of selected primary sources.

Supervisions
Six supervisions are recommended.
PAPER B7 – THEMES IN WORLD CHRISTIANITY: CONTEXT, THEOLOGY AND POWER

Paper Coordinator: Dr James Gardom

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will be concerned with both the common themes and the diversity of contemporary Christianity in its global setting. Particular emphasis will be given to the contextual character of Christian theological reflection outside Europe and the USA since 1900 in relation both to indigenous cultures and to structures of global political and economic power.

Form and Conduct
The assessment will consist of the submission of two essays, each of no more than 5,000 words in length, on topics chosen by the candidates in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 19 (Statutes and Ordinances). The essay titles are published on the Faculty of Divinity Moodle.

Course Description
The primary aim of this paper is to enable students to understand the increasingly non-Western nature of contemporary Christianity, and to understand the emerging discipline of the study of World Christianity. The lectures and seminars will give an overview of the global shift of Christianity away from the West, and provide some guidelines for the interpretation of non-Western Christian groups, including Diaspora and Migrant groups in the West and elsewhere. In the extended essays, students are encouraged to research particular phenomena or groups within World Christianities and to consider the challenges which they face in their contexts, and that we face in comprehending them. Practical guidance on writing essays is offered alongside academic lectures. Particular emphasis is given to the character of Christian theological reflection in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America since 1900, in relation to indigenous cultures and to global structures of political and economic power.

Teaching
The course is jointly taught by a number of lecturers from across the University, coordinated by Dr Gardom, and guided by Prof Maxwell. It involves 22 lectures and seminars, and nine 30 minute study skills sessions. The team teaching approach enables us to draw on a wide range of expertise, appropriate to an unusually broad subject.

Supervisions Advice and Evaluation Criteria
The course is assessed by means of two long essays, each of no more than 5,000 words, on topics chosen by candidates from a list published by the Part II
Examiners. The essays are in two groups, Group A requiring an overview of some aspect of the discipline, and Group B requiring a more detailed discussion of a particular Christian phenomenon.

A set of questions is attached. Essays are to be submitted, typed and with a cover-page giving candidate’s examination number but no name, to the Faculty Office by the break of Easter term.

Students should have two supervisions per essay (four overall), with allowance for a 15 minute initial ‘setting up’ meeting with the supervisor for each essay.

Students should normally contact the Paper Coordinator to discuss their areas of interest and to be assigned supervisors.

**Aims**
The course seeks, in the second year of study, to allow students to understand something of the diversity of contemporary Christianity, and the different trajectories and manifestations present outside Europe and the USA, and of Migrant and Diasporic Christianities which have roots outside Europe and the USA. It aims to give students a fruitful way of approaching the understanding of these Christian phenomena, and a reasonably detailed understanding of two unfamiliar contexts. It aims to provide opportunities to develop research skills in the use of websites, grey literature, and visual images, alongside traditional scholarly writing.

**Objectives**
At the end of the year the students should

- Produce essays involving an element of independent research, using a range of materials and indicating a developed understanding of a number of Christian expressions.
- Develop the skill of reflecting on the relationship between formal theological expression and popular theologies in this context.
- Develop skills in reading, understanding and evaluating some forms of Christian life and publication

**Rationale**
The move of this paper to the second year creates a path through the Tripos which enables students to study Christianity as a global phenomenon, with papers in each year.

Paper A6 Understanding Contemporary Religion introduces students to the work of Max Weber and Émile Durkheim, and encourages them to explore issues of
contemporary interest in the study of religion, such as fundamentalism, the relationship between religion and politics.

These skills can be carried forward into this second-year paper where there is a greater focus on the diversity of Christianity outside the Western world, and on looking at the intersection of Christianity with broader political and contextual trends.

This second-year paper will provide an excellent foundation for the detailed work undertaken in paper D2E with students already introduced to the complexities of understanding the relationship between the expression of faith in context, and in a broad range of contexts.

Examination by long essay enables students to develop the skills of independent research, including primary resources such as websites, holdings in the CCCW Library and the University Library, alongside secondary literature and lectures. It also addresses the particular problem of generalisation within the diversity of World Christianities by challenging students to address in detail Christian phenomena with which they may be unfamiliar.

Supervisions will normally be set up by the paper coordinator (James Gardom) who can direct students to supervisors with particular expertise.

Context, Theology and Power – Themes in World Christianities

B7 Essay Questions 2019-20

Candidates must write one essay of 5000 words from Group A and one essay of 5000 words from Group B.

Group A questions

Essays in this section should display an understanding of the contemporary global presence of Christianity, indicate and demonstrate tools for understanding particular expressions of Christianity in particular contexts.

1. How does scholarship on World Christianity recast the Secularisation Thesis?
2. What can Christian Theology learn from Social Anthropology, and vice versa?
3. ‘World Christianity, World Christianities or Global Christianity?” Discuss.
4. Why has Pentecostalism grown so fast?
5. How much is World Christianity unified by the existence of a shared Canon of Scripture?
6. To what extent have missionaries been carriers of capitalist modernity?

7. Did decolonisation bring an end to the hegemony of Western Christianity?

8. Is the notion of conversion appropriate in societies in the global South?

9. Is it helpful to consider Christian groups as competitors in a religious marketplace?

**Group B questions**

Essays in this section should deal with particular Christian groups, and must be
answered with reference to the period from 1900 to the present. With the exception
of question 7 should they should deal with groups outside Europe, and North
America.

1. Choose one or two particular contexts in the Global South or Middle East, and
   show how context affects approaches to Theology.

2. Explain two or three Christian responses to poverty in either Africa or Asia or
   Latin America.

3. Explain and discuss some of the ways Africans or Asians or Latin Americans,
   past and present, have read Christian Scriptures to remake their identities and
   communities.

4. To what extent did some Christians work with and to what extent work
   against movements for social change in either Africa or Asia or Latin America
   or the Middle East?

5. What does the existence of Independent churches in Africa, Latin America or
   Asia tell us about the Comarroffs’ thesis of the “Colonisation of the
   Consciousness”? Answer with reference to one or more case studies.

6. How have some churches in either Africa or Asia or the Middle East engaged
   with issues of political violence, corruption and injustice since independence.

7. Explain some of the strategies by which two Christian groups which occupy a
   minoritarian position, (whether as persecuted, migrant or diasporic),
   perpetuate their communities. Examples can be drawn from anywhere in the
   world including the UK.

8. Explain and evaluate two or three recent approaches to the understanding of
   Jesus Christ in either Africa or Asia or Latin America.

9. How have two or three African Christian Women’s organisations enabled
   women to understand themselves as individuals and as members of broader
   communities?
PAPER B8 – GREAT CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIANS

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Simeon Zahl

Supplementary Regulation
This paper is concerned with the Christian understanding of God and humanity. The course aims to study this through classic texts from different periods, understood in the context of their time and in relation to current theological discussions. The Faculty Board may from time to time prescribe topics and texts for special study.

Prescribed Texts

Course Description
This paper contains questions on the Christian doctrines of God and humanity as illustrated by the writing of selected Christian theologians from the patristic period to the present day. Texts are prescribed. It also contains questions on theological method, and on the sources and norms of theology. The set texts are from Augustine, Gregory of Nazianzus, Julian of Norwich, Martin Luther, Karl Barth, and Catherine Keller. The examination questions will be on these set texts. This paper is designed to be a good introduction to key issues in Christian doctrine, by way of engagement with key thinkers throughout the history of the Christian tradition.

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will take the form of a three-hour written paper. There will be at least twelve questions. Candidates must answer three questions.

The paper will contain a choice of questions on each of the primary authors of the prescribed texts. In answering these questions, candidates are expected to show first-hand knowledge of the set primary texts, as well as interpretative issues related to them.

Teaching
The lectures on the set texts by Augustine, Gregory of Nazianzus, Luther, and Barth will take place in Michaelmas term; lectures on Julian and Keller will take place in the Lent term.

Supplemental Bibliography

**Augustine**


**Gregory of Nazianzus**


**Julian of Norwich**


Luther


Ebeling, Gerhard, Luther: An Introduction to his Thought (Collins, 1972)


Barth


Keller


PAPER B10 – PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: GOD, FREEDOM AND THE SOUL

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Douglas Hedley

Supplementary Regulation
This paper will explore some classical themes in the philosophy of religion. These will include attributes of God, issues of the relationships between God and the world, and issues of God and ‘the soul’.

Prescribed Texts
There are no prescribed texts for this paper but a list of recommended readings will be available on the Faculty website from the end of full Easter Term.

Aims
This paper is conceived as an introduction to Philosophical Theology in the narrow sense, i.e. theories about the nature of God, the cosmos and the soul. Is God one or many, personal and impersonal, transcendent or immanent, timeless or everlasting? How is creation of the cosmos to be thought of? Is the Soul the form of the body or a separate entity? Is God best perceived in nature or in the soul? Is freedom a coherent notion? Can we know God? How does God act? These very general and abstract questions have puzzled philosophers and theologians since Plato.

The approaches to these topics tend to be either historical or very abstract. The idea of this paper is to combine the concern with the topics as real issues of contemporary interest with an awareness of how for example Plotinus or Spinoza, Kant or Hegel thought about these problems. The second section will enable candidates to answer at least one question of a more abstract nature. It is felt that candidates for this paper will have acquired a greater degree of philosophical confidence and a broader acquaintance with the philosophical canon to enable them to attempt essays of a more general or abstract philosophical nature.

Learning Outcomes
The paper should serve as a continuation of the ideas raised by paper A8 and a basis for the third year specialist papers in the philosophy of religion. Students should acquire an overview of the main questions in philosophical theology and gain some detailed knowledge of the proposals and arguments of some of the greatest thinkers in the Western canon.

Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour written examination. The paper will consist of two sections, A and B. Section A will contain at least eight questions;
Section B will contain at least six general questions on philosophical theology. Candidates will be required to answer four questions, at least one from each section.
PAPER B11 – ETHICS AND FAITH

Paper Coordinator
Dr James Orr

Course Aims
Paper B11 builds on the foundational questions concerning the nature of goodness and moral obligation that arose in relation to the canon of philosophers and theologians explored in Paper A9. It offers students a comprehensive engagement with eight central topics that lie at the intersection of religious belief and practice, moral theology, and moral philosophy. The eight topics span historical and contemporary metaethical theories; four of the most common varieties of normative approaches adopted in religious ethics; the philosophical and theological dimensions of human personhood, dignity, and rights; and historical and contemporary understandings of the connections between theologically invested metaphysical frameworks and the right ordering of society towards the common good.

Course Delivery
The course will be taught by means of sixteen lectures delivered weekly at the Faculty of Divinity in the Michaelmas Term and Lent Term and six supervisions organised by the participant’s Director of Studies.

Form and Conduct of Examination
The course will be examined by way of a three-hour written examination paper containing eight pairs of questions. Candidates must answer four questions and may answer no more than one question from each pair.

Lecture Summaries and Course Reading
Since no set texts are prescribed in this course, no questions in the examination will require a candidate to demonstrate familiarity with a specific text or thinker. Nevertheless, participants are strongly urged to take note of the fact that credit will be given to a candidate in proportion to his or her ability to range accurately and acutely across the broad array of materials listed under ‘Primary Reading’ in Parts 1-8 below. Candidates will equally be rewarded for demonstrating appropriate sensitivity to the historical contexts, intellectual influences, and religious traditions of the text(s) and/or figure(s) with which they do decide to engage. Credit will also be given to candidates who display an awareness of the risks involved in reading a historical text too schematically through the prism of a contemporary philosophical concept or problem.
1. **Moral Realism Today: Theistic and Naturalistic Approaches**

*Lecture 1* draws back into view several of the themes animating Paper A9 regarding the nature of the good and moral obligation before turning to scrutinise the ways in which the tension between realist and sceptical conceptions of metaethics have surfaced in moral philosophy over the last century. *Lecture 2* then sets contemporary theistic and platonically oriented varieties of moral realism alongside some of the leading naturalistic attempts to defend moral realism in terms consistent with the presumptions of metaphysical naturalism. The lecture focuses special attention on so-called ‘debunking’ objections raised in the field of evolutionary psychology against moral realism as such and, a fortiori, any attempt to ground moral truth and moral value in the divine.

**a. Primary Readings**

- Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*, ch. 1

**b. Background Reading**

- John Hare, *God’s Call: Moral Realism, God’s Commands, and Human Autonomy* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001), ch. 1


• Jeffrey Stout, *The Flight from Tradition: Religion, Morality, and the Quest for Autonomy* (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981)


• Sharon Street, ‘A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value,’ *Philosophical Studies* 127(1) (2006), 109–66


2. **Natural Law: Sacred and Secular**

Part 2 of the course guides students through the central questions raised by theological and secular attempts to locate value and obligation in the natural order. **Lecture 3** considers rival historical inquiries into what is ‘natural’ about natural law and whether this quality makes it somehow more primitive than, or prior to, or better than, positive secular law or positive revelation. **Lecture 4** turns to the connections between natural law and the mind or will of God - however construed - and what conception of divinity is presupposed by accounts that allege such connections. Finally, students will be invited to reflect on the ways in which ‘natural law’ is distinguishable from ‘divine law’ and what the historical origins and contemporary ramifications of their separation might be.

a. **Primary Readings**


- Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, tr. Vernon Bourke (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1975), Book 3, §§2-4

- ______, *Summa Theologiae* Ia Ilae, tr. Thomas Gilby (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966), q. 91 and qq. 93-95


b. Background Reading

- Fulvio di Blasi, *God and the Natural Law: A Rereading of Thomas Aquinas* (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine’s Press, 2006)


3. **Divine Command: Problems and Prospects**

Part 3 examines historical and contemporary moral theories that understand obligation to depend, at least in part, on the divine will, theories that have tended to be dismissed in recent decades by both secular philosophers and moral theologians. **Lecture 5** begins with the assumption that divine command theory is a species of theological voluntarism, while **Lecture 6** turns to examine ways in which that assumption has been refined and modified by philosophers of religion in recent decades. Students will be briefly introduced to historical and contemporary varieties of the jurisprudential doctrine of legal positivism, an illuminating secular analogue to divine command theories that shares several of its theoretical motivations and challenges.

a. **Primary Readings**

- *Scotus, Oxford Commentaries, Book 3, ch.38, q.1*
- *Duns Scotus, Paris Commentaries, Book 4, §46*
- *William of Ockham, Sentences, Book 2, §19*
- *Francisco Suárez, On the Laws of God and God the Lawgiver, Book 2, §6*

b. **Background Reading**


• John Hare, God’s Call: Moral Realism, God’s Commands, and Human Autonomy (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001), ch. 2


• Philip Quinn, ‘The Primacy of God’s Will in Christian Ethics,’ Philosophical Perspectives 6 (1992), 493-513

• William J. Wainwright, Religion and Morality (London and New York: Routledge, 2017), Part II (‘Divine Command Theory and Its Critics’)
4. **Scriptural Ethics: Narrative and Normativity**

Part 4 begins by distinguishing in Lecture 7 between ethical theories based on divine command from historical and contemporary ones that take a broader view of the ways in which positive revelation shape the moral outlook of a religious tradition, whether through paradigmatic narratives, moral exemplars, and prophetic visions, as well as the extent to which scriptural rhetoric, genre, and language can shape the moral perception of believers. Lecture 8 then compares and contrasts these approaches with the various renewals of interest among moral philosophers in how literary drama and narrative can be pressed into the service of sharpening a moral agent’s understanding of virtue and value.

a. **Primary Readings**

i. **Historical Readings**


- Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* Ia IIae, tr. Thomas Gilby (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966), q. 98; q. 100; qq. 106-108

ii. **Contemporary Readings**


b. Background Reading


- Markus Bockmuehl, *Jewish Law in Gentile Churches: Halakhah and the Beginning of Christian Public Ethics*


- Beryl Smalley, *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages* (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1964)
5. **Aretaic Ethics: The Life Well-Lived**

Part 5 of the paper concentrates on the so-called ‘aretaic turn’ in modern moral philosophy inaugurated by G.E.M. Anscombe’s highly influential complaint in ‘Modern Moral Philosophy.’ Lectures 9 explores and invites students to evaluate Anscombe’s argument that since it was a mistake to seek a foundation for a morality grounded in legalistic notions such as ‘obligation’ or ‘duty’ in the context of general disbelief in the existence of a divine lawgiver, moral philosophers should return to moral philosophy through an ethics of virtue. It then considers the historical backdrop to aretaic ethics in classical, high-scholastic, and early modern thinkers, while Lecture 10 turns to rehearse and examine in detail contemporary attempts to graft aretaic theories onto a theological framework.

a. **Primary Readings**

i. **Historical Readings**


   - Aquinas, *Summa Theologicae* Ia IIae q. 55 a.1; q. 55 a.3; q. 56 a.6; q.60 a.3-5

   - Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, Book 2, §§1-2; Book 3, §§1-3

ii. **Contemporary Readings**


b. Background Reading


- Peter Geach, ‘Good and Evil,’ *Analysis* 17 (1956), 33-42


- ______, ‘Virtue and Reason,’ *The Monist* 62 (1979) 331-50


- Bernard Williams, ‘Morality, the Peculiar Institution,’ *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 193-218
6. **Existentialist Ethics: Freedom and Meaning**

Part 6 develops a claim that frequently arises in aretaic ethics, namely that the ethical life is best reflected upon from a first-person perspective and that the search for value and meaning must at least begin within the structures of a person’s interior life. **Lecture 11** considers some of the most well-known secularising formulations of this sort of insight in German and French existentialist thought. **Lecture 12** then introduces students some of the neglected pagan and theological hinterlands to these modern conceptions.

**a. Primary Readings**


**b. Background Reading**

7. **Theological Anthropology: Divinity and Dignity**

In the penultimate section the paper turns to examine normative conceptions of the human person and, in particular, some of the ways in which the idea of human dignity and ancillary claims about the status of human rights have been both championed and contested from philosophical and theological perspectives. **Lecture 13** surveys and engages a variety of historical attempts—from the patristic era to early modernity via the Renaissance—at articulating an account of intrinsic value and dignity of the human person on theological grounds. **Lecture 14** proceeds to analyse both recent proposals for a secular grounding of human rights as well as recent theological critiques to ground such rights in God.

a. **Primary Readings**

- Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies*, Book IV, §38-§39 [full text available here]

- Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*, §3-§5, §9-§10, §16 [full text available here]


b. **Background Reading**


• _____, *The Person and the Common Good*, tr. John J. Fitzgerald (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994)


• Oliver O’Donovan, ‘The Language of Rights and Conceptual History,’ *Journal of Religious Ethics* 37(2) (2009), 193-207


8. **Political Theology: God and Society**

The final section of the paper introduces students to some of the different ways in which the relationship between politics, economics, power, and society have historically been construed in theological terms. **Lecture 15** explores a small handful of foundational sources in political theology while **Lecture 16** examines an influential family of views that variously hold many of the central concepts in modern political discourse to be secularised versions of longstanding theological ideas. This plausible claim implies that one cannot fully grasp the complex
dynamics of contemporary domestic and international politics, diplomacy, and jurisprudence without developing a firm understanding of the theological hinterlands from which many contemporary ways of thinking emerge.

a. Primary Readings

i. Historical Readings


- Richard Hooker, *The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), Book 1, ch. 10 and ch. 15; Book III, ch. 9

ii. Contemporary Readings


- Henri de Lubac, *Corpus Mysticum: The Eucharist and the Church in the Middle Ages* (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981)


- Erik Peterson, ‘Monotheism as a Political Problem,’ in *Theological Tractates*, ed. and tr. Michael J. Hollerich (Stanford: Stanford
University Press, 2011)

b. Background Reading


- David Nicholls, *Deity and Domination: Images of God and the State in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (London and New York: Routledge, 1989)


Supplementary Regulation

This paper will be concerned with the thought, culture and history of modern Judaism.
The Board may from time to time prescribe texts for special study.

Prescribed Texts
There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

Aims

-To introduce students to Jewish culture and thought, approaching contemporary issues along with the historical developments that shaped them. Topics will include central Jewish ideas such as Messianism and Zionism, the distinct and variegated character of the Jewish communities in Britain, the State of Israel and abroad, as well as aspects of religious observance such as Shabbat and Prayer.

-To explore how Judaism relates to surrounding cultures and especially how it has responded to the challenges of modernity.

-To approach Judaism in the methodological context of the study of ‘religion’ and ‘culture’ by inviting students to consider whether the term ‘religion’ makes sense at all when applied to Judaism.

-By the study of primary texts, to acquaint students with the self-understandings of Judaism at critical periods of its development. Although history will be provided to give the necessary background, the focus throughout will be on contemporary communities.

Learning Outcomes
The principal desired learning outcome of the course is that students will acquire an understanding of Judaism as a living religion, in a constant state of development as it responds to changing social and intellectual perspectives. In addition, they will acquire the skill to read select Jewish religious texts in translation, and the research skills required to enable them to pursue the subject in greater depth.
Form and Conduct of Examination
The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper. Candidates will be required to attempt four questions out of a choice of at least nine.

Teaching

Sample Lecture/seminar topics:

- The Torah through the Ages: Written and Oral, Sung and Cited
- The Synagogue: Service and Community
- The People of the Books: Mishnah and Talmud
- How Jews Pray
- The emergence of Reform, Orthodox and Conservative Judaism
- Jews in mainland Europe: immigration, emancipation, the Shoah and a new beginning
- Jews in Britain
- Zionism from the Bible to Bibi
- The State of Israel: History, Politics, Religion
- Jewish Messianism: waiting for the son of David
- Women and Judaism
- Ethnographic approaches to Jews and Judaism
- Do Jews do Theology?
- The question of Jewish Philosophy
PAPER B15 - INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Feriel Bouhafa

Course description
The course introduces students to the study of Islam and requires no prior knowledge about the topic. Before mapping the complex phenomenon of ‘Islam,’ the course starts with the following theoretical questions: how do we define Islam? Is Islam a religion or a system of belief, a culture, or a civilization? Thus, students will be introduced to some of the critical approaches applied to define Islam as either a religion circumscribed in systems of belief modelling it according to the Western Christian historical experience or as a discursive tradition which developed around the canonical scripture of the Qur’an and Hadith (the prophetic tradition), or the more inclusive approach which hopes to go beyond the focus on orthodoxy to include practices and discourses, that although not always deemed orthodox, equally shaped the Muslim experience in giving meaning to their realities (M. Hodgeson, W.C. Smith, T. Asad, S. Ahmed). Keeping these approaches in mind, the first part of the course covers key topics beginning with the origins of Islam, the life of the Prophet, the Qur’an and Hadith, the communal identity through ritual practices, and the crystallization of a normative discourse, known as shari‘a. The second part of the course explores the engagement of the Muslim community with the revelation and its crystallization in knowledge production, intellectual debates and artistic expression. This part shall cover the early doctrine, Islamic mysticism (Sufism), and some of the key debates in dialectical theology and Islamic philosophy (kalam and falsafa) and Islamic architecture. Finally, the course extends to debates in modern Muslim societies related to Islamic reformism, the discourse of political Islam and gender issues in Muslim societies. The objective is to provide students with a good grasp of the variety of themes central to the study of Islam but also help them distinguish between approaches advanced by various scholars when conceptualizing the human and historical phenomenon of Islam. The readings consist of a selection of secondary materials as well as translated primary materials. Films and Audios will be also solicited.

Goals
As a result of taking this course, students shall:

• gain a general knowledge about some of the key themes and influential figures in the study of Islam both in the medieval and modern period
• know Arabic key concepts in the study of Islam related to the canonical scriptures and the main fields of knowledge and practice
• be able to discuss different approaches and problematize the methodology of
  the study
  of Islam.
• grasp the diverse/pluralistic nature of the Islamic tradition
• develop some confidence to approach primary texts
• understand the conceptual framework of modernity and know the main
  features of
  modernity’s impact on Islam

  Encyclopaedia of Islam, Second and Third Edition, Online
  resource. Encyclopaedia Iranica, Online resource.
  Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Online resource.
  Full references are given in the bibliography at the end of the syllabus.

Lecture 1: What is Islam?
Ahmed, What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic, p. 117-167.
Primary source: Farabi, Kitab’al-milla, in The Political Writings, p. 85-86.

Lecture 2: Islamic Origins
Robinson, “Reconstructing Early Islam: Truth and Consequences,” in
Herbert, Method and Theory
Primary source: Ibn al-Kalbî, “From the Book of Idols,” in McNeil, The Islamic World,

Lecture 3: Muhammad
Watt, “Muhammad’s Prophetic Experience” in Bell’s Introduction to the Qur’an, p.17-39.
14-27.

Lecture 4: The Qur’an
Watt, “The Chronology of the Qur’an” in Bell’s Introduction to the Qur’an, p. 108-120.
Lecture 5: Hadith
-Primary sources: Selections of hadith reports.

Lecture 6: Islamic Rituals

Lecture 7: The Emergence of Islamic Law
Hallaq, “The Emergence of an Islamic Legal Ethic” in Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law, p. 29-56.
Rippin, “Legal Development” in Muslims Their religious beliefs and practices, p. 88-117.

Lecture 8: Legal Theory and Change
Primary source: Ibn Rushd The Distinguished Jurist’s Primer vol. 6, p. 571-572.

Lecture 9: Shi’ism
Halm, Shi‘ism, p. 1-18 and 28-44.
Lecture 10: Sufism
- Schimmel, Mystical Dimensions of Islam, p. 3-22; 62-77; 228-241.

Lecture 11: Early Doctrine
*Primary source*: the Fiqh al-akbar in A., J. Wensick, the Muslim Creed, p. 102-113.

Lecture 12: Kalam
*Primary source*: some passages from Ghazali, The Incoherence of the Philosophers.

Lecture 13: Falsafa
D’Ancona, "Greek Sources in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy", The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (Spring 2016 Edition).
*Primary source*: some passages from, Ibn Rushd, The Decisive Treatise.

Lecture 14: Islamic Art and Architecture
Film projection in class: Qusaír-‘Amra : a structural manifesto (DVD 5310)
Hillenbrand, Islamic Architecture: Form, function and meaning, p. 31-64.
Lecture 15: Islamic Reformism and Political Islam
Kurzman, Modernist Islam 1840-1940, p. 103-110 and 50-60.

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Dallal, “The Origins and Early Development of Islamic Reform,” in Hefner, Muslims and
Modernity: Culture and Society since 1800, p.107-47
Ayoubi, “the variety of Modern Islam” in Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the
Arab World,
p.38-52

Lecture 16: Gender in Muslim Societies
Pemberton “Gender” in Elias, Key Themes for the Study of Islam, p.141-160.
Stowasser, "Gender Issues in Contemporary Qur'an Interpretation," in Haddad,
Islam, Gender, and
Social Change, p. 30-44.
Middle East

Bibliography
Ahmed, Shahab, What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic, Princeton University
Ayoubi, Nazih, Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World, Routledge,
Bannā’ (1906-1949),
Beinin, Joel and Joe Stork (eds.), Essays from Middle East Report, Cambridge
Berkey, Jonathan P., The Formation of Islam. Religion and Society in the Near East,
600-1800,
Brown, Jonathan, Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press,
2011.
———, Hadith: Muhammad’s Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World, Oxford
University Press,
2009.Dammen McAuliffe, Jane (ed.), The Cambridge Companion to the Qur’an,


Lerner, Ralph, and Muhsin Mahdi (eds.), Medieval Political Philosophy: A Sourcebook, Cornell University Press, 1963


Neuwirth, Angelika, et al. (eds.) The Qur’an in Context: Historical and Literary Investigation into the
Qur’anic Milieu, Brill, 2011.
Reynolds Dwight F., et al. (eds.), Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition,
———, and J. Knappert, Textual Sources for the Study of Islam, University of Chicago Press,
Chicago, 1990.
Watt, Montgomery, Bell’s Introduction to the Qur’an, Edinburgh University Press, 1970.
PAPER B16 - LIFE AND THOUGHT OF RELIGIOUS HINDUISM AND OF BUDDHISM

Paper Coordinator:
Dr Ankur Barua

Supplementary Regulation
The paper will consider the origins and development up to contemporary times of the beliefs and practices of the Hindu and Buddhist traditions. It will deal with problems of interpretation relating to the formation and understanding of founding texts, and with relevant issues in such areas as gender studies and the functioning of elite and colonial influences. The Faculty Board may from time to time prescribe texts for special study.

Prescribed Texts
There are no prescribed texts for this paper.

Aims and Learning Outcomes
The principal aim of the study of these Indian traditions is to form a sensitive understanding, in terms of context and historical perspective, of their main beliefs and practices. The approach is thematic and phenomenological, though when occasion demands, anthropological, sociological and political comments will also be made. It is not only important to show what Hinduism and Buddhism mean in the lives of their adherents, but also that as religious traditions they cannot be understood in a vacuum.

Hinduism and Buddhism are among the oldest, and most varied and extensive religio-cultural traditions in the world. Though inter-related in the course of time, for much of their history they have developed in their most significant religious aspects independently of the Abrahamic and other non-Indian faiths. Thus they have sets of cultural and religious presuppositions with regard to understandings of the transcendent and the nature and goals of human existence and our universe that do not obviously correlate with the basic principles of the Abrahamic faiths. In this sense, Hindu and Buddhist understandings of the origins and goals of human nature, of human relationships and relationships with the universe in which we live, and of conceptions of the ultimate state and so on, are not only immensely rich and complex, but also quite distinctive. Studying them is a way of exploring part of the range of what it is to be human.

For this reason, a secondary aim of this course is to study creatively relevant parallels, analogies and differences with the Abrahamic faiths, another main focus of this Faculty.
Finally, by interrogating the material through teaching and supervision, it is an objective to make the student self-aware, and to appreciate the practical and human gains of engaging with the material with empathy but at a critical distance.

**Form and Conduct of Examination**

The examination will consist of a three-hour written paper. Candidates will be required to attempt four questions, including at least one on Hinduism and one on Buddhism, out of a choice of at least twelve.