Theology for Year 13 students
Explore faith, yourself and the world ...

"Year 13 Theology provides an excellent opportunity for our students to engage in an illuminating, academically challenging and wonderfully presented course of study. Those who take the course also love the feeling of being Uni students."

Colin MacLeod
Director of Religious Studies / Assistant Principal, Kavanagh College, Dunedin

Theology engages with the deepest questions of life. What can we say about God? What does it mean to be human? How should we live in this world? How has the Christian faith played itself out in human history? And where did it all begin?

Take on the challenge of a Theology paper in Year 13 and you’ll wrestle with these questions and many more. Not only that, you’ll gain points towards a degree and the confidence of knowing you can succeed at University. Each year many students from high schools around New Zealand meet this challenge. They stretch themselves; they grow. They’re getting a head start at University. Why not join them?

0800 80 80 98 | otago.ac.nz | txt 866 | university@otago.ac.nz
What background do I need?

You don’t need to have done any theological study before, nor do you need to have a personal Christian faith. The Department of Theology and Religion assumes no particular denominational or theological perspective. All you need is a sense of curiosity about the world and human experience, and a willingness to take on a new challenge.

Who is eligible?

It is recommended that students have at least 80 NCEA credits at Level 2 (or higher) with at least 16 credits in each of their best four subjects. Three subjects must be from the approved list. Account will be taken of the number of merit and excellence credits. Students must also satisfy the literacy and numeracy requirements.

The University has limits on the total numbers of students who may enrol. Most programmes are subject to the entry pathway system, and not all students who are granted Discretionary Entrance can necessarily proceed to enrolment (although most do).

Your school Principal must also be satisfied that you are capable of undertaking the tertiary study as well as your secondary school study.

International Year 13 students are not eligible to enrol.

How do I apply?

Please go to the University of Otago Certificate of Proficiency (COP) webpage otago.ac.nz/courses qualifications/certificateofproficiency.html and click on the ‘Apply for the Undergraduate Certificate of Proficiency’ link. This will take you to the eVision page.

Select ‘Create new account’. Once you have created your account you will receive an email confirmation. You will then be able to complete your application.

What happens next?

Once you have submitted your application you will receive a request via eVision for further information which may include a personal letter of application and a supporting letter of recommendation from your school. You will also receive notification that you have been placed on the Competitive Entry Pathway. Details of what that may entail will be included.

Accepting your place will allow you to proceed to course enrolment, and to select your papers, once paper selection opens. Choose the Theology paper that is available for the year you plan to study, either CTHH 102 The History of Christianity, or CTHH 131 God and Ethics in the Modern World.

Please keep an eye on your eVision portal and the email address you have entered in for further information.

What will I study?

You’ll complete one of two papers offered in alternate years:

• CTHH 102 The History of Christianity surveys the history of Christianity from around AD100 to the present day. That story is grounded in the early formation of Christian belief and practice. It then traces the development of Christianity through the Middle Ages, including the Crusades. It concludes with an overview of the modern world, briefly exploring such diverse contexts as Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia and North America.

• CTHH 131 God and Ethics in the Modern World explores the big ideas that have shaped the modern world. Notions such as Freedom, Equality, Justice and Law are examined, and consideration is given to how these ideas are conceived differently within Christian and secular paradigms. Through the course of this study, the distinctive character of Christian ethics is brought to light, and the Christian approach to ethical questions is compared with other systems of ethics that have been developed in Western thought.

How will I study?

As distance learning students, you will take part in videoconferences. These are held on selected dates throughout the semester. Students are also expected to participate, in their own time, in an online discussion.

You’ll receive a coursebook containing everything you need to complete the paper including study notes, readings and questions for discussion during the videoconferences. Assessment will usually be a combination of two essays, online discussion, and a final exam at the end of the semester.

What will I gain?

Theology provides a very good intellectual training with all the benefits of a Humanities education — development of skills in critical thinking, logical analysis, cultural appreciation, language-learning, writing and presentation. The content of your study will be stimulating and interesting.

Above all, you will be equipped for University study. There is nothing like a positive experience to give you confidence as you begin your University degree. The 18 points you will gain from this paper can be credited towards most (though not all) degrees at any New Zealand university. You have a head start on your peers who are beginning their University study for the very first time.

Enrol now. What have you got to lose?

Enquiries

Teachers’ Freephone Hotline
Tel 0800 80 12 12

Email liaison@otago.ac.nz

Schools’ Liaison
University of Otago
PO Box 56
Dunedin 9054

For questions about Theology for Year 13 students
otago.ac.nz/theology

PROFILE

Eleanor O’Neill

It was at the end of Year 12 when I first heard about the opportunity to take a university paper during my final year of high school, and despite never having planned on studying Theology before, I was immediately interested. Consequently, I applied for the course, and I am so glad that I did.

From a practical point of view, with my current intention of pursuing humanities subjects at tertiary level, this Theology paper provided an excellent grounding for such a path. A range of transferrable skills including analysis, critical thinking, and close reading, were developed during the semester. Furthermore, it had the benefit of helping prepare me for full-time tertiary education, in terms of understanding the process, the standard of work expected, as well as the credits gained.

My recommendation for taking this opportunity is not solely based upon the above merits; the content is engaging, albeit challenging at times. I took the paper CTHH131, ‘God and Ethics in the Modern World’, a fascinating exploration of the developments in Western philosophy over the past two millennia, and ethics, in particular through a Christian lens; provoking thought and discussion on a range of questions concerning morality and ethical issues, and leading me to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Christian religion.

This is a distance-taught course, and so a level of self-motivation and ability to learn independently is required – this flexibility however was beneficial as it meant I could fit in studying for Theology around the work for my school subjects. Although proving slightly challenging occasionally, it was ultimately a rewarding experience, and I am pleased to have had the opportunity.