Module Descriptor

Title	Theological Ethics And Mission		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	THEO11002	**SCQF Level**	**SCQF 11**
Credit Points	30	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	15
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	S. Weir		

Summary of Module

This module will examine various approaches of how the Church, whether dispersed or gathered, might wish to act in Scottish society in ways commensurate with living out God's mission. To do this students will make critical assessment of numerous ethical acts; that is, a selection of Christian practices in the world will be deliberated in their own right. Further, it will be expected that a high level of comprehension will be gained of the differing ethical schools within the Christian tradition. An appreciatition of the ethical acts demonstrated in society by certain followers of Jesus will be garnered in concert with the contrasting ethical traditions. Each Christian ethical tradition and practice must be tested to ascertain their merits in order to evaluate whether each approach is valid, needs repair, or is outmoded in Scottish contexts. With careful critical analysis students should come to terms with the meaningfulness and profundity (or not) of some approaches to Christian ethics as a crucial piece of God's mission in the world.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus**[1] ☐	**Hybrid**[2] ☒	**Online**[3] ☐	**Work -Based Learning**[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London	☒ Online / Distance Learning	

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

			☒ Paisley		☐ Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☒	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a nuanced and critical understanding of the three main traditions of Christian ethics as they relate to ethical issues in Scotland today.
L2	Draw complex and knowledgable connexions between Christian ethical practices and the Church's mission on corporate and personal levels.
L3	Using technology and ways of communication, develop original and creative responses to problems with ethical issues often found in missional theory and practice.
L4	Identify and explore new areas of Christian practice which would have a strong bearing on Christian mission in Scotland today.
L5	Critically listen to the ethical considerations in various theological issues as articulated by different authors and student interlocutors in your cohort. Show much ability to strongly critique other ideas while maintaining the human dignity of your interlocutor.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** In depth critical analysis of a theological ethics, including a nuanced understanding of the discipline's theories, concepts and principles. A critical, detailed and leading knowledge and understanding at the forefront of one or more of the three Christian traditions in ethics.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** In using and enhancing a range of complex skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are at the forefront of one or more Christian ethical practice leading to Christian mission. In demonstrating originality and creativity in the development and application of new knowledge, understanding and practices. To practise the meaningfulness of specific ethical practices in the context of new problems and circumstances in Scotland.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Apply a constant and integrated approach to critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ethical issues as they serve the Christian mission. Identify, conceptualise and offer original and creative insights into new, complex and ways in which theological ethics are demonstrative in Christian mission.

Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Use a wide range of routine skills and a range of advanced and specialised skills as appropriate to theological ethics in its intersection with missiology, for example: • Communicate with peers, more senior colleagues and specialists. • Use a wide range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional and equivalent activities. Take responsibility for own work and/or significant responsibility for the work of others. Take significant responsibility for reading and interaction with a wide range of resources. Work in a peer relationship with specialist practitioners. Practise in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours. However, unlike other Master's level modules (that this used module descriptor template reflects) the Master of Theology programme consists of four 30-credit modules, not six 20-credit modules in the 120-credit taught part of the degree programme. Therefore, as listed below, each module consists of 300 learning hours which consists of a total of 60 hours teaching time (36 contact hours of synchronous in-person and hybrid lectures, 18 hours of practical learning workshops, and 6 hours of tutorial support) and 240 hours of self-study. The module handbook, and other detailed material made available to participants, gives more specific information on the particular learning and teaching methodologies, and combinations of these methodologies. This clarifies expectations for module content and for the overall balance of learning and teaching methodologies used during the module. This module is delivered using a combination of in-person and online learning reflecting a twin approach of classroom-based face-to-face delivery and hybrid delivery of lectures using zoom and the university's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The use of VLE enables asynchronous learning, as participants engage with their fellow learners and tutors through online learning and discussion activities. Recognising that not all the participants are familiar with the VLE, an online induction and familiarisation process is included in the teaching of this module. This is intended to help build participant competence and confidence in gaining use of e-books and journals, using the UWS library remotely and accessing the wide range of support services available to UWS students.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	36
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	18
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Independent Study	240
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	300

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Bretherton, L. A Primer in Christian Ethics: Christ and the Struggle to Live Well. Cambridge: CUP, 2023.

Hauerwas, S. The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics. London: SCM, 1983.

O'Donovan, O. Resurrection and the Moral Order: An Outline for Evangelical Ethics. Leicester: IVP, 1994

Volf, M. The End of Memory: Remembering Rightly in a Violent World. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006

Wells, S., B. Quash and R. Eklund (eds.), Introducing Christian Ethics, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, students are defined as academically engaged if they regularly engage with timetabled teaching sessions. For this module this includes full attendance at the mandatory in-person intensive study week at the Scottish Baptist College, and a mid-module one-day mandatory hybrid study seminar. Also included are course-related learning resources including those in the library and on the VLE, together with completing assessments and submitting them on time.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. As a Christian theological college, students should be aware that teaching, discussion and the college's ethos is from a confessional viewpoint. The college actively encourages an environment of openness and religious tolerance, but the main function of the college is the training of ministerial candidates and the learning environment will be supportive of this. Where students need additional support, this is provided by the college team with reference if appropriate to other UWS colleagues, they are referred to Student Support Services for further assistance. In consultation with the student, the needs of individual students are met, wherever practicable, and every effort made to ensure individual students are not disadvantaged. The staff of the Scottish Baptist College have undertaken and passed the EDI training provided by UWS training.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Education**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Divinity
Moderator	G. Meiklejohn
External Examiner	
Accreditation Details	None
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1.0

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Essay - 3,350 words (50%)
Assessment 2
Portfolio 3,350 words (50%)
Assessment 3
N/A
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	50%	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Portfolio	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	50%	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
N/A	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
New Module	May 2026	SBC