

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN CREDO II: WE BELIEVE WITHIN THE CHURCH

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 builds on CREDO I, which serves as a prerequisite. It enables CREDO I graduates to deepen their knowledge and pursue further studies leading to the Bachelor in Religious Studies.

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

- Lebanese Baccalaureate or equivalent
- University Diploma in CREDO I: Initiation to The Christian Faith

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

45 Credits: Required Courses (45 credits)

Required Courses (45 Cr.)

The Prophets (3 Cr.), Luke – Acts of the Apostles (3 Cr.), Saint Paul (3 Cr.), Foundational Theology (3 Cr.), Christology: Who Do You Say that I Am? (3 Cr.), Liturgical Theology (3 Cr.), Mary in the Mystery of Salvation (3 Cr.), History of the Church in the First Millennium (3 Cr.), Patristics – Theme (3 Cr.), Epistemology (3 Cr.), Anthropology of Religions (3 Cr.), Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives (3 Cr.), Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics (3 Cr.), Social Teaching of the Church (3 Cr.).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.		
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.		

018STPAL6	Saint Paul	3 Cr.
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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.

018TEFOL1	Foundational Theology	3 Cr.
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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.

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

018THLIL2	Liturgical Theology	3 Cr.
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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.

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

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

018PATTL3	Patristics – Theme	3 Cr.
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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.

018EPSTL4	Epistemology	3 Cr.
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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?

018ANREL4	Anthropology of Religions	3 Cr.
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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.

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

018TCACL2	Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics	3 Cr.
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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 foundational theological dimensions, its historical development highlighting stable and changing forms, and its practical theology adapted to specific contexts.

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