	Course Unit Outline
Unit Code	

T7333

Unit Name

The Trinity

Unit Weighting

9 cps

Type of Unit

Specialised

Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions

One 7100 series unit in Theology

Academic Staff

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Curriculum Objectives

The purpose of this unit is to focus exclusively on, and examine systematically, the Church's teaching on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine that stands at the very heart of Christian belief. In so doing it will want to demonstrate the profound soteriological and existential consequences of this doctrine to the way Christians live their life.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the key themes in the doctrine of the Trinity;
- 2) identify the key biblical features of this doctrine and its trajectory into the Patristic and/or modern traditions;
- 3) Critically review, analyse, and synthesise knowledge current literature on the Trinity;
- 4) show an ability to articulate a doctrine of the Trinity for a contemporary reader;
- 5) apply the doctrine of the Trinity to Christian living today

Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit

The importance of the Trinitarian doctrine for Christian living

Content

- 1. Biblical foundations of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity; Old and New Testaments
- 2. The historical developments of the Trinitarian doctrine
- 3. Modern understandings of the Trinity
- 4. Systematic considerations: for example, persons, essence/substance, koinonia
- 5. Salvific and existential implications
- 6. Contemporary Trinitarian theology: problems and perspectives

Learning Activities

Lectures, tutorials and small groups

Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment

Nil

Assessment Profile

Assessment tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:

- 1. Critically review one recent article on Trinitarian theology [Outcomes 3 and 5]
- 2. Analyse the impact of the Scriptural and/or Patristic of the Trinitarian doctrine on the present understanding of Trinitarian theology (e.g. essay, seminar paper) [Outcomes 1, 2 and 4]
- 3. Show how Trinitarian theology informs a Christian way of living (e.g. tutorial presentation, short essay) [Outcomes 3, 4 and 5]

Representative References

- 1. Ayres, Lewis. *Nicaea and Its Legacy: An Approach to Fourth-Century Trinitarian Theology.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- 2. Behr, John. The Nicene Faith. The Formation of Christian Theology, vol. 2. Crestwood, NY: SVS Press, 2004.
- 3. Bobrinskoy, Boris. *The Mystery of the Trinity: Trinitarian Experience and Vision in the Biblical Patristic Tradition*. Crestwood, NY: SVS Press, 1999.

- 4. Emery, Giles. *An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God.* Translated by Matthew Levering. Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2011.
- 5. Fairbairn, Donald. *Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- 6. Hunt, Anne. Trinity. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2005.
- 7. Letham, Robert. *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology and Worship*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P&R Publishing, 2001.
- 8. Kärkkäinen, V.M. *Trinity and Religious Pluralism: The Doctrine of the Trinity in Christian Theology of Religions*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004.
- 9. Marmion, Declan & Rik Van Nieuwenhove. *An Introduction to the Trinity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- 10. O'Collins. Gerald. *The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity.* New York, Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1999.
- 11. Ormerod, Neil. *The Trinity: Retrieving the Western Tradition*. Milwaukee, Wis. : Marquette University Press, 2005.
- 12. Volf, Miroslav. God's Life in Trinity. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.