

BACHELOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Main Languages of Instruction:

French ☒ English ☐ Arabic ☒

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

In alignment with the guidelines of the Congregation for Catholic Education in its instruction “Reform of Higher Institutes of Religious Studies,” which distinguishes the pathway of religious studies from priestly formation by providing essential knowledge in theology, philosophy, and human sciences, this program aims to achieve a more specific purpose. It focuses on enhancing the religious education of laypeople and consecrated individuals, encouraging their active and informed participation in modern evangelization efforts. This includes fostering the engagement of the working world in Church’s life and promoting a Christian influence within society. Additionally, the program prepares candidates for various lay ministries and ecclesial roles, particularly training religion teachers for schools below the university level.

This program aims to:

- a. Train pastoral agents (schools, parishes, dioceses, congregations, etc.) and educators (children, youth, adults).
- b. Train coordinators and management personnel for pastoral work (schools, parishes, dioceses, congregations, etc.).
- c. Train researchers in theological and religious studies.

To address diverse needs and expectations, and leveraging the flexibility of the ECTS system, students can now pursue a Bachelor in Religious Studies with a choice of three major concentrations:

- a. Theologica
- b. Catechetical Agent
- c. Pastoral Agent

Each concentration is structured to provide the specific skills required for graduates to fulfill their assigned responsibilities. A skill is defined as “the ability to effectively use an organized set of knowledge, abilities, and attitudes to perform a set of tasks” (Marc Romainville, 2012).

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

Below are the shared skills for the Bachelor in Religious Studies degree, along with the specific skills for each concentration.

Shared Skills:

- S.1. Define the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith.
- S.2. Adopt a critical and responsible stance in the interpretation of matters of faith and life.
- S.3. Update the basis of Christian faith in various pastoral sectors, including teaching, worship, personal, and communal life.
- S.4. Construct a transmissible theological production within the field of religious studies, utilizing both speculative/intellectual and operational tools effectively.

Skills for the Theologica program:

- ST.5. Access theological sources within different ecclesial traditions.
- ST.6. Articulate a theological argument by identifying rationally acknowledged truths along with their underlying conceptual and philosophical foundations.

Skills for the Catechetical Agent program:

- SK. 5. Support the complex process of faith maturation and Christian life.
- SK. 6. Proclaim the Christian faith to various recipients, considering their respective ecclesial and social contexts.

Skills for the Pastoral Agent program:

SP. 5. Situate pastoral practice within the complex reality of the Church in the world.

SP. 6. Lead a Christian community, considering its ecclesial and social context.

SP. 7. Promote holistic personal and professional development within an integration framework.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

180 credits: Required courses (145 credits), Institution's elective courses (29 credits), open elective courses (6 credits) and USJ General Education Program (39 credits - may be part of the above categories).

Fundamental Courses (174 Cr.)

Required Courses (145 Cr.)

Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Research Methodology: Engaging with Text (3 Cr.). Christian Mystery (3 Cr.). The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution (3 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities (3 Cr.). John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse (3 Cr.). Introduction to the Old Testament (3 Cr.). Introduction to the New Testament (3 Cr.). Spiritual Growth (3 Cr.). Introduction to Patristics (3 Cr.). Theological Ethics (3 Cr.). Spiritual Experience and Psychology (3 Cr.). The Books of the Law (Pentateuch) (3 Cr.). Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question (3 Cr.). Christian Anthropology (3 Cr.). Foundational Theology (3 Cr.). Theology, Catechesis, and Catechetics (3 Cr.). The Prophets (3 Cr.). Epistemology (3 Cr.). Church History in the First Millennium (3 Cr.). Liturgical Theology (3 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission (3 Cr.). Mary in the Mystery of Salvation (3 Cr.). Luke – Acts (3 Cr.). Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives (3 Cr.). Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am? (3 Cr.). Introduction to Muslim Dogma (3 Cr.). Patristics: Theme (3 Cr.). Sexuality and Christian Life (3 Cr.). Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (3 Cr.). Religious Sociology (3 Cr.). Mystery of the Trinity and Pneumatology (3 Cr.). Introduction to Canon Law (3 Cr.). Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances (3 Cr.). Introduction to Judaism (3 Cr.). Saint Paul (3 Cr.). Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East (3 Cr.). Christian Arab Heritage (3 Cr.). Faith and Reason (3 Cr.). Foundational Ethics (3 Cr.). Anthropology of Religions (3 Cr.). Methods of Approaching Social Reality (3 Cr.). Social Teaching of the Church (3 Cr.). Applied Statistics in Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Biblical Greek Language 1 (2 Cr.). Biblical Hebrew Language 1 (2 Cr.). Portfolio (9 Cr.). USJ Values in Daily Life (2 Cr.).

Institution's Elective Courses (29 Cr.), to be chosen from the list below:

Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (3 Cr.). Psalms and Wisdom Literature (3 Cr.). Reading Biblical Texts (3 Cr.). Reading Theological Texts - Christology (3 Cr.). Reading Theological Texts - Trinity-Pneumatology (3 Cr.). History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the West) (3 Cr.). History of the Church in the Second Millennium (in the East) (3 Cr.). Patristics – Author: Origen and Origenism (3 Cr.). Trends in Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.). School of Ancient Philosophy (3 Cr.). Philosophical Text Analysis (3 Cr.). Syriac Language 1 (2 Cr.). Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality (3 Cr.). Spiritual Discernment (3 Cr.). The Quran (2 Cr.). Protestantism (3 Cr.). Ignatian Spirituality (3 Cr.). Popular Religiosity (3 Cr.). Sects and New Religious Movements (3 Cr.).

Open Elective Courses (6 Cr.)

USJ General Education Program (42 Cr.)

Code	Course Name	Credits
	ENGLISH OR OTHER LANGUAGE	4
045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek Language 1	2
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew Language 1	2
	ARABIC	6
018PCOAL2	<i>Arabic Language and Culture</i>	3
	Christian Arab Heritage	3
	<i>Other Course Taught in Arabic</i>	3
018INATH1	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
	HUMANITIES	11

064VLEL1	USJ Values in Daily Life	2
018ETHFL1	<i>Ethics</i> Foundational Ethics	3 3
018ESDEL4	<i>Civic Engagement and Citizenship</i> Social Teaching of the Church	3 3
	<i>Other Humanities Course</i>	3
018FOIRL2	Faith and Reason	3
	SOCIAL SCIENCES	6
018TCACL2	<i>Professional Integration and/or Entrepreneurship</i> Theology, Catechesis and Catechetics	3 3
	<i>Other Social Sciences Courses</i>	3
018SOREL2	Religious Sociology	3
	QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES	6
018MARSL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3
018SASRL3	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3
	COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES	6
018MRSRL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3
018MFATL2	Research Methodology: Engaging with Text	3

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MYCHL1	Christian Mystery	3
018ETHFL1	Foundational Ethics	3
018EMPIL1	The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution	3
018EOOIL5	Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities	3
018JEEAL3	John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse	3
018INATH1	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
018INNOL2	Introduction to the New Testament	3
018CROIL2	Spiritual Growth	3
018MRSRL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3
	Open Elective Courses	3
	Total	30

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
018DAWIL2	Faith and Reason	3
018ABKAI1	Introduction to Church Fathers	3
018LAAKL3	Theological Ethics	3
018KRINL2	Spiritual Experience and Psychology	3
018KOCAL2	The Books of the Law (Torah)	3
018MMMIL3	Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question	3

018ANTML3	Christian Anthropology	3
018MRTHL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3
	Total	30

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
018LAASL1	Foundational Theology	3
018LTMTL5	Theology, Christian Education and Catechesis	3
018KOANL2	The Prophets	3
018EPIML3	Epistemology (The Philosophy Of Knowledge)	3
018TAKAL1	Church History in the First Millennium	3
018LAHOL4	Liturgical Theology	3
018TMWIL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3
018KACHL2	Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission	3
018STATM2	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3
	Total	30

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MARIL5	Mary in the Sacrament of Salvation	3
018TKIJL3	Social Teaching of the Church	3
017BIIAL1	Summary of Islamic Doctrine (IEIC)	3
018LUACL3	Luke – Acts of the Apostles	3
018LAOTL4	Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives	3
018CRISL1	Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am?	3
045PMEDL2	Medieval and Modern Philosophy	3
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew	2
	Total	30

Semester 5

Code	Course Name	Credits
018ANREL4	Anthropology of Religions	3
018PATTL3	Patristics: Theme	3
018SEVCL3	Sexuality and Christian Life	3
018PCOAL2	Christian Arab Heritage	3
018SBCEL5	Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist	3
018SOREL2	Religious Sociology	3
018MYTPL3	Mystery of the Trinity and Pneumatology	3
045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek Language 1	2
	Institution's Elective Courses	7
	Total	30

Semester 6

Code	Course Name	Credits
018INDRL4	Introduction to Canon Law	3
018ETCHL4	Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances	3
018INJUL7	Introduction to Judaism	3
018STPAL6	Saint Paul	3
018MIOEL6	Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East	3
018PRTFL6	Portfolio	9
	Institution's Elective Courses	6
	Total	30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

018MYCHL1	Christian Mystery	3 Cr.
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This course explores the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith. Starting with the Creed, it examines the Christian faith through its Trinitarian structure—faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as well as secondary truths of faith, linking them to each person of the Trinity, highlighting their significance in Christian belief. The course defines faith and theology, leading into an exploration of the Trinity's three persons. It also explores the implications of these truths across ethical, ecological, and human rights dimensions.

018ETHFL1	Foundational Ethics	3 Cr.
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In a world where values and norms are fragmented and subjective, this course addresses fundamental questions: What makes an act truly humanizing for oneself and others? How does one lead a good, responsible, and fulfilling life amidst diverse convictions?

018EMPIL1	The Church: Mystery, People, and Institution	3 Cr.
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This course lays the groundwork for understanding the Church as “Mystery, People, and Institution,” as articulated by Vatican II’s *“Lumen Gentium”* and the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs’ pastoral letter, *“The Mystery of the Church.”* It serves as a prerequisite for courses such as Liturgical Theology, Sacraments of Initiation, Eastern Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East.

018EOOIL5	Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities	3 Cr.
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This course explores the richness and diversity of Eastern Churches, examining their historical, cultural, and ecclesiological development. It also studies the role of these Churches in the Near East concerning Church unity and their contributions to societal development.

018JEEAL3	John: Gospel, Epistles, and Apocalypse	3 Cr.
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This course introduces the Johannine Corpus, particularly focusing on the Fourth Gospel. It examines the texts themselves and the various contexts of their composition. To approach these testimonies of faith, passages are situated within their historical context and analyzed using narrative and rhetorical strategies employed by the authors of this literary collection, both communal and personal.

018INATI1	Introduction to the Old Testament	3 Cr.
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In a world overwhelmed with new and conflicting information, where science progresses rapidly, does the Old Testament still hold relevance? Furthermore, what value does understanding the Old Testament hold for Christians when the New Testament provides sufficient foundations for faith?

018INNOL2	Introduction to the New Testament	3 Cr.
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This course serves as an introduction to the New Testament, covering its historical, religious, political, and social contexts in which the texts were written. It explores the formation of the NT Canon, the epistolary literature, the Gospels (their authors, structure, theology, and the stages of the formation of the current text), the Apocalypse, and concludes with an overview of the New Testament Apocrypha.

018CROIL2	Spiritual Growth	3 Cr.
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This course guides students through the various stages of spiritual life, helping them assess their relationship with God and progress towards a deeper, more conscious adult faith.

018MRSRL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies	3 Cr.
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Methodology in academic work is the approach taken to achieve its objectives. By putting it into practice, students will demonstrate their ability to evaluate essential information for their research, articulate their opinions clearly, and propose relevant suggestions. The objective is to convince readers by presenting strong arguments and providing concrete evidence. Integration of knowledge, discernment, analysis, critique, and creativity without improvisation relies on established principles and rules. In this course, students will enhance their academic skills by analyzing theological texts, identifying key terms, formulating relevant issues, developing logical plans, and writing coherent paragraphs, among others.

018FOIRL2	Faith and Reason	3 Cr.
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This course examines the relationship between faith and reason, which is highly relevant in our postmodern world, where faith oscillates between traditionalism, agnosticism, and atheism. It addresses the question of how can we “give reasons for the hope that is in [us]” (1 Peter 3:15) today amidst skepticism about the truth of faith in Jesus Christ. Understanding the historical evolution of this question both philosophically and theologically is crucial to addressing its current state.

018PATRL3	Introduction to Patristics	3 Cr.
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“Back to the sources.” This motto encapsulates the essence of this course, which introduces the thought and theology of the Church Fathers from the Apostolic age to the fourth century. This lecture course focuses on major Patristic figures, supported by textual analysis.

018ETTHL2	Theological Ethics	3 Cr.
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The foundational ethical formation of a Christian involves exploring human action from both a rational and faith-based perspective. Building on the prerequisite course “Fundamental Ethics,” this course delves into questions that occupy human conscience in relation to others and God. It examines how the believing community in God through Jesus Christ defines good and evil, articulates values, and enlivens principles and laws to foster discernment and enact the most humanizing actions possible.

018EXPSL1	Spiritual Experience and Psychology	3 Cr.
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This course examines psychological transformations resulting from individuals’ relationships with themselves and others. It explores how contemporary subjects construct their religious identity in an era where personal journeys are indispensable.

018PENTL2	The Books of the Law (Pentateuch)	3 Cr.
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This course addresses the following questions: Why do the first five books of the Bible hold specific importance compared to other biblical texts? How does this corpus, narrowly known as the Pentateuch and broadly as the revelation of the Old Testament as a whole, contain the essence of revelation? What is unique about the Pentateuch, which goes beyond being a civil and religious code to become a narrative that offers profound insights?

018LEVSL2	Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question	3 Cr.
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This course addresses the following questions: The three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke share a similar

narrative that allows for comparison, hence they are termed the “Synoptic Gospels.” What does this comparative perspective reveal? What questions arise from the divergences and similarities observed in these Gospels? How can we approach each testimony of faith in the Risen Christ, rooted in the life of Jesus of Nazareth? This course introduces the concepts of Gospel and synoptic fact, reflecting on the composition of Matthew and Mark’s Gospels, highlighting their unique characteristics and commonalities. It emphasizes Christology in each Gospel, drawing on contemporary historical and literary research (narratology). Selected texts will be studied in detail to initiate students into historical-critical exegesis and narrative analysis methods.

018ANTCL2	Christian Anthropology	3 Cr.
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While theology primarily concerns itself with God, it also encompasses the study of humanity. In this course, students will explore human beings in light of Sacred Scriptures, created in the image and likeness of God. They will compare the Trinitarian creation narrative with creation myths from other religions to discern insights into the image of God and the concept of humanity. Additionally, the biblical understanding of the human person will also be compared with Greek philosophical perspectives, exploring the significance and role of the human body in salvation and resurrection.

018MFATL2	Research Methodology: Engaging with Text	3 Cr.
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Engaging with the Text: Analytical Research and Written Communication. This course aims to equip students with essential analytical research skills necessary for all academic work throughout their university journey.

018TEFOL1	Foundational Theology	3 Cr.
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This course addresses the following themes: Foundational theology delves into the reasons behind the Christian faith, guided by the exhortation in Peter’s epistle: “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). The document *Dei Verbum* calls for a reform and renewal of theological discourse, advocating for dialogue before imposition or condemnation. Post-conciliar, foundational theology has sought to establish its identity by avoiding thematic dispersion while addressing contemporary human concerns in the 21st century regarding revelation as credible and faith as reasonable.

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 both stable and changing forms – and its practical theology adapted to specific contexts.

018PROPL4	The Prophets	3 Cr.
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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.

018EPSTL4	Epistemology	3 Cr.
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In the English-speaking world, epistemology is the branch of philosophy that examines knowledge (gnoseology), while in the French-speaking world, it studies the nature and value of principles, concepts, methods, and results in the sciences. Both perspectives are legitimate and reconcilable. Initially, the course covers key concepts (science, scientific method, experience, objectivity, etc.) and major figures in epistemology (Vienna Circle, Hempel, Popper, Russell, etc.). Later, it delves into 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*?

018HISTL1	Church History 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.

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.

018MARSL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality	3 Cr.
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This course explores various methods of approaching social reality. Sociology is considered from a theological prospective, enabling pastoral agents to transition from an applied science to a “praxistic” science. Students will utilize different data collection tools, develop theological outputs (in religious studies), and effectively employ speculative/intellectual and operational tools. The course also focuses on situating pastoral practices within the complex reality of the Church in the world and animating Christian communities while considering their ecclesial and social contexts.

018EGORL3	Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission	3 Cr.
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Now more than ever, Christians are called to find meaning in their presence in the Middle East. This quest for meaning is intrinsically linked to the vocation and mission of the Eastern Churches to which they belong. This course introduces students to this quest by examining:

- The original history of Eastern Churches and their encounters with Muslims, with the West, and with the Church of Rome.
- The wounds of divisions and wars that have weakened or hindered their common mission over centuries.
- The current challenges and issues faced in their mission in the Middle East today.

018SASRL3	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3 Cr.
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This course familiarizes students with designing and organizing quantitative surveys using questionnaires, as well as analyzing and interpreting results using SPSS software.

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.

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 aspects of being Church: the realization of the community of believers (intra-ecclesial movement) and the mission of this community (individually and collectively) within the world (the Church going forth into the world, extra-ecclesial movement). Finally, it emphasizes the principal vector for promoting integral humanism grounded in a dual anthropological and soteriological vision.

017BIIAL1	Introduction to Muslim Dogma	3Cr.
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A concise presentation of the foundations of Islamic creed (*‘aqidah*), highlighting its importance and sources, with a focus on the distinction between creed (*‘aqidah*) and law (*Shari’ah*), their respective significance, an introduction to the Pillars of Islam and the Articles of Faith, an overview of the Islamic schools of jurisprudence (*madhāhib*), the meaning of religiosity (*al-tadayyun*), and the difference between genuine and superficial religiosity.

The course also includes a concise study of prophethood, with particular emphasis on the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), a brief account of his life and his relationship with his community, his miracle – the Qur’an revealed to him – which continues the message of the prophets before him (peace be upon them), selected examples of its scientific and historical inimitability (*i’jāz*), and an overview of the sciences of the Qur’an. The course concludes with studies related to the reality of death, the soul, the realm of al-barzakh (the intermediate state), and the Day of Judgment.

018LUACL6	Luke – Acts	3 Cr.
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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. Specific texts will be studied to initiate students into the practices of historical-critical exegesis and narrative analysis.

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.

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 is the cornerstone of its entire belief system, worship, and way of life. Everything that matters depends on who Jesus Christ was. Therefore, for Christians, understanding and confessing Jesus correctly is not just a mark of ecclesiastical orthodoxy; it is the basis and foundation of their salvation. They believe that being mistaken about Jesus' identity risks jeopardizing his mission and their relationship with God. Historical theologies that interpret Christological debates merely as issues of power politics, Machiavellian intrigue, or party spirit risk entirely missing the essence of the Christian faith.

045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew Language 1	2 Cr.
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This course examines the relevance of learning grammar in an era where digital texts are automatically corrected, specifically focusing on the ancient language of Hebrew. Despite advancements, Hebrew remains a fascinating language to study in itself, whether for appreciating its uniqueness and characteristics or for the purpose of reading and understanding biblical texts. It belongs to the Semitic language group, offering not just common vocabulary but also parallel linguistic structures.

064VALEL1	USJ Values in Daily Life	2 Cr.
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This course aims to raise students' awareness of the fundamental values of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) in order to invest them in their personal, interpersonal, and professional lives. It thus engages them in a critical reflection on how the values enshrined in the USJ Charter can influence their behavior, actions, and decisions in order to meet the challenges of the contemporary world. They will also be aware of global issues and ethical responsibilities, ready to positively contribute to building a better society.

018ANREL4	Anthropology of Religions	3 Cr.
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This course explores the significant gap between religious anthropology, which explicates the perspective of a specific religion on humanity, its origins, and the purpose of life, and the anthropology of religions, whether in terms of object or methodology. This course offers a human perspective directed towards God and religion as objects of study. It primarily focuses on the study of rituals, their functions, and symbolism, the distinction between sacred and profane, and the role of sacrifices and their crucial function in religious life. It also discusses the human thirst for eternal life and the rejection of death, which forms the basis of all anthropological reflection.

018PATTL3	Patristics: Theme	3 Cr.
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This course addresses the question, "Who is man?"—undoubtedly one of the most pressing inquiries of our time. Christian anthropology finds the foundation of its response in "created in the image." However, interpretations of this notion vary. The divinization of man emerges as the ultimate expression of this concept. This course aims to examine the term "theosis" (becoming God) in the thought of the Church Fathers. Is it truly a Christian doctrine? From which sources does it emanate? Is it solely a theological development of Eastern Christianity? What equivalent exists in Western Christianity? To deepen our research, we will primarily draw upon the texts of the Fathers and contemporary studies through presentations, pre-reading activities, and training exercises.

018SEVCL3	Sexuality and Christian Life	3 Cr.
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This course addresses the realm of sexuality, which, as Ruiz RETEGUI writes, touches upon the diverse layers or aspects that constitute the human person, whether male or female, and is inscribed in their entire being. More than a mere form of existence, sexuality is the human dimension through which individuals are capable of reciprocally giving themselves to another. This course, with a dual perspective from anthropology and theology, explores the various biological, physical, historical, and spiritual aspects of human sexuality. It particularly considers the diverse current interpretations arising from advancements in scientific knowledge and sociocultural changes.

018PCOAL2	Christian Arab Heritage	3 Cr.
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This course provides an exploratory view of Christian Arabic literature across different periods and theological issues. It aims to familiarize students with this Christian literature and engage with the University's research work in this field through CEDRAC.

018SBCEL5	Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to sacramental theology through the theological category of sacramentality: of Christ, of the Church, of the sacraments. The ultimate objective is to grasp the meaning of "life in Christ" for every baptized person. Opening up to this dimension of ecclesial life leads to more vibrant and meaningful pastoral practices.

018SOREL2	Religious Sociology	3 Cr.
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What is the relationship between religion and society? How does sociology enable us to understand and analyze the political, economic, and cultural dynamics between these two entities? These questions are explored through various thematic studies, approached either specifically or cross-sectionally across religions. This course provides theoretical and empirical knowledge essential for understanding the social and ecclesial structures of beliefs and religious phenomena. It is structured into three main parts: the theoretical section, which covers classical sociological authors (Comte, Marx, Tocqueville, Weber, Durkheim) and contemporary approaches (Hervieu-Léger, Berger, etc.); the empirical section, which introduces students to the sociological analysis of institutions, beliefs, and practices of believers; and the third part, which bridges sociology and pastoral theology. By the end of the course, students are encouraged to use sociological concepts and methods alongside theological insights to "discern the signs of the times" scientifically and interpret them theologically for innovative pastoral responses that meet the needs of God's people.

018MYTPL3	Mystery of the Trinity and Pneumatology	3 Cr.
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This course examines the challenge faced by early Christians in conceptually reconciling their belief in one God (monotheism) with their experience of the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit, each acting individually in their lives. It explores how, while believing in one God, they also recognized that the Father is God, Jesus the Son is God, and the Spirit is God—distinctly. The course highlights their efforts to reconcile unity and plurality in God, which is not merely a mathematical puzzle or a metaphysical conundrum of how three can be one and remain three. Instead, it delves into how they sought to account for the three distinct ways in which one God is felt as present and active in their lives and in the history of salvation: this God, who is Father, Son, and Spirit, creates, saves, and sanctifies humans, not merely as three different, successive roles in which God acts in history, but as three truly distinct personal "entities."

045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek Language 1	2 Cr.
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This course aims to provide sufficient knowledge of the NT Greek (Koine) to read and translate biblical or philosophical texts. Course 1 serves as an introduction, covering essential concepts necessary for learning the language and understanding simple sentences.

018INDRL4	Introduction to Canon Law	3 Cr.
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This course explores the utility of canon law within the Church, addressing the questions raised by some theologians, jurists, and ecclesial communities. This course aims to highlight the role of this crucial discipline in the life of the Church.

018ETCHL4	Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances	3 Cr.
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Technological and scientific advancements in biological and medical fields present humanity with a multitude of questions concerning its perception of existence and the world, as well as inquiries into the meaning of life, health, dignity, suffering, and more. Positioned within a Christian faith perspective, this course addresses a series of ethical questions arising from these developments and aims to educate personal conscience for responsible decision-making.

018INJUL7	Introduction to Judaism	3 Cr.
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This course examines Judaism as one of the three monotheistic religions alongside Christianity and Islam. It addresses the complexities surrounding Jewish identity, which often evokes either repulsion or admiration and frequently stirs apprehensions and prejudices. No one remains neutral toward Jews and Judaism. Yet, there exists a particular link between the Jewish people and Christianity. Islam, for its part, also references Judaism. Understanding and appreciating Jews and Judaism through study is not merely a recommendation today but a necessity in a Middle East fraught with misunderstandings and politico-religious tensions.

018STPAL6	Saint Paul	3 Cr.
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For Saint Paul, discovering salvation in Jesus Christ is inseparable from the mission to the nations and the establishment of communities living by the Gospel. Through selected Pauline letters, the course examines how the apostle pragmatically addresses the growth issues of communities, centrally guided by the message of the Cross.

018MIOEL6	Churches and Ecumenism in the Middle East	3 Cr.
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The situation of Christians in the Middle East is a global concern today. However, the stability of their presence primarily depends on the unity of their particular Churches. This course analyzes this situation, the historical context of ecclesial divisions, the ecclesiological principles of unity, and the perspectives that give meaning to the presence and mission of the “Church, one in diversity” in the Middle East today.

018PRTFL6	Portfolio	9 Cr.
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The portfolio serves as an assessment modality for evaluating the student’s progression in relation to their practice, while also establishing connections between practice and theory. It is a validation or certification portfolio divided into four parts:

1. The first part presents all the knowledge students have accumulated over the years and their motivations for pursuing this training.
2. The second part describes the continuation and regulation of their training.
3. In the third part, students assess their training, highlighting their theological achievements and their relationship to theological education.
4. Finally, after presenting the written portfolio, students also defend it before a jury for validation.

018LHECL4	Hebrews and Catholic Epistles	3 Cr.
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This course explores the Epistle to the Hebrews, which, despite its difficulty, holds great importance for Christian faith and life. It sets the tone with its eloquent opening and key interpretations. Despite controversial questions about its presentation, the richness of the text invites deeper exploration of Christological themes and the dynamics of Christian existence between the old and new covenant. Additionally, the course examines the Catholic Epistles, which, as circular letters, reflect the fertility of Christian theological reflection through changing circumstances and new situations in the early Churches.

018PSESL6	Psalms and Wisdom Literature	3 Cr.
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This course explores the quest for wisdom as a means to discover the true face of God and understand the true nature of humanity. It examines how faith is embodied in theological reality, while wisdom emerges predominantly from existential experience. Both concepts are closely connected, as revealed in the poetic and sapiential writings of the Bible, aiming to address various issues related to human existence.

018LTBIL2	Reading Biblical Texts	3 Cr.
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This workshop aims to initiate the exegetical analysis of selected biblical texts, focusing on gaining greater familiarity with the Word of God as intended by the inspired author, and interpreting it within the framework of personal, social, and apostolic life.

018LTTCL	Reading Theological Texts – Christology	3 Cr.
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This course focuses on reading major theological texts to understand the genesis of significant theological questions, rediscover the vitality of beginnings, and facilitate theological interpretation, especially in Christology.

018TTHTL5	Reading Theological Texts -Trinity-Pneumatology	3 Cr.
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This course, designed as an in-depth continuation of the course on the Trinity, offers a methodical analysis of key texts from the Magisterium (councils, papal documents) and from major theologians (Patristic, Medieval, or Modern). Its objective is to deepen Trinitarian themes through the direct study of the sources, highlighting their historical context and doctrinal significance; to explore the diversity of theological approaches (and their responses to historical debates such as Arianism, the Filioque, etc.); and to master complex concepts through textual analysis exercises.

018H2MOL5	Church History in the Second Millennium (in the West)	3 Cr.
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This course identifies the major historical dynamics at work in the history of the Western Church during the second millennium, including the emergence of medieval Christianity, the new theological paths, the crisis at the end of the Middle Ages, the dialectic of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, spiritual currents, and the encounter with modernity.

018HIS2L2	Church History in the Second Millennium (in the East)	3 Cr.
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This course aims to pinpoint the historical turning points in the history of the Church in the East during the second millennium. It focuses on major historical events, ecclesiastical figures, councils, the delicate relationship between State and Church, ecclesiology between East and West, and the recent development of ecumenism.

018PAT3L5	Patristics – Author: Origen and Origenism	3 Cr.
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Origen, born to a martyr in Alexandria around 185, became a master of biblical scholarship. This course aims to explore this influential ecclesiastical author whose literature has shaped both Eastern and Western Christianity. It also examines Origenism, the theological concepts associated with Origen that sparked significant controversies in the 4th and 6th centuries.

045HPCOL4	Trends in Contemporary Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course delves into the history of philosophy, concentrating on key figures and movements in contemporary thought, such as Nietzschean philosophy, phenomenology (Husserl), personalism, and existentialism (Sartre).

It aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of:

1. The broader intellectual context that shaped the emergence of contemporary philosophy.
2. The distinctive features that set contemporary philosophical discourse apart, particularly its focus on pluralism, analytical rigor, realism, precision, and clarity.
3. Major philosophical currents, including Nietzschean thought, phenomenology, personalism, and existentialism.

045PANTL1	School of Ancient Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course explores the beginnings and development of human philosophy in ancient Greece, from the Natural School (6th century BCE) to Plotinus (d. 270 CE).

It aims to:

1. Identify the historical, social, and political motives behind the emergence of early attempts to explain the creation of the universe.
2. Examine the stages of Greek philosophy from its inception to Plotinus, familiarizing students with various Greek philosophical schools, including the Pythagorean, Atomist, Epicurean, and Stoic schools.
3. Recognize key figures in Greek philosophy, such as Heraclitus, Parmenides, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

045APHIL1	Philosophical Text Analysis	3 Cr.
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This workshop introduces students to the techniques of philosophical analysis.

018SYRIL7	Syriac Language 1	2 Cr.
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This introductory course teaches students the Syriac alphabet and provides essential morphological tools for reading Syriac texts. It introduces students to the linguistic system of Syriac, scriptural writings, and study tools (such as Louis Costaz's dictionary and grammars), aiming to enable reliable engagement with biblical and/or theological sources in their original language.

018THSEL6	Spiritual Theology and Schools of Spirituality	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to spiritual theology, focusing on the Christian spiritual life as life in the Holy Spirit and its evolution towards union with God. It explores the relationship and distinctions between spiritual life and spiritualities, as well as major Christian schools of spirituality.

018DISCL1	Spiritual Discernment	3 Cr.
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This course aims to equip students with the capacity for discernment in decision-making, both in personal life and pastoral activities.

018PROTL1	Protestantism	3 Cr.
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This course explores the origins and evolution of Protestantism through different historical periods. It examines the socio-political and religious context pre-Reformation, the figure of Martin Luther, and various reform movements of the 16th century. Fundamental principles of the Reformation (*sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura*) will be studied, along with the organization of Protestant communities and worship practices such as baptism and the Lord's Supper. Additionally, contemporary aspects including the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification will be explored, highlighting ecumenical efforts and challenges in modern Protestantism.

018SPIGL2	Ignatian Spirituality	3 Cr.
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This course will explore the fundamental characteristics of Ignatian spirituality, while also examining the historical context of its initial development and its ongoing relevance in the contemporary world.

018RELPL5	Popular Religiosity	3 Cr.
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This course aims to develop the following competency: the ability to situate a pastoral practice within the complex reality of the Church in the world.

Within the broader program, it contributes to the following objectives:

1. Apply psychosocial techniques and methods in pastoral work
2. Use appropriate frameworks and tools for the theological and pastoral evaluation of various approaches to evangelization

This course enables the student to:

1. Analyze and assess the practices of Popular Religion
2. Apply psychosocial and theological analytical frameworks in pastoral ministry

018SNMRL3	Sects and New Religious Movements	3 Cr.
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The phenomenon of New Religious Movements and sects raises significant questions for traditional religious institutions. Why do sects appear to exert greater influence over believers than traditional religions? This course offers a space for reflection and understanding of this phenomenon, which affects society, while also confronting and challenging pastoral approaches.

Theoretical and methodological tools from sociology and theology are employed to define, classify, and analyze the functional structures, beliefs, and doctrines of these new religious movements.

Students are guided to articulate the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith and to adopt a critical and responsible stance in interpreting questions of faith and life.