

## BACHELOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### Main Language of Instruction:

French  English  Arabic

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

### OBJECTIVES

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In alignment with the guidelines of the Congregation for Catholic Education in its instruction “Reform of Higher Institutes of Religious Studies”, which distinguishes the pathway of religious studies from priestly formation by providing essential knowledge in theology, philosophy, and human sciences, this program aims to achieve a more specific purpose. It focuses on enhancing the religious education of laypeople and consecrated individuals, encouraging their active and informed participation in modern evangelization efforts. This includes fostering the engagement of the working world in Church’s life and promoting a Christian influence within society. Additionally, the program prepares candidates for various lay ministries and ecclesial roles, particularly training religion teachers for schools below the university level.

This program aims to:

- a. Train pastoral agents (schools, parishes, dioceses, congregations, etc.) and educators (children, youth, adults).
- b. Train coordinators and management personnel for pastoral work (schools, parishes, dioceses, congregations, etc.).
- c. Train researchers in theological and religious studies.

To address diverse needs and expectations, and leveraging the flexibility of the ECTS system, students can now pursue a Bachelor in Religious Studies with a choice of three major concentrations:

- a. Concentration “Theologica”
- b. Concentration “Catechetical Pastoral Agent”
- c. Concentration “Pastoral Agent”

Each concentration is structured to provide the specific skills required for graduates to fulfill their assigned responsibilities. A skill is defined as “the ability to effectively use an organized set of knowledge, abilities, and attitudes to perform a set of tasks” (Marc Romainville, 2012).

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

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Below are the shared skills for the Bachelor in Religious Studies degrees, along with the specific skills for each concentration.


#### Shared Skills:

- S.1. Define the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith.
- S.2. Adopt a critical and responsible stance in the interpretation of matters of faith and life.
- S.3. Update the basis of Christian faith in various pastoral sectors, including teaching, worship, personal, and communal life.
- S.4. Construct a transmissible theological production within the field of religious studies, utilizing both speculative/intellectual and operational tools effectively.

#### Skills for Theologica program:

- ST.5. Access theological sources within different ecclesial traditions.
- ST.6. Articulate a theological argument by identifying rationally acknowledged truths along with their underlying conceptual and philosophical foundations.

#### Skills for Catechetical Pastoral Agent program:

- SK. 5. Support the complex process of faith maturation and Christian life.
  - SK. 6. Proclaim the Christian faith to various recipients, considering their respective ecclesial and social contexts.
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Skills for Pastoral Agent program:

- SP. 5. Situate pastoral practice within the complex reality of the Church in the world.
- SP. 6. Lead a Christian community, considering its ecclesial and social context.
- SP. 7. Promote holistic personal and professional development within an integration framework.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

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**180 credits: Required courses (145 credits), Institution's elective courses (35 credits) USJ General Education Program (37 credits among the required).**

### **USJ General Education Program (37 Cr.)**

#### **English (Exemption) (4 Cr.)**

- Biblical Greek Language (2 Cr.)
- Biblical Hebrew Language (2 Cr.)

#### **Arabic (Exemption) (6 Cr.)**

- Introduction to the Old Testament (3 Cr.)
- Introduction to the New Testament (3 Cr.)

#### **Humanities (9 Cr.)**

- Foundational Ethics (3 Cr.)
- Faith and Reason (3 Cr.)
- Social Teaching of the Church (3 Cr.)

#### **Social Sciences (6 Cr.)**

- Introduction to Religious Sociology (3 Cr.)
- Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics (3 Cr.)

#### **Communication Techniques (6 Cr.)**

- Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies (1 and 2) (3 Cr.)
- Methodology (Analytical Research and Communication): Engaging with the Text (3 Cr.)

#### **Quantitative Research Techniques (6 Cr.)**

- Methods of Approaching Social Reality (3 Cr.)
- Applied Statistics in Religious Studies (3 Cr.)

### **Fundamental Courses**

#### **Required Courses (145 Cr.)**

Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Research Methodology: Engaging with Text (3 Cr.). Christian Mystery (3 Cr.). The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution (3 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities (3 Cr.). John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse (3 Cr.). Introduction to the Old Testament (3 Cr.). Introduction to the New Testament (3 Cr.). Spiritual Growth (3 Cr.). Introduction to Patristics (3 Cr.). Theological Ethics (3 Cr.). Spiritual Experience and Psychology (3 Cr.). The Books of the Law (Pentateuch) (3 Cr.). Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question (3 Cr.). Christian Anthropology (3 Cr.). Foundational Theology (3 Cr.). Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics (3 Cr.). The Prophets (3 Cr.). Epistemology (3 Cr.). Church History in the First Millennium (3 Cr.). Liturgical Theology (3 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission (3 Cr.). Mary in the Mystery of Salvation (3 Cr.). Luke – Acts of the Apostles (3 Cr.). Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives (3 Cr.). Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am? (3 Cr.). Introduction to Islamic Doctrine (3 Cr.). Patristics: Theme (3 Cr.). Sexuality and Christian Life (3 Cr.). Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (3 Cr.). Religious Sociology (3 Cr.). Mystery of the Trinity and Pneumatology (3 Cr.). Introduction to Canon Law (3 Cr.). Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances (3 Cr.). Introduction to Judaism (3 Cr.). Saint Paul (3 Cr.). Church and Ecumenism and the Middle East (3 Cr.). Christian Heritage in the Arab East (3 Cr.). Faith and Reason (3 Cr.). Foundational Ethics (3 Cr.). Anthropology of Religions (3 Cr.). Methods of Approaching Social Reality (3 Cr.). Social Teaching of the Church (3 Cr.). Applied Statistics in Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Biblical Greek (2 Cr.). Biblical Hebrew (2 Cr.). Portfolio (9 Cr.).

#### **Institution's Elective Courses (77 credits offered, of which 35 credits must be selected)**

Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (3 Cr.). Psalms and Wisdom Literature (3 Cr.). Psalms and Wisdom Literature (3 Cr.). Reading Biblical texts (3 Cr.). Reading Theological Texts - Christology (3 Cr.) / Trinity-Pneumatology (3 Cr.). History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the West) (3 Cr.). History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the

East) (3 Cr.). Patristics: Period / Author / School (3 Cr.). Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.). Ancient Philosophy and Metaphysics (3 Cr.). Philosophy: Reading of Texts / Author (3 Cr.). Syriac 1 (2 Cr.). Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality (3 Cr.). Spiritual Discernment (3 Cr.). The Quran (2 Cr.). Druze Doctrine (3 Cr.). Protestantism (3 Cr.). Ignatian Spirituality (3 Cr.). Popular Religiosity (3 Cr.). Cults and New Religious Movements (3 Cr.). Aesthetic Theology: Art in Service of the Mission (3 Cr.). Training in Christian-Muslim Dialogue (3 Cr.). Various Sessions and Workshops.

## SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

### Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MYCHL1	Christian Mystery	3
018ETHFL1	Foundational Ethics	3
018EMPIL1	The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution	3
018EEOIL5	Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities	3
018JEEAL3	John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse	3
018INATIL1	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
018INNOL2	Introduction to the New Testament	3
018CROIL2	Spiritual Growth	3
018MRSRL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies (1 & 2)	3
	Institution's elective courses	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
018FOIRL2	Faith and Reason	3
018PATRL3	Introduction to Patristics	3
018ETTHL2	Theological Ethics	3
018EXPSL1	Spiritual Experience and Psychology	3
018PENTL2	The Books of the Law (Pentateuch)	3
018LEVSL2	Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question	3
018ANTCL2	Christian Anthropology	3
018MFATL2	Methodology: Engaging with the Text	3
	Institution's elective courses	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
018TEOFL1	Foundational Theology	3
018TCACL2	Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics	3
018PROPL4	The Prophets	3
018EPSTL4	Epistemology	3
018HISTL1	Church History in the First Millennium	3
018THLIL2	Liturgical Theology	3

018MARSL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3
018EGORL3	Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission	3
018SASRL3	Applied Statistics in Religious Sciences	3
	Institution's elective courses	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MARIL4	Mary in the Mystery of Salvation	3
018ESDEL4	Social Teaching of the Church	3
017BIIAL1	A Summary of Islamic Doctrine (IEIC)	3
018LUACL6	Luke – Acts of the Apostles	3
018THPRL3	Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives	3
018CHRIL5	Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am?	3
018PHMML5	Medieval and Modern Philosophy	3
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew	2
	Institution's elective courses	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Semester 5

Code	Course Name	Credits
018ANREL4	Anthropology of Religions	3
018PATTL3	Patristics: Theme	3
018SEVCL3	Sexuality and Christian Life	3
018PCOAL2	Christian Heritage in the Arab East	3
018SBCEL5	Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist	3
018SOREL2	Religious Sociology	3
018MYTPL3	Mystery of the Trinity and Pneumatology	3
045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek	2
	Institution's elective courses	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Semester 6

Code	Course Name	Credits
018INDRL4	Introduction to Canon Law	3
018ETCHL4	Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances	3
018INJUL7	Introduction to Judaism	3
018STPAL6	Saint Paul	3
018MIOEL6	Churches and Ecumenism and Middle East	3
018PRTFL6	Portfolio	9
	Institution's elective courses	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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<b>018MYCHL1</b>	<b>Christian Mystery</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith. Starting with the Creed, it examines the Christian faith through its Trinitarian structure—faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as well as secondary truths of faith, linking them to each person of the Trinity, highlighting their significance in Christian belief. The course defines faith and theology, leading into an exploration of the Trinity’s three persons. It also explores the implications of these truths across ethical, ecological, and human rights dimensions.

<b>018ETHFL1</b>	<b>Foundational Ethics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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In a world where values and norms are fragmented and subjective, this course addresses fundamental questions: What makes an act truly humanizing for oneself and others? How does one lead a good, responsible, and fulfilling life amidst diverse convictions?

<b>018EMPIL1</b>	<b>The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course lays the groundwork for understanding the Church as “Mystery, People, and Institution,” as articulated by Vatican II’s “*Lumen Gentium*” and the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs’ pastoral letter, “*The Mystery of the Church*.” It serves as a prerequisite for modules such as Liturgical Theology, Sacraments of Initiation, Eastern Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East.

<b>018EOOIL5</b>	<b>Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the richness and diversity of Eastern Churches, examining their historical, cultural, and ecclesiological development. It also studies the role of these Churches in the Near East concerning Church unity and their contributions to societal development.

<b>018JEEAL3</b>	<b>John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces the Johannine Corpus, focusing particularly on the Fourth Gospel. It examines the texts themselves and the various contexts of their composition. To approach these testimonies of faith, passages are situated within their historical context and analyzed using narrative and rhetorical strategies employed by the authors of this literary collection, both communal and personal.

<b>018INATIL1</b>	<b>Introduction to the Old Testament</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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In a world overwhelmed with new and conflicting information, where science progresses rapidly, does “the Old Testament” still hold relevance? Furthermore, what value does understanding “the Old Testament” hold for Christians when the “New Testament” provides sufficient foundations for faith?

<b>018INNOL2</b>	<b>Introduction to the New Testament</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course serves as an introduction to the New Testament, covering its historical, religious, political, and social contexts in which the texts were written. It explores the formation of the NT Canon, the epistolary literature, the Gospels (their authors, structure, theology, and the stages of the formation of the current text), the Apocalypse, and concludes with an overview of the New Testament Apocrypha.

<b>018CROIL2</b>	<b>Spiritual Growth</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course guides students through the various stages of spiritual life, helping them assess their relationship with God and progress towards a deeper, more conscious adult faith.

<b>018MRSRL1</b>	<b>Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Methodology in academic work is the approach taken to achieve its objectives. By putting it into practice, students will demonstrate their ability to evaluate essential information for their research, articulate their opinions clearly, and propose relevant suggestions. The goal is to convince readers by presenting strong arguments and providing concrete evidence. Integration of knowledge, discernment, analysis, critique, and creativity without improvisation

relies on established principles and rules. In this course, students will enhance their academic skills by analyzing theological texts, identifying key terms, formulating relevant issues, developing logical plans, and writing coherent paragraphs, among others.

**018FOIRL2 Faith and Reason 3 Cr.**

This course examines the relationship between faith and reason, which is highly relevant in our postmodern world, where faith oscillates between traditionalism, agnosticism, and atheism. It addresses the question of how can we “give reasons for the hope that is in [us]” (1 Peter 3:15) today amidst skepticism about the truth of faith in Jesus Christ. Understanding the historical evolution of this question both philosophically and theologically is crucial to addressing its current state.

**018PATRL3 Introduction to Patristics 3 Cr.**

“Back to the sources.” This motto encapsulates the essence of this course, which introduces the thought and theology of the Church Fathers from the Apostolic age to the fourth century. This lecture course focuses on major Patristic figures, supported by textual analysis.

**018ETTHL2 Theological Ethics 3 Cr.**

The foundational ethical formation of a Christian involves exploring human action from both a rational and faith-based perspective. Building on the prerequisite course “Fundamental Ethics,” this course delves into questions that occupy human conscience in relation to others and God. It examines how the believing community in God through Jesus Christ defines good and evil, articulates values, and enlivens principles and laws to foster discernment and enact the most humanizing actions possible.

**018EXPSL1 Spiritual Experience and Psychology 3 Cr.**

This course examines psychological transformations resulting from individuals’ relationships with themselves and others. It explores how contemporary subjects construct their religious identity in an era where personal journeys are indispensable.

**018PENTL2 The Books of the Law (Pentateuch) 3 Cr.**

This course addresses the following questions : Why do the first five books of the Bible hold specific importance compared to other biblical texts ? How does this corpus, known narrowly as the Pentateuch and broadly as the revelation of the Old Testament as a whole, contain the essence of revelation? What is unique about the Pentateuch, which goes beyond being a civil and religious code to become a narrative that offers profound insights?

**018LEVSL2 Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question 3 Cr.**

This course addresses the following questions : The three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke share a similar narrative that allows for comparison, hence they are termed the “Synoptic Gospels.” What does this comparative perspective reveal? What questions arise from the divergences and similarities observed in these Gospels? How can we approach each testimony of faith in the Risen Christ, rooted in the life of Jesus of Nazareth? This course introduces the concepts of Gospel and synoptic fact, reflecting on the composition of Matthew and Mark’s Gospels, highlighting their unique characteristics and commonalities. It emphasizes Christology in each Gospel, drawing on contemporary historical and literary research (narratology). Selected texts will undergo detailed study to initiate students into historical-critical exegesis and narrative analysis methods.

**018ANTCL2 Christian Anthropology 3 Cr.**

While theology primarily concerns itself with God, it also encompasses the study of humanity. In this course, students will explore human beings in light of Sacred Scriptures, created in the image and likeness of God. They will compare the Trinitarian creation narrative with creation myths from other religions to discern insights into the image of God and the concept of humanity. Additionally, the biblical understanding of the human person will also be compared with Greek philosophical perspectives, exploring the significance and role of the human body in salvation and resurrection.



<b>018MFATL2</b>	<b>Methodology: Engaging with the Text</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Engaging with the Text: Analytical Research and Written Communication.

This course aims to equip students with essential analytical research skills necessary for all academic work throughout their university journey.

<b>018TEOFL1</b>	<b>Foundational Theology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course addresses the following themes: Foundational theology delves into the reasons behind the Christian faith, guided by the exhortation in Peter's epistle: "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). The document *Dei Verbum* calls for a reform and renewal of theological discourse, advocating for dialogue before imposition or condemnation. Post-conciliar, foundational theology has sought to establish its identity by avoiding thematic dispersion while addressing contemporary human concerns in the 21<sup>st</sup> century regarding revelation as credible and faith as reasonable.

<b>018TCACL2</b>	<b>Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to help students discern theological reflection and catechetical practice, effectively bridging these two ministries of the Word. It explores catechesis in its dimensions of foundational theology, historical development highlighting stable and changing forms, and practical theology adapted to specific contexts.

<b>018PROPL4</b>	<b>The Prophets</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the richness and complexity of prophetic literature. It first reflects on the origins and environments of the pre-exilic prophetic movement in the Old Testament. What roles did the prophets play? How did they engage with major historical events of their times and with societal issues? When and how were their writings compiled into a cohesive collection? In a second phase, the course examines the exilic and post-exilic prophets, focusing on themes such as covenant, the day of the Lord, and Messianic expectations.

<b>018EPSTL4</b>	<b>Epistemology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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In the English-speaking world, epistemology is the branch of philosophy that examines knowledge (gnoseology), while in the French-speaking world, it studies the nature and value of principles, concepts, methods, and results in the sciences. Both perspectives are legitimate and reconcilable. Initially, the course covers key concepts (science, scientific method, experience, objectivity, etc.) and major figures in epistemology (Vienna Circle, Hempel, Popper, Russell, etc.). Later, it delves into theological questions: Is theology a science? What constitutes a theological act? What language should theology adopt? What is the relationship between theology and the *Magisterium*?

<b>018HISTL1</b>	<b>History of the Church in the First Millennium</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course identifies major historical dynamics in the first millennium of Church history: ecclesial structuring, the Church-confessing/Christendom dialectic, doctrinal development, liturgical and spiritual expression, evangelization efforts, unity and diversity among major Church families, and Church-State relations.

<b>018THLIL2</b>	<b>Liturgical Theology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course establishes theological foundations for subsequent courses in ecclesiology, liturgy, and sacraments within the academic context. Additionally, it serves a pastoral purpose by guiding the respectful and theologically grounded planning and execution of various faith celebrations.

<b>018MARSL3</b>	<b>Methods of Approaching Social Reality</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores various methods of approaching social reality. Sociology is considered from a theological perspective, enabling pastoral agents to transition from an applied science to a "praxistic" science. Students will utilize different data collection tools, develop theological outputs (in religious sciences), and effectively employ speculative/intellectual and operational tools. The course also focuses on situating pastoral practices within the complex reality of the Church in the world and animating Christian communities while considering their ecclesial and social contexts.

<b>018EGORL3</b>	<b>Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Now more than ever, Christians are called to find meaning in their presence in the Middle East. This quest for meaning is intrinsically linked to the vocation and mission of the Eastern Churches to which they belong. This course introduces students to this quest by examining:

- The original history of Eastern Churches and their encounters with Muslims, with the West, and with the Church of Rome.
- The wounds of divisions and wars that have weakened or hindered their common mission over centuries.
- The current challenges and issues faced in their mission in the Middle East today.

<b>018SASRL3</b>	<b>Applied Statistics in Religious Sciences</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course familiarizes students with designing and organizing quantitative surveys using questionnaires, as well as analyzing and interpreting results using SPSS software.

<b>018MARIL4</b>	<b>Mary in the Mystery of Salvation</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to explore the role of the Virgin Mary in the Mystery of Salvation based on Scriptures, the teachings of the Fathers, the doctrine of the Church, the teachings of Vatican II, as well as the status of the Virgin Mary in Orthodox and Protestant theology.

<b>018ESDEL4</b>	<b>Social Teaching of the Church</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the foundational beliefs of Christianity, particularly the revelation of the Son of God made man, which confirms the theological foundation of the Church's social teaching. It examines how the Incarnation and Resurrection affirm the dignity of every human person in their uniqueness within all social realities. The course also addresses the dual aspects of being Church : the realization of the community of believers (intra-ecclesial movement) and the mission of this community (individually and collectively) within the world (the Church going forth into the world, extra-ecclesial movement). Finally, it emphasizes the principal vector of promoting integral humanism grounded in a dual anthropological and soteriological vision.

<b>018LUACL6</b>	<b>Luke – Acts of the Apostles</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores Luke's two-volume work, presenting the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles as a unified literary and theological movement. It examines the overall organization of each book and their connections. Specific texts will be studied to initiate students into the practices of historical-critical exegesis and narrative analysis.

<b>018THPRL3</b>	<b>Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces students to approaching pastoral reality using methods specific to practical theology. It explores the foundational theological currents, methodological elements of practical theology, and cultural context.

<b>018CHRISL5</b>	<b>Christology: Who Do You Say that I Am?</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the Church's understanding of the person of Jesus is the cornerstone of its entire belief system, worship, and way of life. Everything that matters depends on who Jesus Christ was. Therefore, for Christians, understanding and confessing Jesus correctly is not just a mark of ecclesiastical orthodoxy; it is the basis and foundation of their salvation. They believe that being mistaken about Jesus' identity risks jeopardizing his mission and their relationship with God. Historical theologies that interpret Christological debates merely as issues of power politics, Machiavellian intrigue, or party spirit risk missing the essence of the Christian faith entirely.

<b>018ANREL4</b>	<b>Anthropology of Religions</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the significant gap between religious anthropology, which explicates the perspective of a specific religion on humanity, its origins, and the purpose of life, and the anthropology of religions, whether in terms of object or methodology. This course offers a human perspective directed towards God and religion as objects of study. It primarily focuses on the study of rituals, their functions, and symbolism, the distinction



between sacred and profane, and the role of sacrifices and their crucial function in religious life. It also discusses the human thirst for eternal life and the rejection of death, which forms the basis of all anthropological reflection.

**018PATTL3      Patristics – Theme: Deification      3 Cr.**

This course addresses the question, «Who is man?»—undoubtedly one of the most pressing inquiries of our time. Christian anthropology finds the foundation of its response in “created in the image.” However, interpretations of this notion vary. The divinization of man emerges as the ultimate expression of this concept. This course aims to examine the term “theosis” (becoming God) in the thought of the Church Fathers. Is it truly a Christian doctrine? From which sources does it emanate? Is it solely a theological development of Eastern Christianity? What equivalent exists in Western Christianity? To deepen our research, we will primarily draw upon the texts of the Fathers and contemporary studies through presentations, pre-reading activities, and training exercises.

**018SEVCL3      Sexuality and Christian Life      3 Cr.**

This course addresses the realm of sexuality, as Ruiz RETEGUI writes, touches upon the diverse layers or aspects that constitute the human person, whether male or female, inscribed in their entire being. But more than a mere form of existence, sexuality is the human dimension through which individuals are capable of reciprocally giving themselves to another. This course, with a dual perspective from anthropology and theology, explores the various biological, physical, historical, and spiritual aspects of human sexuality. It particularly considers the diverse current interpretations due to advancements in scientific knowledge and sociocultural changes.

**018PCOAL2      Christian Heritage in the Arab East      3 Cr.**

This course provides an exploratory view of Christian Arabic literature across different periods and theological issues. It aims to familiarize students with this Christian literature and engage with the University’s research center, CEDRAC.

**018SBCEL5      Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist      3 Cr.**

This course introduces students to sacramental theology through the theological category of sacramentality: of Christ, of the Church, of the sacraments. The ultimate goal is to grasp the meaning of “life in Christ” for every baptized person. Opening up to this dimension of ecclesial life leads to more vibrant and meaningful pastoral practices.

**018SOREL2      Religious Sociology      3 Cr.**

What is the relationship between religion and society? How does sociology enable us to understand and analyze the political, economic, and cultural dynamics between these two entities? These questions are explored through various thematic studies, approached specifically or cross-sectionally across religions. This course provides theoretical and empirical knowledge essential for understanding the social and ecclesial structures of beliefs and religious phenomena. It is structured into three main parts: the theoretical section covers classical sociological authors (Comte, Marx, Tocqueville, Weber, Durkheim) and contemporary approaches (Hervieu-Léger, Berger, etc.); the empirical section introduces students to sociological analysis of institutions, beliefs, and practices of believers; the third part bridges sociology and pastoral theology. By the end of the course, students are encouraged to use sociological concepts and methods alongside theological insights to “discern the signs of the times” scientifically and interpret them theologically for innovative pastoral responses that meet the needs of God’s people.

**018MYTPL3      Mystery of the Trinity and Pneumatology      3 Cr.**

This course examines the challenge faced by early Christians in conceptually reconciling their belief in one God (monotheism) with their experience of the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit, each acting individually in their lives. It explores how, while believing in one God, they also recognized that the Father is God, Jesus the Son is God, and the Spirit is God—distinctly. The course highlights their efforts to reconcile unity and plurality in God, which is not merely a mathematical puzzle or a metaphysical conundrum of how three can be one and remain three. Instead, it delves into how they sought to account for the three distinct ways in which one God is felt as present and active in their lives and in the history of salvation: this God, who is Father, Son, and Spirit, creates, saves, and sanctifies humans, not merely as three different, successive roles in which God acts in history, but as three truly distinct personal “entities.”

<b>018INDRL4</b>	<b>Introduction to Canon Law</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the utility of canon law within the Church, addressing the questions raised by some theologians, jurists, and ecclesial communities. This course aims to highlight the role of this crucial discipline in the life of the Church.

<b>018ETCHL4</b>	<b>Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Technological and scientific advancements in biological and medical fields present humanity with a multitude of questions concerning its perception of existence and the world, as well as inquiries into the meaning of life, health, dignity, suffering, and more. Positioned within a Christian faith perspective, this course addresses a series of ethical questions arising from these developments and aims to educate personal conscience for responsible decision-making.

<b>018INJUL7</b>	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines Judaism as one of the three monotheistic religions alongside Christianity and Islam. It addresses the complexities surrounding Jewish identity, which often evokes either repulsion or admiration and frequently stirs apprehensions and prejudices. No one remains neutral toward Jews and Judaism. Yet, there exists a particular link between the Jewish people and Christianity. Islam, on its part, also references Judaism. Understanding and appreciating Jews and Judaism through study is not merely a recommendation today but a necessity in a Middle East fraught with misunderstandings and politico-religious tensions.

<b>018STPAL6</b>	<b>Saint Paul</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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For Saint Paul, discovering salvation in Jesus Christ is inseparable from the mission to the nations and the establishment of communities living by the Gospel. Through selected Pauline letters, the course examines how the apostle pragmatically addresses the growth issues of communities, guided centrally by the message of the Cross.

<b>018MIOEL6</b>	<b>Church and Ecumenism in the Middle East</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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The situation of Christians in the Middle East is a global concern today. However, the stability of their presence primarily depends on the unity of their particular Churches. This course analyzes this situation, the historical context of ecclesial divisions, the ecclesiological principles of unity, and the perspectives that give meaning to the presence and mission of the “Church, one in diversity” in the Middle East today.

<b>045LLPAL1</b>	<b>Biblical Hebrew</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the relevance of learning grammar in an era where digital texts are automatically corrected, specifically focusing on the ancient language of Hebrew. Despite advancements, Hebrew remains a fascinating language to study in itself, whether for appreciating its uniqueness and characteristics or for the purpose of reading and understanding biblical texts. It belongs to the Semitic language group, offering not just common vocabulary but also parallel linguistic structures.

<b>045LAGIL2</b>	<b>Biblical Greek</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to provide sufficient knowledge of the NT Greek (Koine) to read and translate biblical or philosophical texts. Course 1 serves as an introduction, covering essential concepts necessary for learning the language and understanding simple sentences.

<b>018PRTFL6</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>9 Cr.</b>
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The portfolio serves as an assessment modality for evaluating the student’s progression in relation to their practice, while also establishing connections between practice and theory. It is a validation or certification portfolio divided into four parts :

1. The first part presents all the knowledge students have accumulated over the years and their motivations for pursuing this training.
2. The second part describes the continuation and regulation of their training.

3. In the third part, students assess their training, highlighting their theological achievements and their relationship to theological education.
4. Finally, after presenting the written portfolio, students also defend it before a jury for validation.

#### **Optional Units (Institution's elective courses):**

- Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (3 Cr.)
- Psalms and Wisdom Literature (3 Cr.)
- Reading Biblical Texts (3 Cr.)
- Reading of Theological Texts - Christology (3 Cr.) / Trinity-Pneumatology (3 Cr.)
- History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the West) (3 Cr.)
- History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the East) (3 Cr.)
- Patristics: Period / Author / School (3 Cr.)
- Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.)
- Ancient Philosophy and Metaphysics (3 Cr.)
- Philosophy: Reading of Texts / Author (3 Cr.)
- Syriac 1 (2 Cr.)
- Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality (3 Cr.)
- Spiritual Discernment (3 Cr.)
- The Quran (2 Cr.)
- Druze Doctrine (3 Cr.)
- Protestantism (3 Cr.)
- Miscellaneous Sessions

#### **Here are the descriptions of the Institution's elective courses:**

<b>018LHECL4</b>	<b>Hebrews and Catholic Epistles</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course explores the Epistle to the Hebrews, which, despite its difficulty, holds great importance for Christian faith and life. It sets the tone with its eloquent opening and key interpretations. Despite controversial questions about its presentation, the richness of the text invites deeper exploration of Christological themes and the dynamics of Christian existence between the old and new covenant. Additionally, the course examines the Catholic Epistles, which, as circular letters, reflect the fertility of Christian theological reflection through changing circumstances and new situations in the early Churches.</p>		
<b>018PSESL6</b>	<b>Psalms and Wisdom Literature</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course explores the quest for wisdom as a means to discover the true face of God and understand the true nature of humanity. It examines how faith is embodied in theological reality, while wisdom emerges predominantly from existential experience. Both concepts are closely connected, as revealed in the poetic and sapiential writings of the Bible, aiming to address various issues related to human existence.</p>		
<b>018LTBIL2</b>	<b>Reading Biblical Texts</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This workshop aims to initiate the exegetical analysis of selected biblical texts, focusing on gaining greater familiarity with the Word of God as intended by the inspired author, and interpreting it within the framework of personal, social, and apostolic life.</p>		
<b>018LTCL2</b>	<b>Reading Theological Texts – Christology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course focuses on reading major theological texts to understand the genesis of significant theological questions, rediscover the vitality of beginnings, and facilitate theological interpretation, especially in Christology.</p>		
<b>018H2MOL5</b>	<b>History of the Church in the second Millennium (in the West)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course identifies the major historical dynamics at work in the history of the Western Church during the second millennium, including the emergence of medieval Christianity, the new theological paths, the crisis at the end of the Middle Ages, the dialectic of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, spiritual currents, and the encounter with modernity.</p>		

<b>018HIS2L2</b>	<b>History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the East)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to pinpoint the historical turning points in the history of the Church in the East during the second millennium. It focuses on major historical events, ecclesiastical figures, councils, the delicate relationship between state and Church, ecclesiology between East and West, and the recent development of ecumenism.

Here are the descriptions of the remaining Institution's elective courses :

<b>018PAT3L5</b>	<b>Patristics – Author: Origen and Origenism</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Origen, born to a martyr in Alexandria around 185, became a master of biblical scholarship. This course aims to explore this influential ecclesiastical author whose literature has shaped both Eastern and Western Christianity. It also examines Origenism, the theological concepts associated with Origen that sparked significant controversies in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.

<b>018SYRIL7</b>	<b>Syriac 1</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This introductory course teaches students the Syriac alphabet and provides essential morphological tools for reading Syriac texts. It introduces students to the linguistic system of Syriac, scriptural writings, and study tools (such as Louis Costaz's dictionary and grammars), aiming to enable reliable engagement with biblical and/or theological sources in their original language.

<b>018THSEL6</b>	<b>Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces students to spiritual theology, focusing on the Christian spiritual life as life in the Holy Spirit and its evolution towards union with God. It explores the relationship and distinctions between spiritual life and spiritualities, as well as major Christian schools of spirituality.

<b>018DISCL1</b>	<b>Spiritual Discernment</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to equip students with the capacity for discernment in decision-making, both in personal life and pastoral activities.

<b>018CORAL2</b>	<b>The Quran</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
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This course covers:

1. The history of the compilation of the Quran.
2. The internal organization of the Quran.
3. The detailed study of major surahs (chapters).
4. The objective analysis of the Quran.
5. The distinction between Meccan and Medinan surahs.
6. The identification of major themes in the Quran.

<b>018PROTL1</b>	<b>Protestantism</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the origins and evolution of Protestantism through different historical periods. It examines the socio-political and religious context pre-Reformation, the figure of Martin Luther, and various reform movements of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Fundamental principles of the Reformation (*sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura*) will be studied, along with the organization of Protestant communities and worship practices such as baptism and the Lord's Supper. Additionally, contemporary aspects including the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification will be explored, highlighting ecumenical efforts and challenges in modern Protestantism.