

BACHELOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES - THEOLOGICA

Main Language of Instruction:

French ☒ English ☐ Arabic ☒

The content of the courses in the French and Arabic sections is identical, with one notable difference in the codes assigned to the courses.

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

In line 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 foundational training in theology, philosophy, and the human sciences, this program aims to achieve a more specific purpose. It strengthens the religious education of lay and consecrated persons, and encourages their active and informed participation in modern evangelization. It also fosters engagement between the working world and the life of the Church, while promoting a Christian presence within society. Additionally, the program prepares candidates for various lay ministries and ecclesial roles, particularly the training of religion teachers for pre-university education.

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 theology and religious studies.

To address diverse needs and expectations, and benefit from the flexibility of the ECTS system, students may pursue a Bachelor in Religious Studies with one of three tracks:

- a. Theologica
- b. Catechetical Agent
- c. Pastoral Agent

Each concentration is structured to provide the specific skills required for professional practice. A skill is defined as “the ability to mobilize an integrated set of knowledge, abilities, and attitudes to perform a set of tasks” (Marc Romainville, 2012).

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

Below are the shared skills for the Bachelor in Religious Studies, followed by the specific skills for each track.

Shared Skills:

- S.1. Define the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith.
- S.2. Adopt a critical and responsible approach to questions of faith and life.
- S.3. Apply the foundations of the Christian faith in various pastoral contexts, including teaching, worship, and personal and communal life.
- S.4. Produce and communicate theological work in the field of religious studies, using appropriate conceptual and practical tools.

Skills for the Theologica program:

- ST.5. Access theological sources from different ecclesial traditions.
- ST.6. Develop a theological argument by identifying recognized truths and their underlying conceptual and philosophical foundations.

Skills for the Catechetical Agent program:

- SK. 5. Support the complex process of faith formation and Christian living.
- SK. 6. Proclaim the Christian faith to various recipients, considering their respective ecclesial and social contexts.

Skills for the 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. Foster integral personal and professional development.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

180 credits: Required courses (145 credits), Institution's elective courses (29 credits), open elective courses (6 credits) and USJ General Education Program (33 credits - may be part of the above categories).

Fundamental Courses (174 Cr.)

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 (3 Cr.). Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives (3 Cr.). Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am? (3 Cr.). Introduction to Muslim Dogma (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.). Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East (3 Cr.). Christian Arab Heritage (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 Language 1 (2 Cr.). Biblical Hebrew Language 1 (2 Cr.). Portfolio (9 Cr.). USJ Values in Daily Life (2 Cr.).

Institution's Elective Courses (29 Cr.), to be chosen from the list below:

Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (3 Cr.). Psalms and Wisdom Literature (3 Cr.). Reading Biblical Texts (3 Cr.). Reading Theological Texts - Christology (3 Cr.). Reading Theological Texts - 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 – Author: Origen and Origenism (3 Cr.). Trends in Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.). School of Ancient Philosophy (3 Cr.). Philosophical Text Analysis (3 Cr.). Syriac Language 1 (2 Cr.). Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality (3 Cr.). Spiritual Discernment (3 Cr.). The Quran (2 Cr.). Protestantism (3 Cr.). Ignatian Spirituality (3 Cr.). Popular Religiosity (3 Cr.). Sects and New Religious Movements (3 Cr.).

Open Elective Courses (6 Cr.)

USJ General Education Program (33 Cr.)

Code	Course Name	Credits
	ENGLISH OR OTHER LANGUAGE	4
045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek Language 1	2
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew Language 1	2
	ARABIC	3
018PCOAL2	<i>Arabic Language and Culture</i> Christian Arab Heritage	3 3
	HUMANITIES	11
064VLEL1	USJ Values in Daily Life	2

018ETHFL1	<i>Ethics</i> Foundational Ethics	3 3
018ESDEL4	<i>Civic Engagement and Citizenship</i> Social Teaching of the Church	3 3
	SOCIAL SCIENCES	6
018TCACL2	<i>Professional Integration and/or Entrepreneurship</i> Theology, Catechesis and Catechetics	3 3
	<i>Other Social Sciences Course</i>	3
018SOREL2	Religious Sociology	3
	QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES	6
018MARSL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3
018SASRL3	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3
	COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES	6
018MRSRL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3
018MFATL2	Research Methodology: Engaging with Text	3

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
018EOOIL5	Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities	3
018JEEAL3	John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse	3
018INAT1	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	3
	Open Elective Course	3
	Total	30

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
018DAWIL2	Faith and Reason	3
018ABKAI1	Introduction to Church Fathers	3
018LAAKL3	Theological Ethics	3
018KRINL2	Spiritual Experience and Psychology	3
018KOCAL2	The Books of the Law (Torah)	3
018MMMIL3	Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question	3
018ANTML3	Christian Anthropology	3
018MRTHL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3
	Total	30

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
018LAASL1	Foundational Theology	3
018LTMTL5	Theology, Christian Education and Catechesis	3
018PROPL4	The Prophets	3
018EPIML3	Epistemology	3
018TAKAL1	Church History in the First Millennium	3
018LAHOL4	Liturgical Theology	3
018TMWIL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3
018KACHL2	Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission	3
018STATM2	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3
	Total	30

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MARIL5	Mary in the Sacrament of Salvation	3
018TKIJL3	Social Teaching of the Church	3
017BIIAL1	Introduction to Muslim Dogma	3
018LUACL3	Luke – Acts of the Apostles	3
018LAOTL4	Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives	3
018CRISL1	Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am?	3
045PMEDL2	Medieval and Modern Philosophy	3
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew	2
	Total	30

Semester 5

Code	Course Name	Credits
018ANREL4	Anthropology of Religions	3
018PATTL3	Patristics: Theme	3
018SEVCL3	Sexuality and Christian Life	3
018PCOAL2	Christian Arab Heritage	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 Language 1	2
	Institution's Elective Course	7
	Total	30

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 in the Middle East	3
018PRTFL6	Portfolio	9
	Institution's Elective Course	6
	Total	30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

018MYCHL1 Christian Mystery 3 Cr.

This course explores the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith through the study of the Creed. It examines the Trinitarian structure of Christian belief—faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—along with related doctrines, highlighting their significance and their relationship to each person of the Trinity. The course introduces the concepts of faith and theology before exploring the Mystery of the Trinity and its implications for Christian life, ethics, ecology, and human rights.

018ETHFL1 Foundational Ethics 3 Cr.

This course addresses fundamental ethical questions in a world marked by diverse and often competing values. It explores what makes an action truly humanizing for oneself and others, and how individuals can lead a good, responsible, and fulfilling life amid a plurality of convictions.

018EMPIL1 The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution 3 Cr.

This course introduces the Church as Mystery, people, and institution, drawing on the teachings of Vatican II's *Lumen Gentium* and the pastoral letter *The Mystery of the Church* issued by the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs. It provides the ecclesiological foundations required for further study in areas such as liturgical theology, the sacraments of initiation, the Eastern Churches, and ecumenism in the Middle East.

018EOOIL5 Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities 3 Cr.

This course explores the richness and diversity of Eastern Churches, examining their historical, cultural, and ecclesiological development. It also studies their role in the Near East, particularly in promoting Christian unity and contributing to the development of society.

018JEEAL3 John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse 3 Cr.

This course introduces the Johannine Corpus, focusing 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.

018INATI1 Introduction to the Old Testament 3 Cr.

This course examines the continuing relevance of the Old Testament in a rapidly changing world marked by scientific advances and diverse perspectives. It explores the significance of the Old Testament for Christian faith and seeks to understand its enduring theological, spiritual, and historical value in light of the New Testament.

018INNOL2 Introduction to the New Testament 3 Cr.

This course introduces 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.

018CROIL2	Spiritual Growth	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------------	--------------

This course guides students through the various stages of spiritual life, helping them assess their relationship with God and develop a mature and conscious Christian faith.

018MRSRL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

This course introduces the fundamentals of academic methodology and its application in scholarly work. It trains students to evaluate relevant sources, formulate clear arguments, and develop well-supported conclusions. Emphasis is placed on the integration of knowledge, discernment, analysis, critical thinking, and creativity within established academic conventions. Students will strengthen their research and writing skills through the study of theological texts, the identification of key concepts, the formulation of research questions, the construction of structured outlines, and the production of coherent academic writing.

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

This course examines the relationship between faith and reason, a key issue in a postmodern context marked by tensions between traditional belief, agnosticism, and atheism. It addresses the question of how to “give reasons for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15) today, in a context often marked by skepticism toward the truth of faith in Jesus Christ. The course also emphasizes the importance of understanding the historical development of this question, both philosophically and theologically, in order to engage its contemporary relevance.

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

This course introduces the thought and theology of the Church Fathers from the Apostolic Age to the fourth century, following the principle of “back to the sources.” It focuses on major Patristic figures through the study and analysis of selected texts.

018ETTHL2	Theological Ethics	3 Cr.
------------------	---------------------------	--------------

This course examines the foundational ethical formation of a Christian by exploring human action from both rational and faith-based perspectives. Building on the prerequisite course “Fundamental Ethics,” it addresses questions that shape human conscience in relation to others and to God. It explores how the community of believers in God through Jesus Christ understands good and evil, articulates values, and brings principles and laws to life in order to foster discernment and promote the most humanizing forms of action.

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

This course examines psychological transformations resulting from individuals’ relationships with themselves and with others. It explores how contemporary individuals 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, narrowly known 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 are studied in detail to initiate students into historical-critical exegesis and narrative analysis methods.

018ANTCL2	Christian Anthropology	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------------------	--------------

This course explores the theological study of the human person in light of Sacred Scripture, where humanity is created in the image and likeness of God. It examines the Trinitarian account of creation and compares it with creation narratives from other religious traditions in order to deepen understanding of the image of God and the concept of humanity. The course also contrasts the biblical vision of the human person with Greek philosophical perspectives, with particular attention to the significance of the body in salvation and resurrection.

018MFATL2	Research Methodology: Engaging with Text	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

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

018TEFOL1	Foundational Theology	3 Cr.
------------------	------------------------------	--------------

This course addresses foundational theology and the reasons underlying the Christian faith, guided by the exhortation from the First Letter of Peter: “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). It engages the call of Dei Verbum for renewal in theological discourse, emphasizing dialogue rather than imposition or condemnation. In the post-conciliar context, foundational theology seeks to clarify its identity while avoiding thematic dispersion, and to address contemporary questions in the 21st century regarding the credibility of revelation and the reasonableness of faith.

018TCACL2	Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

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 foundational theological dimensions, its historical development highlighting both stable and changing forms, and its practical theology adapted to specific contexts.

018PROPL4	The Prophets	3 Cr.
------------------	---------------------	--------------

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.

018EPSTL4	Epistemology	3 Cr.
------------------	---------------------	--------------

This course examines epistemology from both the English-speaking and French-speaking traditions. In the English-speaking world, epistemology is the branch of philosophy concerned with knowledge, while in the French-speaking world, it studies the nature and value of the principles, concepts, methods, and results of the sciences. Both perspectives are legitimate and complementary. The course introduces key concepts, including science, the scientific method, experience, and objectivity, as well as major figures in epistemology such as the Vienna Circle, Hempel, Popper, and Russell. It also addresses 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*?

018HISTL1	Church History in the First Millennium	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

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.

018THLIL2	Liturgical Theology	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------	--------------

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.

018MARS3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3 Cr.
-----------------	--	--------------

This course explores various methods of approaching social reality. Sociology is considered from a theological prospective, 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 studies), 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.

018EGOR3	Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission	3 Cr.
-----------------	---	--------------

This course addresses the question of Christian presence in the Middle East today and the search for meaning that is closely linked to the vocation and mission of the Eastern Churches. It covers the following:

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

018SASRL3	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course familiarizes students with designing and organizing quantitative surveys using questionnaires, as well as analyzing and interpreting results using SPSS software.

018MARIL4	Mary in the Mystery of Salvation	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

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.

018ESDEL4	Social Teaching of the Church	3 Cr.
------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

This course explores the foundational beliefs of Christianity, particularly the revelation of the Son of God made man, which confirms the theological basis 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 dimension of being Church: the life of the community of believers (intra-ecclesial dimension) and its mission in the world (extra-ecclesial dimension), both individually and collectively. Finally, it highlights integral humanism as a key orientation, grounded in an anthropological and soteriological vision of the human person.

017BIIAL1	Introduction to Muslim Dogma	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

This course provides a concise presentation of the foundations of Islamic creed (‘aqidah), highlighting its sources, significance, and the distinction between creed (‘aqidah) and law (Sharī‘ah), along with their respective roles. It introduces the Pillars of Islam and the Articles of Faith, offers an overview of the Islamic schools of jurisprudence (madhāhib), and examines the concept of religiosity (al-tadayyun), distinguishing between authentic and superficial forms. It also includes a study of prophethood, with particular emphasis on the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), a brief overview of his life and his relationship with his community, and his miracle—the Qur’an revealed to him—which continues and confirms the message of the earlier prophets (peace be upon them). The course further presents selected examples of Qur’anic inimitability (i‘jāz) from scientific and historical perspectives, along with an introduction to the sciences of the Qur’an. The course concludes with an exploration of themes related to death, the soul, the intermediate state (al-barzakh), and the Day of Judgment.

018LUACL6	Luke – Acts of the Apostles	3 Cr.
------------------	------------------------------------	--------------

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. This course also introduces students to the practice of historical-critical exegesis and narrative analysis through the study of selected texts.

018THPRL3	Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

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.

018CHRIL5	Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am?	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

This course examines the Church's understanding of the person of Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of its belief system, worship, and way of life. It shows how everything in Christianity depends on the identity of Jesus Christ, making his correct understanding and confession not only a matter of ecclesial orthodoxy but also the foundation of salvation. The course also considers the implications of misinterpreting Christ's identity for Christian faith and relationship with God. It critically engages historical interpretations of Christological debates that reduce them to issues of political power or factional conflict, arguing that such approaches risk missing the theological core of the Christian faith.

045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew Language 1	2 Cr.
------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

This course examines the study of ancient Hebrew and its relevance for the reading and interpretation of biblical texts. Beyond its linguistic uniqueness, Hebrew belongs to the Semitic language family and shares vocabulary and grammatical structures with related languages, offering valuable insights into the linguistic and cultural world of the Bible.

064VALEL1	USJ Values in Daily Life	2 Cr.
------------------	---------------------------------	--------------

This course introduces students to the core values of Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), enabling them to integrate these values into their personal, interpersonal, and professional lives. It encourages students to critically reflect on how the values outlined in the USJ Charter can influence their behaviors, actions, and decisions in addressing the challenges of the contemporary world. It also raises awareness of global issues and ethical responsibilities, preparing students to contribute positively to society.

018ANREL4	Anthropology of Religions	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

This course explores the distinction between religious anthropology, which examines a religion's understanding of the human person, human origins, and the purpose of life, and the anthropology of religion, which studies religion as a human phenomenon through its own methods and perspectives. It focuses on the study of rituals, their functions and symbolism, the distinction between the sacred and the profane, and the role of sacrifice in religious life. The course also examines the human search for meaning, the aspiration to transcend death, and the anthropological questions that arise from these fundamental concerns.

018PATTL3	Patristics: Theme	3 Cr.
------------------	--------------------------	--------------

This course addresses the question, "Who is man?," one of the central questions of contemporary thought. Christian anthropology grounds its response in the notion of the human person created "in the image of God," although this concept has been interpreted in diverse ways. The idea of divinization represents a key expression of this tradition. The course examines the concept of theosis (divinization) in the thought of the Church Fathers. It asks whether it constitutes a distinctively Christian doctrine, identifies its sources, and explores whether it is specific to Eastern Christianity or also present in Western theological traditions. To deepen the research, the course draws primarily on the writings of the Church Fathers and contemporary studies, through presentations, preparatory readings, and practical exercises.

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

This course addresses the realm of sexuality, which, as Ruiz RETEGUI writes, touches the various dimensions that constitute the human person, whether male or female, and is inscribed in their entire being. 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 arising from advancements in scientific knowledge and sociocultural changes.

018PCOAL2	Christian Arab Heritage	3 Cr.
------------------	--------------------------------	--------------

This course provides an exploratory overview of Christian Arabic literature across different periods and theological issues. It introduces students to this literary tradition and encourages engagement 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 concept of sacramentality—of Christ, of the Church, and of the sacraments. It seeks to deepen understanding of what “life in Christ” means for every baptized person. Openness to this dimension of ecclesial life fosters more vibrant and meaningful pastoral practice.

018SOREL2	Religious Sociology	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------	--------------

This course examines the relationship between religion and society and explores how sociology helps analyze the political, economic, and cultural dynamics that shape this relationship. It addresses these questions through thematic studies, approached either within specific religious traditions or in a comparative perspective. The course provides theoretical and empirical knowledge for understanding the social and ecclesial structures of beliefs and religious phenomena. It is organized into three parts: a theoretical section covering classical sociological authors (Comte, Marx, Tocqueville, Weber, Durkheim) and contemporary approaches (Hervieu-Léger, Berger, etc.); an empirical section introducing the sociological analysis of religious institutions, beliefs, and practices; and a third section linking sociology with pastoral theology. By the end of the course, students will be able to use sociological concepts and methods, alongside theological insights, to “discern the signs of the times” in a scientific manner and interpret them theologically in order to develop 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 reconciling their belief in one God (monotheism) with their lived experience of the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit as distinct agents in their lives. It explores how they affirmed that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, while maintaining monotheistic faith. The course highlights their attempts to articulate the relationship between divine unity and plurality, not as a mathematical or metaphysical problem, but as a theological effort to account for the three distinct ways in which the one God is experienced as present and active in the history of salvation. God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—creates, saves, and sanctifies humanity not merely through successive roles, but as three distinct personal realities within the one divine life.

045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek Language 1	2 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

This course introduces New Testament Greek (Koine) and provides the foundations needed to read and translate biblical and philosophical texts. As an introductory course, it covers the essential elements of the language and develops students' ability to understand and translate simple texts.

018INDRL4	Introduction to Canon Law	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

This course examines the role and purpose of canon law in the life of the Church. It addresses questions raised by theologians, jurists, and ecclesial communities regarding its relevance and application, while highlighting its importance as a fundamental discipline in the organization and mission of the Church.

018ETCHL4	Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

This course examines the ethical questions raised by advances in the biological and medical sciences. It explores issues related to life, health, human dignity, suffering, and the meaning of human existence from the perspective of Christian faith. The course aims to foster ethical discernment and support responsible decision-making in response to contemporary biomedical challenges.



018INJUL7	Introduction to Judaism	3 Cr.
------------------	--------------------------------	--------------

This course examines Judaism as one of the three monotheistic religions alongside Christianity and Islam. It explores the complexity of Jewish identity and the perceptions, stereotypes, and prejudices that have often shaped attitudes toward Jews and Judaism. The course also examines the historical and theological ties between Judaism and Christianity, as well as the place of Judaism within the Islamic tradition. Emphasizing the importance of informed understanding, it highlights the study of Judaism as essential for fostering dialogue and overcoming misunderstandings in a Middle East marked by religious and political tensions.

018STPAL6	Saint Paul	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------	--------------

This course examines the theology and mission of Saint Paul through selected Pauline letters. It explores how Paul understood salvation in Jesus Christ as inseparable from the mission to the nations and the establishment of communities shaped by the Gospel. Particular attention is given to the practical challenges faced by these communities and to Paul's responses, guided by the central message of the Cross.

018MIOEL6	Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course examines the situation of Christians in the Middle East, with particular attention to the relationship between the continuity of their presence and the unity of their Churches. It analyzes the historical context of ecclesial divisions, the ecclesiological foundations of Christian unity, and the perspectives that shape the presence and mission of the Church—one in diversity—in the Middle East today.

018PRTFL6	Portfolio	9 Cr.
------------------	------------------	--------------

This course uses a portfolio as an assessment tool to evaluate students' development throughout the program and their ability to connect theory with practice. The portfolio serves as a validation and certification instrument and is structured in four parts:

1. The first part presents all the knowledge students have accumulated over the years and their motivations for undertaking this training.
2. A reflection on the progression and ongoing development of the student's learning journey.
3. A critical assessment of the training experience, highlighting theological achievements and the student's relationship to theological education.
4. A final oral defense of the portfolio before a jury for validation.

018LHECL4	Hebrews and Catholic Epistles	3 Cr.
------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

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.

018PSESL6	Psalms and Wisdom Literature	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

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.

018LTBIL2	Reading Biblical Texts	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------------------	--------------

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.

018LTCL	Reading Theological Texts – Christology	3 Cr.
----------------	--	--------------

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.

018THTL5	Reading Theological Texts - Trinity- Pneumatology	3 Cr.
-----------------	--	--------------

This course builds on the Trinity course through a methodical analysis of key texts from the Magisterium, including conciliar and papal documents, as well as writings by major Patristic, Medieval, and Modern theologians. It deepens students' understanding of Trinitarian theology through the direct study of primary sources, highlighting their historical context and doctrinal significance. The course also explores diverse theological approaches and their responses to major historical debates, such as Arianism and the Filioque controversy, while developing students' ability to engage with complex theological concepts through textual analysis.

018H2MOL5	Church History in the Second Millennium (in the West)	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

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.

018HIS2L2	Church History in the Second Millennium (in the East)	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course aims to identify the main historical turning points in the history of the Church in the East during the second millennium. It focuses on major historical events, key ecclesiastical figures, councils, the complex relationship between Church and State, developments in ecclesiology between East and West, and the recent growth of ecumenism.

018PAT3L5	Patristics – Author: Origen and Origenism	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course explores Origen, born in Alexandria around 185 to a martyr's family, who became a major figure in biblical scholarship. It examines his work and influence as an ecclesiastical author whose writings shaped both Eastern and Western Christianity. It also addresses Origenism, the theological ideas associated with Origen that sparked major controversies in the 4th and 6th centuries.

045HPCOL4	Trends in Contemporary Philosophy	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course delves into the history of philosophy, concentrating on key figures and movements in contemporary thought, such as Nietzschean philosophy, phenomenology (Husserl), personalism, and existentialism (Sartre). It aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of:

1. The broader intellectual context that shaped the emergence of contemporary philosophy.
2. The distinctive features that set contemporary philosophical discourse apart, particularly its focus on pluralism, analytical rigor, realism, precision, and clarity.
3. Major philosophical currents, including Nietzschean thought, phenomenology, personalism, and existentialism.

045PANTL1	School of Ancient Philosophy	3 Cr.
------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

This course explores the beginnings and development of human philosophy in ancient Greece, from the Natural School (6th century BCE) to Plotinus (d. 270 CE).

It aims to:

1. Identify the historical, social, and political motives behind the emergence of early attempts to explain the creation of the universe.
2. Examine the stages of Greek philosophy from its inception to Plotinus, familiarizing students with various Greek philosophical schools, including the Pythagorean, Atomist, Epicurean, and Stoic schools.
3. Recognize key figures in Greek philosophy, such as Heraclitus, Parmenides, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

045APHIL1	Philosophical Text Analysis	3 Cr.
------------------	------------------------------------	--------------

This workshop introduces students to the techniques of philosophical analysis.

018SYRIL7	Syriac Language 1	2 Cr.
------------------	--------------------------	--------------

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.

018THSEL6	Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality	3 Cr.
------------------	---	--------------

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.

018DISCL1	Spiritual Discernment	3 Cr.
------------------	------------------------------	--------------

This course aims to equip students with the capacity for discernment in decision-making, both in personal life and pastoral activities.

018PROTL1	Protestantism	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------	--------------

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 16th century. It covers the fundamental principles of the Reformation (*sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura*), along with the organization of Protestant communities and worship practices such as baptism and the Lord's Supper. Additionally, this course explores contemporary aspects including the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, highlighting ecumenical efforts and challenges in modern Protestantism.

018SPIGL2	Ignatian Spirituality	3 Cr.
------------------	------------------------------	--------------

This course explores the fundamental characteristics of Ignatian spirituality, the historical context of its initial development, and its ongoing relevance in the contemporary world.

018RELPL5	Popular Religiosity	3 Cr.
------------------	----------------------------	--------------

This course aims to develop the following competency: the ability to situate a pastoral practice within the complex reality of the Church in the world.

Within the broader program, it contributes to the following objectives:

1. Apply psychosocial techniques and methods in pastoral work
2. Use appropriate frameworks and tools for the theological and pastoral evaluation of various approaches to evangelization

This course enables students to:

1. Analyze and assess practices of popular religion
2. Apply psychosocial and theological frameworks in pastoral ministry

018SNMRL3	Sects and New Religious Movements	3 Cr.
------------------	--	--------------

This course examines the phenomenon of new religious movements and sects and the questions they raise for traditional religious institutions. It addresses why such groups may appear to exert greater influence on believers than established religions and provides a framework for reflecting on a phenomenon that affects society and challenges pastoral approaches. The course uses sociological and theological tools to define, classify, and analyze the functional structures, beliefs, and doctrines of these new religious movements. It also guides students to articulate the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith and to adopt a critical and responsible approach to questions of faith and life.