



# Westfield House, Cambridge

Liberal Arts & Sciences

## Module Descriptions

### English Literature

#### British Science Fiction

This module surveys British science fiction with a focus on the analysis of both literary texts and cinematic productions and their relationship to British life and culture. The history and theory of the genre is engaged through the study of set texts and broad themes in the literary tradition such as Deep Time, Utopias and Dystopias, Evolution and Spirituality are investigated.

#### Explorations in Literature

This module introduces a wide range of literary works which are central to the Western canon, ranging from ancient Greek texts in translation to the contemporary. The emphasis is on the reading and exploring of a diversity of primary texts and cultures. In addition to the set texts each student is required an additional text for their final research paper and presentation in seminar.

#### Hermeneutics and Literature

Founded on classical, medieval and early modern ideas of Grammar, this modules surveys the development of the art of textual interpretation from the classical age, through the medieval era up to late modernism. Central texts will focus on philosophy, theology and literature from Plato, patristics, medieval Christian, Jewish and Islamic texts, Reformation interventions, and contemporary philosophical hermeneutics from Schleiermacher through to Strauss, Gadamer and Ricoeur.

#### Shakespeare

This module engages students in close reading and interpretation of major Shakespearean plays, including representative texts of the romances, comedies, and tragedies. Emphasis is placed on major themes, social context, characterization and imagery, and contemporary interpretations.

### History

#### The European Reformations

This module examines the attempts at religious reform in continental Europe during the 16th century, which includes both reform of the Church and religious life, as well as reforms of society inspired by religious belief. Topics covered include later 15th century desire for reform; late medieval popular belief, and links between reform of social and religious life; Christian humanism and its influence; evangelical movements precipitated by Luther, Zwingli, the Anabaptists, and Calvin; the magisterial and radical Reformations along with their religious and social implications and the response of different social strata to them.

## Human & Social Sciences

### Biopolitical Investigations

This module examines, compares, and critically assesses historical development of biopolitical theories and practices in four authors: Ivan Illich, Michael Foucault, Antonio Negri and Giorgio Agamben. Specific critical and theoretical tools will be provided through close reading of selected primary texts, leading to a constructive theological assessment and criticism of contemporary biopolitics.

## Mathematics & Natural Sciences

### Introduction to Astronomy

Following a brief historical introduction to astronomy, the module is organised into three topical sections. The first section introduces the basic physical principles of gravitation, electromagnetic radiation and spectra. Additionally, the tools and techniques of astronomical observation including telescopes, detectors, imaging, photometry, and spectroscopy are introduced. The second section involves the study of the Solar System, including the Moon, Mercury, Venus and Mars, the Giant Planets, and outer regions. This section concludes with an introduction to contemporary research on the formation of the Solar System and exoplanet discoveries. The third section introduces stellar, and more briefly, galactic and extragalactic, astrophysics. Topics for study include nuclear fusion and stellar interiors, the observational characteristics and classification of stars, and the stellar life-cycle. This section concludes with a brief introduction to the Milky Way, the classification and characteristics of external galaxies, the evolution and distribution of galaxies and cosmology.

### Astronomy Laboratory (1 US credit)

This module is a seminar and practical laboratory in Astronomy for students enrolled in **Introduction to Astronomy** for Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students will complement their learning through a series of travel experiences, telescope observing, and data analysis, concluding with an individual research project.

### Calculus I for Liberal Arts

This module introduces differential and integral calculus with physical applications and transcendental functions throughout the course. An emphasis is placed on the historical role of calculus in the development of the natural sciences. Topics include: limits and continuity, the derivative and its application, an introduction to integration, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

### Calculus II

Following a review of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus this module introduces Liberal Arts & Sciences students to the intermediate-level study of calculus including the following: applications and techniques of integration, and introduction to first-order differential equations, and an introduction to sequences and series including the Taylor and Maclaurin series.

## **Calculus III**

This module introduces Liberal Arts & Sciences students to the advanced study of calculus including the following: parametric equations and polar coordinates, vectors and vector calculus, functions of several variables, multiple integration, and second-order differential equations.

## **Music**

### **British Popular Music**

This module examines the history and socio-cultural impact of British popular music in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century c. 1945 to 1999 (the end of the 'Britpop' revival). Songs and albums will be critiqued as musical "texts" which can offer insights into British views of class, sex and sexuality, race and politics. We will consider the influence of American culture (Black American music in particular) on British popular music, the impact of immigration on concepts of Britishness, changing concepts of youth, the impact of changing technologies on music production and consumption, the development of popular music scenes and the importance of location.

### **Jazz Composing and Arranging**

This module introduces jazz compositional strategies for creating and arranging short form works appropriate for small group improvisational contexts. The focus is on the manipulation melodic ideas, form and rhythm, employing both functional and non-functional harmony in the compositional process. Designed principally for Music and Music Education Majors, a pre-requisite knowledge of tonal harmony is required.

### **World Music**

This module explores traditional and popular forms of music from major regions of the world, with a focus on how music relates to its social, cultural and historical contexts. Students will develop a working knowledge of representative styles and regional characteristics of non-western traditions. This module may include travel to experience musical performances in concert settings.

## **Philosophy**

### **Philosophy of Religion**

This module studies of the main problems in the philosophy of religion, including such topics as: the proofs of God's existence; the justification of religious belief; religious diversity; the divine attributes; miracle; prayer; eternal life; the problem of evil. Topics include: the problem of religious plurality, ontological, cosmological, and teleological arguments for the existence of God, voluntarist theories of faith, epistemology, the problem of evil, miracles, the attributes of God (simplicity, omniscience, omnipotence), prayer, and eternal Life.

## **Religious Studies & Theology**

### **Christian Doctrine**

This module will present key themes in the Christian doctrine centred on the central Christian teachings about Jesus Christ, Triune God and Salvation. Attention is given not only to certain aspects of the biblical theology, but to patristic, medieval, reformation, modern and contemporary theological discourse in the attempt to give robust historically-informed introduction to Christian doctrine and practice.

## **Christianity and the Arts**

Public and private uses of art are multiple and various. In this module we will consider how the arts (mainly visual art and architecture) have developed and been used in relation to Christian devotion and worship. This module is cross-disciplinary, drawing on the relationships between theology and the arts (mainly visual art and architecture) during the period from the birth of Christ to the present, focusing on the western world. The subject matter also necessitates some consideration of church history. This module will involve field trips to visit museums, art galleries and worship spaces.

## **Introduction to the Old Testament**

This module introduces students to the Old Testament literature, its structure, messages and history of the people of Israel. It focuses on the various types of writings and interpretations of the Old Testament by focusing on selected Old Testament texts, their messages and their cultural and historical settings in the Ancient Near East. This module also considers different traditional interpretations of the Old Testament and interpretations of modern scholars.

## **Lutheran Confessions in Historical Context**

This module examines early modern European Church historical theology with special emphasis on the Lutheran Confessional writings. The module begins with a systematic reflection upon the cultural context of the late Renaissance and late Middle Ages. The development of Lutheran doctrinal and confessional discourse is then explored with a focus on the Lutheran confessional texts included in the Book of Concord as a witness to the Gospel and guidance for faith and life. From their contents, especially the Creeds, the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Catechisms and Formula of Concord, this module will systematically define and describe the main themes of Lutheran theology and spirituality relevant for our present context.

## **New Testament Epistles**

A survey of the New Testament epistles, with particular reference to the theology and historical context of the Pauline epistles and an in-depth study of prescribed set texts in English translation. The epistles of 1 Peter, James, and Hebrews will also be studied.

## **New Testament Gospels**

This module introduces the New Testament Gospels and the major theological themes they raise, understood within their broader historical, religious and cultural background.

## **Science and Religion**

This module introduces the historical tensions and methodological differences between science and religion. Beginning with a discussion of the relationship between religion and science, often discussed in terms of models of conflict, independence, dialogue, and/or integration, several important events in the history of the relationship between science and religion are surveyed, concluding with an introduction to key themes in the philosophy of science and their relationship to theology. The second section of the module will extend the understanding of the relationship between science and religion by examining a series of key contemporary topics such as robotics, bioengineering and genetic modification, human life-extension, neurophysiological accounts of religious practices, and astrobiology.

## **Second Temple Jewish Literature**

This module aims to give the student basic knowledge of the intertestamental period through a choice of texts from Jewish Literature. It informs and provides the proper background to any serious study into the emergence and development of theological and philosophical ideas that pervade Christianity. It is also very important in itself as it provided the rich soil from which Judaism and, to a great extent Islam, emerged.

## **World Religions**

This module examines several major non-Christian religious traditions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam, in terms of their history, worldviews, beliefs and practices. Emphasis is placed on historical and geographical origins, later adaptations and developments, and methods of comparative analysis.

## **Theological & Classical Languages**

### **Introduction to Classical Latin I**

This module provides an introduction to classical Latin, including pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, translation and syntax. The focus is directed towards developing the ability to read, comprehend and translate Latin.

### **Classical Latin II**

This module continues the introduction of the vocabulary, grammar and syntax of classical Latin and introduces students to the translation of set texts.

### **Introduction to New Testament Greek I**

This module aims to give students an understanding of the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of New Testament Greek.

### **New Testament Greek II**

This module is a continuation from Greek I which reviews and consolidates the grammar and syntax of the Greek New Testament including the translation and exegesis of set texts.

### **Greek Readings**

This module will engage students in the study of the language, syntax, exegesis and theology of set texts from the New Testament Gospels and/or Epistles.

### **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I**

This module introduces students to the grammar (including morphology, parsing of words and phrases, and syntax) and translation of Biblical Hebrew.

### **Biblical Hebrew II**

This module is a continuation of the Biblical Hebrew I which concentrates on the morphology and grammar of weak verb forms and introduces students to the translation and exegesis of set texts.

### **Hebrew Readings**

This module will engage students in the study of the language, syntax, exegesis and theology of set texts drawn from the Hebrew Bible.