

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITAS URBANIANA

**Theses to be studied in order to obtain the Bachelor Degree in Religious Sciences in
the Institutes affiliated to the Pontifical Urbaniana University**

(Academic Years 2021/2022; 2022/2023; 2023/2024; 2024/2025; 2025/2026)

SACRED SCRIPTURE

1. A short outline of the problems of the Pentateuch. The messages of the Book of Genesis. The theology of the Book of Exodus. Israel in the wilderness in the Book of Exodus and the Book of Numbers. Historical books and their literary genres; composition and theology of one of them.
2. Judah's gradual understanding of the messianic expectation in the Nathan Oracle as shown in different prophetic texts and the ultimate fulfillment of this expectation in the "fullness of time". The messages of the prophets in the Old Testament.
3. Show how Israel's Wisdom Literature points to our Saviour, Mediator and Creator and trace the roots of the five concepts, "Word, Tent, Glory, Love (Grace) and Faithfulness (Truth)" in John 1:14 to appropriate Psalms by explaining both their literal and typological meanings. The message of the First and Second Books of Maccabees.
4. "Gospel" is a unique literary form, characterized by the interplay of historical and theological concerns. Show how this is true of one or more of the Four Gospels. Include also a summary statement of the Synoptic problem and of the relationship of the Synoptics to the Gospel of John.
5. The Paschal Event of Jesus Christ is central for an in-depth understanding of New Testament Literature. Its essential Dimensions may be listed as follows: the Lord's Supper, Passion, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Sending of the Holy Spirit, Mission to Jews and Gentiles. Show how the Paschal Event is presented in one or more of the following: Gospels, Acts, Apostolic Letters, Apocalypse.
6. "The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith" (Rom 1:16-17). Here we have Paul's theology in a nutshell. Substantiate this theology by drawing upon Paul's Major and Captivity Letters.

7. “Jesus Christ is the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of God is Jesus Christ”. Show how this Christological doctrine pervades the Johannine Literature: the Gospel, the Letters, the Apocalypse.

FUNDAMENTAL AND DOGMATIC THEOLOGY

8. Revelation and inspiration of Sacred Scriptures in the light of *Dei Verbum* (cc. I-III); formation of the Canon; interpretation of the text.
9. The dogma of the Holy Trinity: how it is already foreshadowed in the economy of the Old Testament; how it is fully revealed in the New Testament; which principal Church councils defined its essential elements; which could be the most commonly accepted theological explanations.
10. The doctrine of the creation of all things by God, the nature and role of spiritual and material beings, of human beings and the doctrine of the constant Providence of God according to Revelation in Holy Scriptures and in the Tradition of the Church. Whenever appropriate outline a plan of responses to so-called scientific objections and the problem of evil in the world.
11. The dogma of Original Sin; in conformity with the data of the Sacred Scriptures, of the definitions of the Magisterium and of the most commonly accepted theological explanations; illustrate the doctrine of free will and human responsibility.
12. The doctrine of the grace of God, with reference to the mystery of Redemption and the gift of the Holy Spirit; add a summary sketch of the principal disputes concerning grace which have taken place in the course of Church history.
13. The event of the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ Son of God; the essential elements of the Christological mystery in the dogmatic formulations of the relevant Church councils.
14. The images through which the mysterious nature of the Church of Christ is illustrated in the Holy Scriptures and in Christian Tradition. The four characteristic notes of the Church in ecclesial teachings and in contemporary theological thinking.
15. The royal, prophetic and priestly office of all the faithful and the ministerial priesthood (Sacrament of Holy Orders). The relationship between the collegiality of bishops and primacy and infallibility of the Roman Pontiff.
16. The traditional doctrine of the Church regarding the coming of Christ in glory and the fundamental points of Eschatology regarding both the single person as well as creation in its entirety.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

17. “*Lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi.*” (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*). Expose the liturgical theology as reflected in the liturgical prayers in any Advent Sunday, with reference to Articles 1-13, *Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy* (1963).
18. Basing on the Scripture and traditions of the Church (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*), explain how the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (1972) actualizes the Paschal Mystery of Christ, with reference to the pastoral experience in Hong Kong.
19. Explain the liturgical theology of Eucharist, with reference to the Eucharistic Prayer(s).
20. Compare and contrast canonical penance and private confession (which began by the 6th century). What are the implications for each in the revised *Rite of Reconciliation and Penance* (1973)?
21. Discuss the nature of lay ministry and ordained ministry. Explain how the faithful and the ordained ministers may co-operate and complement one another in selected mission activities such as:
 - (I) in the pastoral care of the sick;
 - (II) in Christian initiation of adults.
22. Discuss the use of psalms and prayer in the liturgy of the hours. Apply this knowledge to various occasions (such as a home-based prayer gathering of the faithful, or a solemn community evening prayer in a parish).
 - (I) historical evidence;
 - (II) consideration of the liturgical year;
 - (III) use of symbols;
 - (IV) principles of liturgical prayers.

MORAL THEOLOGY

23. Moral theology in relation to the sources of revelation, to different anthropologies, cultures and philosophies.
24. The moral conscience and the dynamics of decision: the autonomous and relational dimension of conscience. The formation of the conscience: responsibility with respect to the conscience but also of the conscience.
25. The fundamental option, the virtues and concrete moral acting.
26. The natural law as the path of humanization of a person. Necessity and caution in its historical interpretation.
27. Description of sin and its theological distinction. Sin in the light of the fundamental option.

Ongoing conversion as maturation of the moral conscience and as construction of the positive fundamental option.

28. Moral responsibility with regard to human life, one's own and that of another: what kind of freedom? Physical life as a fundamental human value. Personal dignity and respect for physical life. Original meaning and historical understanding of the V commandment. Application of traditional moral principles in the area of physical life: the lesser of two evils, action with double effect, principle of totality.
29. Moral problems concerning the beginning of life. Ethical-anthropological status of the embryo. Abortion: definition, typologies, argumentation and morally differentiated evaluation with reference to the teaching of the Church.
30. Moral problems concerning the beginning of life. Human fecundity and the problem of sterility. Medically assisted procreation: typology, definitions, criterion of artificiality, argumentation and morally differentiated evaluation with reference to the teaching of the Church.
31. Fundamental questions of biomedical ethics: medical anthropology, health and sickness. Models of doctor - patient relationship. Informed consent and communication of the truth. Proportionality of medical treatment. Organ transplants: criterion of death, typologies, argumentation and moral evaluation. Sterilization.
32. Moral problems concerning the end of life. Orthothanasia (human authentic dying): the reality between two rights: to live and to die with dignity. Euthanasia: definition, classification and main typologies; argumentation and moral evaluation with reference to the teaching of the Church. Disthanasia (futile treatment): definition, necessary distinctions, moral evaluations.
33. The multidimensional reality of human sexuality and today's understanding. Essential criteriology for an authentic exercise of sexuality. The principal moral problems concerning an inadequate exercise of sexuality: definitions, argumentation and moral evaluation with reference to the teaching of the Church.
34. Human sexuality and state of life: consecrated life, matrimony, celibacy. Authentic integration of sexuality: differentiated approach. Matrimony as an irrevocable choice. Marital love and human procreation: anthropology of authentic heterosexual intercourse. Responsible parenthood and the means and methods of birth control: subdivision, moral problems, possible solutions.
35. Fundamental principles of the social teaching of the Church. The social nature of the human being; the principle of subsidiarity, the concept of society, the common good, universal destination of goods, the principle of solidarity, the preferential option for the poor, social justice.
36. Human rights. The birth of the concept and its history. Problematical aspects of the "Universal Declaration of human rights" of 1948. The reception of this concept in the social teaching of

the Church.

CHURCH HISTORY AND CANON LAW

37. “The Church, at once a visible assembly and a spiritual community, goes forward together with humanity and experience the same earthly lot which the world does. She serves as a leaven and as a kind of soul for human society as it is to be renewed in Christ and transformed into God’s family” (GS 40). In the light of the above statement of *Gaudium et Spes*, give a summary outline of the inter-relationship between the Church and the world in various periods of Church History.
38. Treat briefly of the nature, the role and the fundamental principles of Canon Law in the Church.