

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN CREDO I: INITIATION TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**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

This program responds to the profound needs of Christian life in today's world by providing formation that enables adult believers to embrace their fundamental vocation: developing an informed understanding of the faith and interpreting it in a responsible and faithful manner.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- S.1. Define the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith.
- S.2. Adopt a critical and responsible approach to the interpretation of questions of faith and life.
- S.3. Renew the understanding of the Christian faith in various pastoral contexts, including education, worship, and personal and community life.
- S.4. Develop theological work in the field of religious studies using both theoretical and practical methodologies.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must hold the Lebanese Baccalaureate or its equivalent, recognized by the Equivalency Commission of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Candidates who do not hold the Lebanese Baccalaureate or its equivalent may still be admitted to the program following a review of their application and may obtain the appropriate certification.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**45 Credits: Required Courses (45 credits)****Required Courses (45 Cr.)**

Introduction to the Old Testament (3 Cr.), Introduction to the New Testament (3 Cr.), The Books of the Law (Pentateuch) (3 Cr.), Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question (3 Cr.), John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse (3 Cr.), Christian Mystery (3 Cr.), The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution (3 Cr.), Christian Anthropology (3 Cr.), Introduction to Patristics (3 Cr.), Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities (3 Cr.), Foundational Ethics (3 Cr.), Faith and Reason (3 Cr.), Theological Ethics (3 Cr.), Spiritual Growth (3 Cr.), Spiritual Experience and Psychology (3 Cr.).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

018INAT11	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.		

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

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

018MYCHL1	Christian Mystery	3 Cr.
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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 .

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

018ANTCL2	Christian Anthropology	3 Cr.
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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 .

018PATRL3	Introduction to Patristics	3 Cr.
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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.

018EOOIL5	Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities	3 Cr.
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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.

018ETHFL1	Foundational Ethics	3 Cr.
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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.

018FOIRL2	Faith and Reason	3 Cr.
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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.

018ETTHL2	Theological Ethics	3 Cr.
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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.

018CROIL2	Spiritual Growth	3 Cr.
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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.

018EXPSL1	Spiritual Experience and Psychology	3 Cr.
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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.