

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

HONOURS B.A. WITH MAJOR IN FAITH, ETHICS
AND JUSTICE (BACHELOR'S)

This is the face of change



UNIVERSITÉ
SAINT·PAUL
UNIVERSITY

ustpaul.ca/programs

GENERAL INFORMATION

Theology, reimagined.

The Program at a Glance

The B.A. in Faith, Ethics and Justice (previously named B.A. in Theology) provides a multifaceted approach to exploring Christian faith, the human experience, and the challenges of pursuing a more humane and just society. Whatever your background, you will find a place in this program to explore these questions in a fresh, open, and inviting way.

This program will help you develop a well-rounded foundation for understanding scripture, navigating the dynamics of spiritual and emotional life, exploring personal purpose and meaning, and even thinking more clearly and deeply about God and the world.

During your studies, you will also learn how to connect your insights to contemporary challenges facing the Church and society ? including in the areas of ecology, technology, economics, and health. Through this practical approach, you will gain an ability to think critically, act ethically and communicate effectively.

Who Should Apply?

This program is for anyone who is interested in theology, who seeks to develop a better understanding of the human experience and who wants to build a more just world with faith, ethics and reason.

Career Opportunities

Studying in this program provides students with the creative and critical thinking skills required to pursue careers in:

- » Business
- » Law
- » Public service
- » Health care
- » Journalism
- » Education
- » And many more?

Admission Details

- » Registration: Full-time and part-time
- » Program length: 8 trimesters or 4 years (full-time)
- » Program delivery: The first year of this program can be done entirely online - with a hybrid of [online courses and distance learning](#).
- » Language: This program is also available in [French](#).

A student enrolled in Faith, Ethics and Justice (Honours Bachelor of Arts with Major) must add a complementary major or a complementary minor, according to the student's particular interests and requirements.

Scholarship Opportunities

Students enrolled in this program may be eligible for a number of scholarships. For more information, please click [here](#).

This diploma is jointly offered with the University of Ottawa.

TEACHING STAFF

ANDRAOS, Michel, Dean

BLÉE, Fabrice, Associate Professor (on leave until 2024)

BLOOMQUIST, Gregory, Professor Emeritus

DIONNE, Christian, Associate Professor

E. CLIFFORD, Catherine, Full Professor

ERIC HEFTY, Karl, Associate Professor

MARKWELL, Hazel, Associate Professor

MATHIEU, Yvan, Associate Professor

R. MELCHIN, Kenneth, Professor Emeritus

SLATTER, Mark, Associate Professor

SPATAFORA M.S.F., Andrea, Associate Professor

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Foundational Courses (18 units)

Compulsory Courses: 18 units

HTP1102 Approaches in the Humanities : Interpreting the Human Experience
HTP1103 People, Social Justice and Ecology
HTP1105 Critical Analysis, Reading and Writing Academic Works
HTP1106 The First Peoples of Canada
THO1307 What is the Bible?
THO2410 World Religions

Discipline Specific Courses (42 units)

Compulsory Courses: 18 units

THO2189 Can We Talk About God?
THO2315 Being Human
THO3160 Introduction to the Old Testament
THO3161 Introduction to the New Testament
THO3166 The Good Life
THO3169 Liturgy and Experience

Optional Courses: 24 units (6 units must be at the 4000 level)

12 units from (Faith, Scripture, and Society):

THO3123 Early Christianity
THO3162 Revelation and Christian Faith
THO3163 The Christian God
THO3164 Who is Jesus Christ?
THO3165 The Church and Salvation
THO4100 How to Search for Wisdom?
THO4101 How Does God Respond to Injustice?
THO4102 Freedom, Law, and Justice: Perspectives from Paul's Writings
THO4103 What is Truth?

6 units from (Ethics, Spiritual Life, and Theological Thinking):

THO3168 Ways of Christian Life and Prayer
THO3318 Spiritual Life in the Eastern Churches
THO4104 Selfhood and Sexual Ethics
THO4108 Theological Thinking
THO4110 The Eucharist

6 units from (Faith in Action):

THO3177 Faith, Ethics, and the Anthropocene
THO4105 Spiritual Life and Social Justice
THO4106 The Ethics of Medicine, Sickness and Health
THO4131 Toward a Moral Economy

THO4132 The Church and Indigenous Peoples

Elective Courses (60 units)

Students complete a second major (42 units) and 18 units **or** a minor (30 units) and 30 units.

COURSES

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HTP 1102 - APPROACHES IN THE HUMANITIES: INTERPRETING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Introduction to theoretical approaches in the Humanities and to the methods that are applied to interpret the multiple expressions of human experience, particularly those expressed in important works of art and literature.

HTP 1103 - PEOPLE, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECOLOGY

Social and ecological challenges facing humanity today, and related issues of social justice. These questions will be examined from a perspective of community building and efforts towards ecological and social transformations for a hopeful future.

HTP 1105 - CRITICAL ANALYSIS, READING AND WRITING ACADEMIC WORKS

Development of abilities to read critically and understand academic works. Focus on formal writing skills: techniques of clear expression and construction of texts, argument development and organization. This course also includes a library laboratory component with focus on research skills, citations, and academic integrity.

HTP 1106 - THE FIRST PEOPLES OF CANADA

Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives on the First Peoples of Canada, cultural diversity, traditional practices and beliefs, relationship with the environment, changing roles and structures influenced by colonization. Contemporary issues faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit, including cultural genocide and trauma.

THO 1307 - WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible: book or library, history or story? History of the Jewish people and of the culture in which the Bible was written. The Bible and its content. Interpreting the text. The Jesus event. The influence of the Bible on history and on contemporary culture.

THO 2189 - CAN WE TALK ABOUT GOD?

An exploration of the origins of Theology as a discipline, of significant moments in its historical development, of its presuppositions, methods, and the basic questions it seeks to answer.

THO 2315 - BEING HUMAN

What is ethics? Introduction to the key ethical ideas that shape our lives. Ethical riches of the Christian tradition to understand ourselves and our responsibilities to other persons.

THO 2410 - WORLD RELIGIONS

Introduction to the world religions with an emphasis on Christian faith in interaction with other living faiths.

THO 3123 - EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Survey of the historical evolution of Christianity from its beginnings to the end of the fifth century, with attention to early Christological debates. An examination of church history in the Middle Ages with attention to key figures, movements, and developments in church theology and practice.

THO 3124 - REFORMING THE CHURCH

A study of church history from 1400 to present, movements of Catholic and Protestant Reform, significant social and cultural developments and their influence on the evolution of theology and church structures.

THO 3160 - INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

An introduction to the writings of the Old Testament through the study of the Pentateuch and Historical Books, with particular attention to their historical and cultural context, the role of the Yahwist, Elohist, Deuteronomist and Priestly traditions, and Deuteronomist History.

THO 3161 - INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

An introduction to the study of the New Testament through a critical study of the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. Attention to the cultural and religious context of the New Testament and history of the formation of the Gospels; contemporary methods of biblical interpretation.

THO 3162 - REVELATION AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

A Christian theology of revelation: Creation as a locus for revelation; reflection on how God has spoken in the history of Israel; fulfillment of revelation in Jesus Christ; impact of divine self-disclosure in shaping early Christian communities; faith as a human response to divine self-disclosure; implications for understanding the inspiration of Sacred Scripture and the meaning of Tradition; Christian revelation and other world religions.

THO 3163 - THE CHRISTIAN GOD

The reception and expression of the mystery of God throughout history. Theological reflection on the mystery of God: the Trinity, the caring God. The question of the suffering God. The human experience of God. The question of God in today's world.

THO 3164 - WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Understanding Jesus of Nazareth, his message and works. Theological interpretations of his death, resurrection, exaltation, and the eschatological event of salvation. Jesus as Messiah and Saviour, son of Mary and Son of God.

THO 3166 - THE GOOD LIFE

An introduction to the field of ethics within theology. Historical development of ethical approaches within theology. Constitutive elements of moral existence. Moral existence and Christian faith.

THO 3168 - WAYS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE AND PRAYER

Exploring the nature of Christian spirituality, its definition, foundation, diverse expressions; major periods and movements of Christian spirituality; the importance of spirituality for theological reflection and personal integration.

THO 3169 - LITURGY AND EXPERIENCE

Exploring the dimensions of human experience in terms of the common prayer of the Christian community through a consideration of sacred time, space, symbols, language and music; Jewish origins of Christian worship; the history of the Western liturgy. The structure and dynamics of the eucharistic liturgy, the liturgy of the hours, the liturgical year, and inculturation.

THO 3177 - FAITH, ETHICS, AND THE ANTHROPOCENE

Brief overview of global heating, bio-diversity and species population losses and other threats to human and planetary well-being now being incurred as a direct result of human activity; the role of an "expanding theology" and ethics in regard to the world and universe as understood by science in the past several centuries; forms of understanding and vocabulary necessary to address major planetary issues of the 21st century; avenues for transcending inadequate smaller-scale paradigms; thinking theologically and ethically about human responsibility in the Anthropocene and its relation to communication of the Gospel in 21st century.

THO 3318 - SPIRITUAL LIFE IN THE EASTERN CHURCHES

The sacramental foundations. Major trends. Contemplation and praxis. Forms of holiness.

THO 4100 - HOW TO SEARCH FOR WISDOM?

Wisdom Texts and Intertestamental Literature.

THO 4101 - HOW DOES GOD RESPOND TO INJUSTICE?

General introduction to the prophets through a comparative study, with attention to their cultural, ethical and religious contexts. The evolution of prophetic literature towards an apocalyptic form and the meaning of apocalyptic literature.

THO 4102 - FREEDOM, LAW, AND JUSTICE: PERSPECTIVES FROM PAUL'S WRITINGS

An overview of the life of Paul and his work. Exegesis of selected letters, with special attention to his understanding of law, justice, and freedom in Christ.

THO 4103 - WHAT IS TRUTH?

A study of Johannine writings, their structure, theology, and cultural setting. Exegesis of selected passages in the Gospel of John and Letters of John, and the Apocalypse. Special attention given to the meaning of "truth" and "life."

THO 4104 - SELFHOOD AND SEXUAL ETHICS

The meaning of human sexuality in social, psychological and Christian perspective. Sexuality and personal growth. Discernment of moral values in sexual behaviour.

Prerequisite: THO 3166.

THO 4105 - SPIRITUAL LIFE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The principles of Catholic social teaching and their significance for life in contemporary society and culture. The human being as personal and social being; respect for human rights; freedom in the socio-political context; society as the milieu of personal growth.

THO 4106 - THE ETHICS OF MEDICINE, SICKNESS AND HEALTH

An exploration of contemporary ethical issues relating to health and the integrity of the human person: respect for human life; the right to physical integrity; genetics; abortion, euthanasia and the end of human life.

Prerequisite: THO 3166.

THO 4107 - CULTIVATING HUMANITY: CREATION, RATIONALITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY

Christian anthropology. Responsibility and freedom of the human person as co-creator. Sin and the problem of evil. Relationship between creation and redemption. Creation and a scientific world view. Ecology and theology.

THO 4108 - THEOLOGICAL THINKING

Divine grace and human freedom. Historical development of the theology of grace. Christian existence as faith, hope, and love. God's presence in the world and in the human person. Contemporary challenges.

THO 4110 - THE EUCHARIST

The origins of the eucharist and the meaning of a sacrament. History and theology of the eucharist from New Testament times through the Middle Ages to today. The eucharist as sacrifice and as memorial of the paschal mystery. Eucharist and experience of God.

Prerequisite: THO 3169.

THO 4131 - TOWARD A MORAL ECONOMY

Disputed questions on ethics in economic life. Dialogue of faith and economic history. Dynamics and current challenges of labor, immigration and globalism from perspective of Catholic social thought.

THO 4132 - THE CHURCH AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous and non-Indigenous theological and pastoral voices. History of and process of reconciliation, theological and pastoral questions related to Indigenous Peoples, and current debates. The Indigenous resurgence and its implications for the churches and theology.

CONTACT US

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Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.