



# BA Theology and Religious Studies (Single Honours)

Programme Leader: Dr Matthew A. Collins

## GETTING READY FOR LEVEL 4 (FIRST YEAR)

### i) Your Modules:

In your first year you will take six modules.

a) Three core modules:

- TH4041 Introduction to Theology
- TH4042 The Study of Religion: An Introduction
- TH4048 Philosophy and Ethics

b) PLUS three modules from the following options:

- TH4045 The Bible: Contents and Contexts
- TH4046 The Bible: Readers and Perspectives
- TH4043 Encountering Religions: Judaism and Buddhism
- TH4044 Encountering Religions: Hinduism and Islam
- TH4047 Global Perspectives on Christianity

} [At least one](#) of your options must come from here.

} [At least one](#) of your options must come from here.

### ii) Books you will need when you arrive:

If you don't already have one, you will need to buy a copy of this NRSV translation of the Bible:

- **The *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*, with Apocrypha** (Oxford University Press).
  - Including "Apocrypha" (additional biblical books).
  - Anglicized edition (i.e., not with US spelling).

### **iii) Books you will be given when you arrive:**

All students on the BA Theology and Religious Studies (Single Honours) programme will be given copies of the following books by the University of Chester when you arrive:

- 1) Davies, B. (2004). *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2) Ezigbo, V.I. (2013). *Introducing Christian Theologies*. Eugen, Oreg.: Cascade Books.
- 3) Rogerson, J.W., and Lieu, J.M. (eds) (2006). *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 4) Woodhead, L., and Heelas, P. (eds) (2000). *Religion in Modern Times: An Interpretive Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Thus you could certainly take a look at these before you arrive, but you don't need to buy them.

### **iv) Further (optional) preparatory reading:**

There is nothing you MUST read before you arrive, but, should you wish to, the following are recommended items of preparatory reading for each of the Level 4 modules available to you:

- **TH4041: Introduction to Theology**
  - McGrath, A.E. (2011). *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- **TH4042: The Study of Religion: an Introduction**
  - Nye, M. (2008). *Religion: The Basics*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London: Routledge.
    - [OR: Hinnells, J. (ed.) (2010). *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Routledge.]
- **TH4043: Encountering Religions: Judaism and Buddhism**
  - Mitchell, D. W., and Jacoby, S. H. (2014). *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.
    - [OR: Hinnells, J. (ed.) (2010). *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Routledge.]
- **TH4044: Encountering Religions: Hinduism and Islam**
  - Ruthven, M. (2012). *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
    - [AND for the second term: Dalrymple, W. (2010). *Nine Lives. In Search of the Sacred in Modern India*. London: Bloomsbury.]
- **TH4045: The Bible: Contents and Contexts**
  - Collins, J.J. (2014). *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Second Edition*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- **TH4046: The Bible: Readers and Perspectives**
  - Evans, R. (2009). *Using the Bible: Studying the Text*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Chester: University of Chester. [Open-access online]

- **TH4047: Global Perspectives on Christianity**
  - Woodhead, L. (2014). *Christianity: A Very Short Introduction*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
    - [OR: Davies, N., and Conway, M. (2008). *World Christianity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. London: SCM Press.
- **TH4048: Philosophy and Ethics**
  - Davies, B. (2004). *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Note that you will receive a free copy of this book during induction week.]

We're very much looking forward to welcoming you to the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester!



Dr Matthew A. Collins  
Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Judaism  
Email: [m.collins@chester.ac.uk](mailto:m.collins@chester.ac.uk)  
Web: <http://www.chester.ac.uk/node/10073>

