



Theological and Religious Studies

BA

Bachelor of Arts major

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

Graduate: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Classical Studies* + Theological and Religious Studies / Bachelor of Commerce conjoint



"Religion is everywhere. 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."

NICK THOMPSON
Senior Lecturer

MIKE MAWSON
Associate Professor

*Classical Studies and Ancient History has replaced Classical Studies as a major in the BA.



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 Aotearoa New Zealand.

STAGE 1 COURSE*

THEOREL 101G – The Bible and Popular Culture

An exploration of biblical themes, images, and metaphors in contemporary film, music and cultural arts through which religion and culture intersect. Develop tools appropriate for analysing popular culture, as it moves from the local to the national to the global.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

THEOREL 202 – A History of the Apocalypse

An 'apocalypse' is a divine revelation about the shape of history. It is written for a society in crisis, often describing that society's collapse before the coming of a better world. This course traces the development of apocalyptic thought in the religions of the West, from the ancient Middle East through to apocalyptic themes in modern cultures.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

THEOREL 322 – Religion, Climate Change and Justice

An exploration of the influence of religion on how we understand and relate to the natural world. Students will learn about some of religious ideas that have contributed to the current climate crisis, as well as the role that religion and spirituality are playing in responses to this crisis.



Get excited about your course options:



- Early Christianity
- How People Became Things: Christianity, Colonisation and Race
- Religion in Film and Television



Complementary majors include:

Theological and Religious Studies
+
Anthropology
Art History
History
Philosophy
Sociology

**Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.*

“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

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Art History + Theological and Religious Studies
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Art History

