Faculty of Divinity

Theology and Religious Studies

A broad degree programme with wide-ranging choice
Papers 2013-2014 and themed tracks

Top of the Guardian University Guide 2014 League Table for Religious Studies and Theology
Our undergraduate degree is structured to allow you the choice to sample all aspects of the Theology and Religious Studies programme or to select papers which focus on particular elements of our teaching. You can combine an interest in Theology and Religious Studies with History, Sociology, Philosophy, Literature, Politics, Psychology or Science. The decision will be yours and you are not bound to follow any particular path at any stage of the degree. This freedom stands in contrast to some courses offered by departments at other universities.

This document outlines the titles of papers, but more detailed information about each of them is available at www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/courses/paper-descriptions These pages include some or all of the following: courses descriptions, methods of teaching, recommended reading, lecture titles and sample exam questions.

Below, we also suggest collections of papers you may wish to choose if you think that you would like to focus your degree. Tracks could include Philosophy and Ethics, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Religious Traditions of India, Biblical Studies, History of Christianity or Christian Doctrine.

Teaching is provided through lectures, classes and supervisions. You can expect up to nine hours of classes and lectures a week (including six for non-language papers and three for languages) as well as a weekly supervision.

Assessment is mainly by three-hour written examinations, but some papers are assessed on the basis of coursework essays. These are indicated on the lists below. In your third year you can also take a dissertation instead a group D paper.

**Papers 2013-14**

**Part I**

In your first year you choose five papers. There are two compulsory papers: one paper from A1, and either A2 or A3. You then choose three more from A2 to A8.

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<td>Paper A7*</td>
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<td>Paper A8</td>
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*All Group A Papers are examined by 3-hour examination except Paper A7.*

“Look at Theology in relation to other courses – it offers a wealth of options which other courses, and indeed Theology courses at other universities, do not offer.”

*Oli, first year student*
Part IIA

In your second year you have a wide choice of four papers from up to 17. You can choose whether to continue with the language and there are no compulsory elements at this stage.

Paper B1a    Intermediate Hebrew
Paper B1b    Intermediate New Testament Greek
Paper B1c    Intermediate Sanskrit
Paper B1d    Intermediate Qur'anic Arabic
Paper B2    The Literature, History and Theology of the Exilic Age
Paper B3    This paper will not be available in 2013-2014
Paper B4    The letters of Paul
Paper B5    The Johannine Tradition
Paper B6    Christianity in Late Antiquity (to circa 600)
Paper B7    Reform and renewal in Christian History
Paper B8    Study of Theology I
Paper B9    God and the Imago Dei
Paper B10    Philosophy of religion: God, freedom and the soul
Paper B11    Ethics and faith
Paper B12    This paper will not be available in 2013-2014
Paper B13*  a) Christian culture in the western world and b) Religious themes in literature
Paper B14    Life, thought and worship of modern Judaism
Paper B15    Introduction to Islam
Paper B16    Life and thought of religious Hinduism and of Buddhism
Paper B17    Philosophy: Logic

*All Group B Papers are examined by 3-hour examination except Paper B13

Part IIB

In your third year you can choose three group C papers and one group D paper, or two group C papers and two group D papers. If you choose to do a dissertation, this is studied for in place of one group D paper.

Group C Papers

Paper C1a    Advanced Hebrew
Paper C1b    Advanced New Testament Greek
Paper C1c    Advanced Sanskrit
Paper C1d    Advanced Qur'anic Arabic.
Paper C2    Creation and Covenant
Paper C3    New Testament Christology
Paper C4*    A topic in the History of Christianity
Paper C5    Study of Theology II
Paper C6    Disputed Questions in the Christian Tradition
Paper C7    Topics in the study of religion
Paper C8    Judaism II
Paper C9    Islam II
Paper C10    Hinduism & Buddhism II
Paper C11    Metaphysics
Paper C12    This paper is not offered in 2013-2014

All Group C Papers are examined by 3-hour examination. Except where indicated *
**Group D1 Papers - Special Subjects**

Paper D1a  Old Testament Study
Paper D1b  New Testament special subject
Paper D1c* NO SUBJECT OFFERED IN 2013-14
Paper D1d* The Doctrine of God
Paper D1e* NO SUBJECT OFFERED IN 2013-14
Paper D1f NO SUBJECT OFFERED IN 2013-14
Paper D1g* NO SUBJECT OFFERED IN 2013-14

**Group D2 Papers - Interdisciplinary Subjects**

Paper D2a* NO SUBJECT OFFERED IN 2013-14
Paper D2b* The Theological Interpretation of the Gospel of John
Paper D2c* Judaism and Philosophy
Paper D2d* Judaism and Hellenism
Paper D2e  The Rise of Pentecostalism, 1900 to the Present day
Paper D2f* Topics in Christian ethics
Paper D2g* NO SUBJECT OFFERED IN 2013-14

Group D papers marked by * are examined by two 5,000-word essays.

"If you want to do a humanities subject that mixes up lots of different disciplines – sociology, literature, history, languages – then you should do TRS [Theology and Religious Studies]."

*Emma, second year student*
Tracks through the Tripos

As referred to above, some students prefer to follow a specific pathway that matches their interests for one or more years. The following tracks through the Tripos (degree programme) are indicative and there are in many cases other options you could choose, while still remaining within a particular pathway. In all cases these are optional and non-binding for subsequent years of your degree but they may provide a useful way of approaching the broad choice of papers you will be able to choose from if you study Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Cambridge.

An Islamic Studies Track

Part I
- Paper A1d Elementary Qur’anic Arabic
- Paper A2 One God? Hearing the Old Testament
- Paper A7 World Religions in Comparative Perspective

and two other papers such as
- Paper A6 Understanding Contemporary Religion
- Paper A8 Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Part IIA
- Paper B1d Intermediate Qur’anic Arabic
- Paper B15 Introduction to Islam

and two other papers, such as
- Paper B11 Ethics and faith
- Paper B16 Life and thought of religious Hinduism and of Buddhism

Part IIB
- Paper C1d Advanced Qur’anic Arabic.
- Paper C9 Islam II
- Paper D1d The Doctrine of God

And one other paper or a dissertation in Islamic Studies

A Jewish Studies Track

Part I
- Paper A1a Elementary Hebrew
- Paper A2 One God? Hearing the Old Testament
- Paper A7 World Religions in Comparative Perspective

And two other papers such as
- Paper A6 Understanding Contemporary Religion
- Paper A8 Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Part IIA
- Paper B1a Intermediate Hebrew
- Paper B2 The Literature, History and Theology of the Exilic Age
- Paper B14 Life, thought and worship of modern Judaism

and one other paper such as
- B10 Philosophy of religion
Part IIB
Paper C1a Advanced Hebrew
Paper C8 Judaism II
Paper D1a Old Testament Study
Paper D2c* Judaism and Philosophy
or a dissertation on a topic in Jewish Studies

A General Religious Studies Track
Part I
A scriptural language (A1), and a scriptural paper (A2 or A3), and
Paper A6 Understanding Contemporary Religion
Paper A7 World Religions in Comparative Perspective
Paper A8 Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Part IIA
Paper B10 Philosophy of Religion: God, freedom and the soul
Paper B13 Religious Themes in Literature
Paper B14 Life, thought and worship of modern Judaism
Paper B16 Life and thought of religious Hinduism and of Buddhism

Part IIB
Paper C4 Themes in world Christianity
Paper C7 Topics in the study of religion
Paper D2e The Rise of Pentecostalism
Paper D2f Topics in Christian ethics
or a dissertation on a topic in the Study of Religion

A Religious Traditions of India Track
Part I
A scriptural paper (A2 or A3)
Paper A1c Elementary Sanskrit
Paper A7 World Religions in Comparative Perspective
and three other papers such as
Paper A6 Understanding Contemporary Religion
Paper A8 Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Part IIA
Paper B1c Intermediate Sanskrit
Paper B16 Life and thought of religious Hinduism and of Buddhism
and two other papers such as
Paper B8 Study of Theology I
Paper B11 Ethics and faith

Part IIB
Paper C1c Advanced Sanskrit
Paper C10 Hinduism and Buddhism II
and two other papers, which could include a dissertation on a topic in Indian religious studies
A Biblical Studies Track

Part I
Either Paper A1a Elementary Hebrew
or Paper A1b Elementary New Testament Greek
Paper A2 One God? Hearing the Old Testament
Paper A3 Jesus and the Origins of the Gospel
Two further papers from A4 – A8

Part IIA
Either Paper B1a Intermediate Hebrew
or Paper B1b Intermediate New Testament Greek
Paper B2 The Literature, History and Theology of The Exilic Age
Paper B4 Letters of Paul
Paper B5 The Johannine Tradition

You could drop the language and take four other papers, but if you are likely to want to do further study in the field it is worth noting that you will need to maintain your language study.

Part IIB
Paper C1 Advanced level study of the language you took at Intermediate level in IIA
Paper C2 Creation and Covenant
Paper C3 New Testament Christology
Paper D1a Old Testament Study
or a dissertation on a Biblical Studies topic

A Christian Doctrine Track

Part I
Paper A1b Elementary New Testament Greek
Paper A3 Jesus and the Origins of the Gospels
Paper A5 Who is Jesus Christ?
and two other papers such as
Paper A4 Christianity and the Transformation of Culture
Paper A8 Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Part IIA
Paper B8 Study of Theology I
Paper B13 Christian culture in the western world
and two other papers such as
Paper B4 The letters of Paul
Paper B6 Christianity in Late Antiquity (to circa 600)

Part IIB
Paper C5 Study of Theology II
Paper C6 Disputed Questions in the Christian Tradition
Paper D1d The Doctrine of God
Paper D2b Theological Interpretation of the Gospel of John
or a dissertation on an aspect of Christian Doctrine
A History of Christianity Track

Part 1
- Paper A1b: Elementary New Testament Greek
- Paper A3: Jesus and the Origins of the Gospels
- Paper A4: Christianity and the Transformation of Culture
- Paper A6: Understanding Contemporary Religion

Part IIA
- Paper B6: Christianity in Late Antiquity (to circa 600)
- Paper B7: Reform and renewal in Christian History
- Paper B13: Christian culture in the western world
- Paper B9: God and the Imago Dei

Part IIB
- Paper C4: A topic in the History of Christianity
- Paper D1c: Councils in context to ca. 500
- Paper C7: Topics in the study of religion
- Paper A8: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
- Paper A7: World Religions in Comparative Perspective

A Philosophy and Ethics Track

Part I
- A scriptural language (A1), and a scriptural paper (A2 or A3), and
- Paper A8: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
- Paper A6: Understanding Contemporary Religion
- Paper A7: World Religions in Comparative Perspective

Part IIA
- Paper B10: Philosophy of religion: God, freedom and the soul
- Paper B11: Ethics and faith
- Paper B17: Philosophy: Logic
- Paper B8: Study of Theology I

Part IIB
- Paper C6: Disputed Questions in the Christian Tradition
- Paper C11: Metaphysics
- Paper D2c: Judaism and Philosophy
- Paper D2f: Topics in Christian Ethics
- Or a dissertation of an aspect of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

“A brilliant opportunity to develop your interests (even ones you didn’t know you had) in a supportive environment with best resources available”

Kirsty, a second year student