

# THEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## WHY STUDY THEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

How do we evaluate different beliefs and practices?

How do theology and religion continue to shape the contemporary world? How do we understand and negotiate theological and religious differences? Religion has a complicated impact on everyday life in both our contemporary world and historical contexts. Drawing on sociology, history, theology, gender studies and biblical studies, Theological and Religious Studies discovers and unpacks religious history, Asian religions, Christianity, contextual and liberation theologies, and Pacific theology and religion.

Dig into these questions and learn to critically reflect on the diverse commitments of people and beliefs in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

## CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Our students hold a wide range of religious, spiritual and secular commitments. Some have gone on to work in education, politics, the NGO sector, community development, and for churches and religious communities. With investigative, interpretative and critical skills, Theological and Religious Studies provides a solid foundation for a variety of careers.

*"I've genuinely found Theological and Religious Studies contributed a lot to both my career and personal life... the learning and discussion-based classes gave us a solid foundation to be successful anywhere, doing anything, and people have always commented on it as a subject that sticks in their mind after reading a CV."*



### Callum Hunter

**Director, supergood; former Communications Adviser to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern**

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Theological and Religious Studies + Classical Studies / Bachelor of Commerce



*"Religion is everywhere. It's in every suburb of Auckland and country of the world. It's in culture, history, and social media. It runs through our debates about gender and sexuality, climate change and political radicalisation. Whether you're religious or not, our courses will help you understand how religion works and how it shapes the world we live in."*

**Associate Professor Mike Mawson  
Dr Nick Thompson**



## WHAT CAN I STUDY?

Theological and Religious Studies covers topics as broad as religion and justice, gender roles, terrorism, art, architecture, communities and more. Undergraduate study includes courses on Islam and the contemporary world, the Bible and popular culture, religion and violence, and religion in New Zealand.

### Get excited about your course options:



#### Stage 1 Course\*

##### THEOREL 106 - Islam and the Contemporary World

Since the religion of Islam has become a very significant aspect of contemporary global and local societies, this course seeks to introduce students to an understanding of key aspects of Islam and an analysis of its significant contribution to New Zealand society as well as to societies and cultures across the world.

#### Stage 2 Course\*

##### THEOREL 206 - Religion in Film and Television

Explores the ways that religious themes, myths, and imagery are expressed within the narratives of some classic and contemporary films and television dramas. Students will learn skills to identify the articulation of religious beliefs, narratives, and the sacred or transcendent within the medium of film and television, and to discuss critically this cultural engagement with religion.

#### Stage 3 Course\*

##### THEOREL 320 - Religion in New Zealand

An exploration of living religions in contemporary New Zealand, surveying the beliefs, traditions and practices that are central to religious groups in New Zealand and their interactions with contemporary culture both locally and globally. The course will introduce students to the comparative study of religion in New Zealand, engaging in such topics as religion and ritual, exploring belief, and interfaith dialogue.

## Courses you could study\*

Bible and Popular Culture

Early Christianity

Body and Blood: Religious Cultures and Conflicts c.50-1650

## Complementary majors include:

Theological and Religious Studies



Anthropology

Art History

History

Philosophy

Sociology



*“Both of my majors are intellectually stimulating and push me to understand multiple viewpoints.*

*“I have found that the two subjects consistently complement and enrich each other. The ways of thinking I am introduced to in my Theological and Religious Studies courses often influence my approach to the Art History component of my degree and vice versa.”*

### Elizabeth Newton-Jackson

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), majoring in Theological and Religious Studies + Art History



\*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

For enrolment information visit:

[auckland.ac.nz/askus](http://auckland.ac.nz/askus)



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