

EXPECT TO ACHIEVE

# Theology



The Theology team at Newman University College has an **excellent reputation** for supporting students and for the quality of its teaching.



We welcome students from a range of backgrounds and prior learning experiences, and all the courses are open to those of any religious tradition or none. The enthusiasm, clarity, approachableness and supportive manner of Theology tutors is consistently praised by students in module evaluations and National Student Surveys.

**Why study Theology at Newman University College?** Firstly because it is such an interesting subject area! Theology focuses on engaging with the central debates and key thinkers within the Christian tradition, including the study of other world religions, their beliefs, practices, sacred texts and forms of spirituality or religious experience, and the study of philosophical texts and ideas. It provides the opportunity for debating and gaining new perspectives on many current issues in society (such as cultural identity, the Palestinian conflict and bio-ethical developments), and for thinking about the responses of ancient and modern writers to life's big questions about, for example, the origins and purpose of human life. Secondly, Theology is a subject of great academic rigour, and the skills it promotes of clear academic writing and critical thinking will be valued by employers in a range of jobs.

Special features of the programmes include:

- All Single and Combined Honours students take work placements and work-related learning modules, improving their chances of gaining employment on graduation
- All assessment is through coursework and presentations; some forms of assessment involve reflective logbooks and creative pieces of work
- Annual field trips are run to places of worship, cathedrals and other relevant sites such as a Holocaust education museum
- The courses include a close study of primary texts
- All teaching rooms are fully equipped with up-to-date ICT equipment
- Library resources and journal subscriptions are constantly updated to aid student research
- Students have the opportunity to spend 3 months on an exchange placement in an EU country.

Becoming a teacher in a primary or secondary school or lecturer at an FE College is a popular career path, but there are many other opportunities you could consider:

- Utilising the skills gained on your Theology degree to follow a route into professional fields such as law, accountancy, librarianship, international development, journalism, youth work or social work
- Following a route open to all Arts and Humanities graduates, in fields such as retail management, personnel and HR.
- A knowledge of different religions and cultures is increasingly valued in many fields of employment, particularly local government, the civil service, charities and community organisations and public services like the fire service, the NHS and the Police.

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For more information visit our website:

**[www.newman.ac.uk](http://www.newman.ac.uk)**

# Theology for Education BA (Hons)

## Full and part-time routes



This course enables you to take the widest possible range of modules in all the key areas of Theology and philosophy of religion, and it also has a Religious Education strand, which includes both placements in schools and an introduction to some of the theoretical issues in RE. Designed in partnership with local schools and PGCE providers, the course is unique in combining the study of Theology with an introduction to Religious Education, therefore equipping you with the experience necessary to go on to a PGCE or other professional training.

The subject of Theology has several main branches, and your study of Theology at Newman will involve a focus on the following key areas:

### Theology

Year 1 modules introduce key ideas in Theology, and various methods for doing Theology. In years 2 and 3 you can choose optional modules in Contemporary Approaches to Theology (such as Radical Theologies, and Philosophies and Christian Theology and Modernity), or study some of the history of the Christian Church, especially the crucial Renaissance and Reformation periods.

### Biblical Studies

A first year module introduces the issues involved in reading sacred texts, such as competing truth claims and translation issues, and then teaches you how to use new ways of analysing Biblical texts, such as literary, feminist and social scientific approaches. Optional modules in years 2 and 3 cover areas such as the ethical and community issues faced by the early church, and contemporary cultural and literary perspectives on the Bible.

### Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

This aspect of the subject is growing increasingly popular at A-Level, and so the Theology for Education course provides the subject knowledge necessary to teach it at 6th Form level. The module God and the Philosophers in year 1 is compulsory, and there are optional modules in years 2 and 3 in Science and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. These modules introduce you to the ideas and writings of major philosophers and encourages you to consider contemporary ethical issues such as global ethics and bio-ethics.

### World Faiths

Newman's strength lies in Christian Theology, and as all state schools are required to spend at least half of their curriculum time studying Christianity, it is important for intending teachers to gain a thorough grounding in this area. However, the course includes some modules

which offer in-depth study of other world religions: a compulsory module Religions, Politics and Philosophy in year 1, and optional modules in years 2 and 3: Three Monotheistic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam; Jewish Studies; and Mysticism: East and West. Opportunities are always provided in these modules for you to visit local places of worship and/or engage with visiting speakers from different traditions.

## Religious Education

The first year module Learning and Teaching in Religious Education covers current thinking about the best ways to teach RE in a society which is both increasingly secular and multi-faith, and a range of theories about human and spiritual development. You will consider issues such as whether faith schools have led to social division, and whether it is possible to assess pupils' spiritual development. In year 2 the focus is on Citizenship, both the curriculum subject and topical debates, such as the recent introduction of citizenship tests. The year 3 module Research Project in Religious Education allows you to research an area of particular interest; previous studies have included a comparison of secondary school RE teaching in the UK and other EU countries; developing ICT resources for teaching RE and piloting them in a local school; and evaluating how far it is possible to teach Philosophy in the primary school.

## Indicative Module Information

### Year 1

- Introduction to Biblical Studies
- Christian Theology: The Classical Tradition
- Religions, Politics and Philosophy
- Methods in Theological and Philosophical Study
- God and the Philosophers
- Learning and Teaching in Religious Education.

### Year 2

- Christian Theology and Modernity
- Three Monotheistic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- New Testament Studies: Paul and Acts
- Issues in Contemporary Ethics
- Science and the Cosmos: The Search for Meaning
- Radical Theologies and Philosophies
- Religious Education and Citizenship.

### Year 3

- Jewish Studies: Ancient and Modern
- Biblical Interpretation
- Philosophy and Truth: Conceptions of the Good, the True and the Beautiful
- Mysticism: East and West
- Research Project in Religious Education
- The Cathedrals and the English Spiritual Traditions
- Europe Reborn and Divided: Renaissance and Reformation
- Values and Virtues.

These modules may be subject to change.

## Part-time Route

Newman recognises the importance of providing opportunities to all students with the ability to benefit from a university education. Therefore, we have developed a part-time Single Honours route in Theology for Education. Studied over 4 years instead of 3 years, part-time study is a cost effective solution to gaining your degree as the flexibility it offers will provide you with the opportunity to combine paid employment with study. You will continue to study alongside full-time students and will benefit from the same academic expertise.

Alongside the academic quality of the course a key feature is a compulsory work-related strand. Both work placements and taught modules link study with employability skills and the needs of society at large. The compulsory work placement will equip you with valuable practical experience and ensure you graduate with the transferable skills employers demand.

## Entry Requirements

You will need a minimum of 260 UCAS points including at least two grade Cs or above at A2, or equivalent. Please visit [www.newman.ac.uk/entry](http://www.newman.ac.uk/entry) for the latest information.

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## Combined Honours

Theology, Philosophy, Religion  
and Ethics, Philosophy and  
Theology, and Religious Education



Taking Theology and Philosophy as part of the Combined Honours route allows you the flexibility to combine this subject with a different one, and gives you some choice about which strands of the subject to specialise in. It is particularly attractive if you want to keep your career options open, or are interested in a career spanning two subjects. So, for example, studying Theology and History is a good combination for gaining work as an archivist or in the museums and heritage sector; Theology and Counselling is a good preparation for social work; Theology and English could lead to a career in religious journalism.

### Theology - Major

Taking Theology as the Major subject within Combined Honours gives you the widest possible choice of modules (see page 5 for full list). The difference between this route and Single Honours Theology for Education is that the Religious Education modules are not compulsory, although many of them are offered as options.

### Philosophy, Religion and Ethics - Joint

This route offers a particular pathway enabling you to focus on Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and World Faiths. Modules currently available include:

#### Year 1

- God and the Philosophers
- Religions, Politics and Philosophy.

#### Year 2

- Issues in Contemporary Ethics
- Radical Theologies and Philosophies

- Three Monotheistic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- Science and the Cosmos: The Search for Meaning.

#### Year 3

- Jewish Studies: Ancient and Modern
- Philosophy and Truth: Conceptions of the Good, the True and the Beautiful
- Mysticism East and West
- Values and Virtues.

### Philosophy, Religion and Ethics - Minor

In this route you have a choice of modules, but are not able to take as many of those on the Joint route.

### Philosophy and Theology - Minor

This Minor route provides you with a taste of both theology and philosophy of religion. In year 1 you select one module from the Theology group and one from Philosophy, for example:

#### Year 1

- Christian Theology: The Classical Tradition
- God and the Philosophers.

#### Year 2

- Radical Theologies and Philosophies
- Christian Theology and Modernity
- Issues in Contemporary Ethics
- Science and the Cosmos: The Search for Meaning.

#### Year 3

- Jewish Studies: Ancient and Modern
- Values and Virtues
- Philosophy and Truth: Conceptions of the Good, the True and the Beautiful
- The Cathedrals and the English Spiritual Traditions.

### Religious Education - Minor

Building on the long-established reputation of Newman as a whole and the Theology subject area in particular, this Minor route is designed to complement the subject of Education Studies, and can only be taken in that combination. Most students taking this course want to become primary school teachers, or work in the education field in another capacity, for example as an education welfare officer, or in the prison service education department. This course is not a teacher training course, and must be followed by a PGCE or other professional postgraduate qualification. The compulsory modules are Learning and Teaching in Religious Education (Yr 1), Citizenship and RE (Yr 2) and Research Project in RE (Yr 3). You may also select one module from the list on page 5 in years 2 and 3 to allow you to pursue interests in particular aspects of the subject.

### Entry Requirements

You will need a minimum of 260 UCAS points including at least two grade Cs or above at A2, or equivalent. Please visit [www.newman.ac.uk/entry](http://www.newman.ac.uk/entry) for the latest information.

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# Initial Teacher Education BA (Hons) with QTS



Newman University College has an established reputation for producing high quality teachers and ensures graduates understand the needs of the children they teach, developing creative and effective practice.

During your Initial Teacher Education (ITE) degree you will undertake modules that will equip you to become an effective and creative teacher, enabling you to achieve the professional standards required for qualified teacher status (QTS). The programme includes additional opportunities to study specialist subject modules focused around your area of professional interest, study overseas, gain further experience in specialist settings and undertake Masters level modules.

Specialist modules will include the Teaching of Christianity in the Primary School, the Teaching of World Faiths and Current Issues in Religious Education.

## Module Information

Core Curriculum modules focus on the development of your knowledge, understanding and skills in the pedagogy (how to teach) of mathematics, English and science in the classroom. Mathematics sessions will cover key mathematical areas of number, shape space and measure, handling data and using and applying mathematics; English includes early reading, comprehensive writing, grammar, speaking and listening; and science covers scientific investigation and processes.

You will also undertake Broad Curriculum modules, which cover all the non-core subjects; art and design, design and technology, history, geography, ICT, music, physical education and modern foreign languages (MFL) and Religious Education.

Education and Professional Studies modules will consider many areas including; learning and teaching, classroom management and organisation, behaviour management, teaching approaches and strategies, planning, evaluation, assessment for learning, access and inclusion, Special Educational Needs, child protection, collaborative and team working, creativity and innovation, legislation and roles and responsibilities.

## School Experience

Each year you will undertake school and setting based experiences. There will be preparation days, block teaching experiences and specialised weeks where you will go into schools and work as part of a group working on creative and innovative projects. These experiences are designed to enable you to gain practical and professional experience in a range of settings, urban, suburban and rural, and with an exciting diversity of cultural, religious, social and economic influences.

## Education in Partnership

Mentoring in partnership schools will complement your taught sessions as you increase your classroom confidence and gain valuable experience in different environments.

## Teaching Methods and Assessment

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops, tutorials, presentations, role play, seminars and practical sessions. Assessment is varied and could include a mixture of coursework, practical outcomes, presentations, reports, observed teaching and written examinations.

## Entry Requirements

280-300 UCAS points including at least two grade Cs or above at A2, or equivalent. Please visit [www.newman.ac.uk/entry](http://www.newman.ac.uk/entry) for the latest information.

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# PGCE Secondary Religious Education (QTS)



This course prepares you to teach secondary Religious Education in a variety of school settings, including faith schools and other Local Authority secondary schools. Newman has excellent links with Birmingham's faith communities and the course includes study visits to a variety of places of worship, including synagogues, churches, mosques, temples, gurdwaras and pagodas. During your studies you will be introduced to current debates and practices within Religious Education, as well as those issues relating to the promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

The structure of the PGCE Secondary Religious Education Programme includes 10 weeks study at Newman and 24 weeks of school-based training. This focuses on an introduction to secondary teaching, developing standards through partnership school experience and extending and developing your professional skills. You will be introduced to all the major religions required for the National Curriculum.

You will also have the option to study for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS), which enables you to teach in Catholic schools.

A variety of teaching methods are used, including off-site teaching, study visits, seminars, lectures and visiting experts in related fields of RE. Assessment methods include essays, presentations, seminar preparation, school-based reports, teaching files and appraisal of practical teaching skills.

## Module Information

- An Introduction to Secondary School Teaching
- Learning and Teaching in Religious Education
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education
- Whole School Issues in the Secondary School
- Developing the Standards Through Partnership
- Becoming a More Effective Teacher of Religious Education
- Developing Professional Standards Through Focus Weeks.

These modules may be subject to change.

## Entry Requirements

You will need a good Honours degree (2:2 or above) of which theology or an RE related subject forms 50%, or a recognised equivalent qualification. Please visit [www.newman.ac.uk/entry](http://www.newman.ac.uk/entry) for the latest information.

Prior to interview, recent and relevant work experience in a British state school is required. We do not require a specific amount of time in school, however the quality and variety of your personal statement is an important factor in the decision whether to call you to interview.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance, meeting the requirements for capacity to teach and General Teaching Clearance provisional registration (Suitability to Teach Declaration) are also required.

## Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

This course aims to provide an understanding of basic Christian Theology and an appreciation of the special importance of Religious Education in Catholic schools. The CCRS is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. It is a highly desirable requirement for any teacher who intends to teach in Catholic schools or for individuals who simply wish to develop their understanding of the Catholic faith. Newman offers a flexible approach to study and provides the opportunity to develop personal understanding with a team of dedicated and supportive staff.

The course covers the following:

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- The Person of Jesus Christ
- Religious Education
- Church
- Sacraments
- Ethics.

In addition to these academic areas, the course enables you to develop your interactive, analytical and communication skills. The course is open to people from any faith background.

**“[The students] felt that the preparation for School experience 1 was very good and that this calmed the anxieties they had about embarking on their first experience of teaching.”**

External Examiner

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[www.newman.ac.uk](http://www.newman.ac.uk)

# MA Contemporary Christian Theology



This programme will enable you to develop your interest in Theology through an engagement with some of the issues brought to light by our contemporary culture. You will have the choice of focusing your studies on non-applied Christian Theology, Christian Theology and Education, or Christian Theology and Ministry making the programme ideally suited to professionals working within the field of Theology, Religious Education or Christian ministry, and for non-professionals who want to deepen their understanding of the issues facing contemporary theology at a critical level of analysis.

The taught modules all focus on contemporary approaches to key aspects of Theology covering areas such as: Philosophical Theology, Christology, Ethics, and Christian Doctrine. Students undertake a dissertation in the final year and the programme includes the opportunity to take a negotiated module, which enables the study of a particular aspect of theology that may be of special interest.

**“Modules are well structured... students receive a high level of personal tuition.”**

External Examiner

## Special Features

The programme is designed to suit the needs of part-time students with attendance required at four weekend schools a year and continuous online support given throughout the academic year.

## Entry Requirements

You will need a good relevant Honours degree (2:1 or above) or equivalent previous experience. Those who do not have a relevant first degree may be asked to write a written piece to assess their academic suitability for the programme.

# Student Profile



**Rachael Jones**  
Theology for Education  
BA (Hons) student

**“Newman gives each and every one of its students the opportunity to get involved in the way that the establishment is run. With regular meetings and an active Students’ Union, everyone is welcome in the Newman University College community.”**

Studying Theology has always been an ambition of mine and I chose to do it at Newman University College because it has a reputation as being a great place to learn, especially for Theological Studies as the staff are highly qualified and dedicated to the education of each student. I feel Theology has some relevance in every person’s life in some way, whether it be through religion or the morals taught, and therefore it is a subject I am proud to study.

I enjoy the range and diversity of material I get to learn about whilst studying on the course. As well as getting to study aspects of my own religion, I also get to study those of my fellow students and the wider society. The course caters for everybody and gives the opportunity to learn more about the needs and beliefs of others.

When I graduate, I hope to become a teacher in Religious Education, at primary or secondary level. I feel it is an important subject as it covers many aspects of people’s lives, secular or religious and equips people with the knowledge regarding others around them, a necessary life skill.

There are many things I like about Newman. All of the staff have a high level of knowledge which is passed on to us as students, as well as being friendly and helpful at all times. The students are also friendly and polite which gives Newman that nice, welcoming atmosphere. It also has many learning resources available to all students which assists in ensuring that we are well on our way to achieving our degree at the best possible standard. All subjects have excellent departments which work efficiently and effectively in helping us achieve our full potential.

# The Newman Research Centre for the Bible and its Reception



Theological research is fundamental to the mission of Newman University College. Research supervision (MPhil/PhD) is offered in a number of areas, including aspects of Christian theology, biblical studies, early post-biblical Judaism, contemporary philosophical theology, the history of philosophy, feminist theology and Religious Education. We are also able to work with those wishing to apply theological reflection to their ministry or professional practice. The recent appointment to the subject area of two visiting professors and the provision of a fully-funded PhD studentship has enabled Theology to become a rapidly expanding research area within the University College.

Newman's commitment to research is further enhanced through its new Research Centre for **The Bible and its Reception**. This centre engages with the academic study of the Jewish and Christian Bible, its later reception, and its relevance to contemporary society.

The primary research interests of the core members include:

- Literary, Cultural and Postcolonial Readings of the Old Testament
- The Bible in Art and Visual Culture and other aspects of the study of the reception of the bible
- Early Jewish and early Christian exegesis of the bible and study of its early textual forms.

Details about the activities of the Centre are regularly posted on-line, please visit [www.newman.ac.uk/research/biblicalstudies](http://www.newman.ac.uk/research/biblicalstudies)

Potential students interested in postgraduate research should contact: **Professor Yahya Al-Nakeeb, Director of Research**

**T:** +44 (0) 121 476 1181 ext 2268  
**E:** [y.al-nakeeb@newman.ac.uk](mailto:y.al-nakeeb@newman.ac.uk)

For more information visit our website:  
[www.newman.ac.uk](http://www.newman.ac.uk)

# Academic Staff

## Research Interests

Members of the Theology team regularly publish and present conference papers in their areas of special expertise.

Theology staff have gained first degrees, Masters degrees and PhDs in a range of institutions in the UK and Europe, including the University of Cambridge, the University of Manchester, the University of Exeter and the Gregorian University in Rome. The tutors who teach the RE modules all have extensive practical experience in schools as classroom teachers, heads of Departments, deputy heads and head teachers.



**Dr. Susan Docherty**

Head of Theology

- Early Jewish and early Christian biblical interpretation
- Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
- Second Temple Judaism
- Septuagint
- Textual criticism of the Bible.



**Dr. Louise Hickman**

Programme Leader for MA  
Contemporary Christian Theology

- Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century English Platonism
- Contemporary developments in natural theology, and its place in the science-theology conversation.



**Eamonn Elliott**

CCRS Co-ordinator

- Citizenship and its relation to Religious Education
- Religious Education at primary school level
- Catholic Education
- Member of the National Board of Religious Studies.



**David McLoughlin**

Senior Lecturer in Theology

- The inter-relationship between theology and social and political life, particularly the world of work
- The mystical traditions of the world's religions and cultures
- The Bible and Working People
- Member of the editorial board of Pastoral Review
- Founder member of the Movement of Christian Workers.



**Dr. Gaynor Pollard**

Senior Lecturer in Theology

- The teaching of Religious Education in schools
- Feminist Theology and Violence
- Collaborative research with ICCS
- Collaborative European research group in the area of Theology and Philosophy in Schools.

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## Theology

Contact the **School Office** for more information on any of the programmes detailed in this brochure.

**T:** 0121 476 1181

**E:** [info.theology@newman.ac.uk](mailto:info.theology@newman.ac.uk)

**[www.newman.ac.uk](http://www.newman.ac.uk)**

