

**CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE PROGRAM  
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2025-2026**

Fall/Winter 2025-2026 Preliminary Timetable subject to change.

All courses will be offered In Person except where noted.

**CHC120H1F: CATHOLICISM IN CONVERSATION**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** Monday 1:00PM-3:00PM, Tutorial: Tuesday 11:00AM-12:00PM

What is Catholicism, as an idea, as a social movement, as an object of scorn, devotion or delight? What meaning does Catholic tradition have in the contemporary world? This seminar explores these and similar questions through lectures and conversations with diverse scholars—faculty, fellows and friends—of the St. Michael's College community.

**Exclusions:** SMC103Y1, SMC120H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions (3)

**CHC130H1S: PLAYING WITH FIRE: ALCHEMY, ASTROLOGY, AND MAGIC**

**Instructor:** Jean-Olivier Richard

**Class:** Wednesday 1:00PM-2:00PM, Friday 11:00AM-1:00PM

This course offers an historical introduction to alchemy, astrology, and magic, with a focus on the development, defence, condemnation, and progressive marginalization of these controversial pursuits in and around the Christian world(s). Students will learn about such topics as the search for the philosopher's stone, the casting of horoscopes, the design of wondrous machines... and the risks associated with meddling with spirits! Lectures will examine these learned traditions on their own terms, while inviting discussions about their enduring popularity, their connections with the rise of modern science and their reception in popular culture.

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

**CHC203Y1: CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIETY THROUGH THE AGES**

**Instructor:** Michael O'Connor

**Class:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00AM-11:00AM

This course explores the historical engagement of various Christian traditions with the prevailing political, social, and ethnic cultures in the western world and beyond. Students will also examine the development of Christianity as it confronts changes in the symbolic and intellectual universes from antiquity to post-modernity.

**Exclusions:** SMC203Y1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2), Society and Its Institutions (3)

### **CHC215H1F: VARIETIES OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**Instructor:** Stephen Tardif

**Class:** Tuesday 1:00PM-3:00PM

Christian history has been characterized by an enduring and fruitful search for forms of religious community. This course surveys some communal attempts to express Christianity, monasticism, forms of common life for clerics, the Mendicants, lay confraternities, religious orders, and contemporary lay movements.

**Exclusions:** SMC215H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions (3)

### **CHC232H1S: CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE**

**Instructor:** Jean-Olivier Richard

**Class:** Monday 1:00PM-4:00PM

This course examines different models of relating Christianity and Science. Beginning with the biblical view on the natural world and moving to the present, the lectures develop a wide range of approaches.

**Exclusions:** SMC232H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

### **CHC308H1S: MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION**

**Instructor:** Giulio Silano

**Class:** Tuesday 3:00PM-5:00PM

A close reading of the Code of Canon Law touching on the themes of marriage and the family; relationship to other fundamental Church statements (e.g. Familiaris Consortio); examination of issues raised by opposition between church teaching and other views.

**Exclusions:** SMC308H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions (3)

### **CHC312H1F: CATHOLICISM AND EDUCATION**

**Instructor:** Giulio Silano

**Class:** Tuesday 3:00PM-5:00PM

The Catholic Church has developed a distinctive approach to the pedagogical enterprise. This course explores aspects of this approach by an examination of canonical legislation and other texts published by ecclesiastical authorities and their application in Canada.

**Exclusions:** SMC312H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

### **CHC367H1F: CHRISTIANITY, LITERATURE, AND THEATRE**

**Instructor:** Stephen Tardif

**Class:** Thursday 1:00PM-1:00PM

This course introduces students to works of literary and dramatic arts from throughout the global Christian tradition. The course explores the complex relationships that exist between religious, narrative, and performative imperatives; between theological and cultural sources; between authority and experience; and between writers, playwrights, and their readerships and audiences.

**Exclusions:** SMC201H1, SMC367H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

### **CHC390Y1: INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** NA

An independent research project to be proposed by the student and supervised by a Christianity and Culture faculty member. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms> or from the SMC Principal's Office, [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Exclusions:** CHC391H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **CHC391H1F/S: INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** NA

An independent research project to be proposed by the student and supervised by a Christianity and Culture faculty member. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms> or from the SMC Principal's Office, [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Exclusions:** CHC390Y1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

**CHC400H1F LEC0101: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE 1:  
APPROACHES TO ECOLOGICAL ETHICS**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** Thursday 2:00PM – 4:00PM

The course will consider issues, documents, and ethical methods that will help the student to develop an understanding of the ecological crisis as well as ethical and theological responses to it. The limitations of a human-centered ethics, the need for an ecological justice that incorporates human justice, the implications of climate change, and the various Christian responses to the environmental issues are some of the topics that will be considered in the course.

**Prerequisites:** 8.0 credits

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

**CHC400H1S LEC0101: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE 1:  
RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** Thursday 2:00PM – 4:00PM

This course explores the nature of religious experience (spirituality) in some of the major religions of the world, with special attention to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Native North American, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. It includes some comparative analysis between traditions, and creative reflection on the theological and pastoral significance of such comparative study.

**Prerequisites:** 8.0 credits

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

**CHC433Y1: INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** NA

An independent research project to be proposed by the student and supervised by a Christianity and Culture faculty member. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms> or from the SMC Principal's Office, [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as

appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Exclusions:** CHC434H1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **CHC434H1F/S: INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Class:** NA

An independent research project to be proposed by the student and supervised by a Christianity and Culture faculty member. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms> or from the SMC Principal's Office, [smc.programs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.programs@utoronto.ca). Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Exclusions:** CHC433Y1

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities

### **CHC472H1S LEC0101: RESEARCH SEMINAR IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE: LITURGY AND MUSIC IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC TRADITION**

**Instructor:** Michael O'Connor

**Class:** Thursday 11:00AM-1:00PM

The first part of the seminar will explore Trinitarian foundations of music and liturgy, in and since Vatican II, focusing on the imagery of Word and Breath, the priesthood of Christ, and the ecclesiology of communion. The second part will develop and apply this understanding to diverse musical experience and ministry (the singing assembly, cantors, choirs, the organ and other instruments, priest and deacon as music ministers, composers and hymn writers). This seminar is primarily theological and liturgical in focus: experience of music in church is more valuable than technical musical skills (musical skills are useful and welcome but not essential).

**Prerequisites:** 10.0 credits

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

### **JCA302H1S: THE BIBLE IN THE BIG BANG**

**Instructor:** Adam Hincks

**Class:** Friday 11:00AM-1:00PM, **Tutorial:** Thursday 2:00PM-3:00PM

The origin of the Universe is addressed both by current physical cosmology and by religious interpretations of the Bible. This course explores how these approaches to the cosmos's origins differ and how they might be mutually informative. Core concepts in each domain will be examined and definitions carefully distinguished (e.g., 'nothing', 'cause', 'matter'): topics will

include the question of temporal beginnings (scientific theories of spontaneous creation or an eternal universe vis-à-vis the doctrine of creation from nothing) and the problem of cosmic fine tuning (the multiverse vis-à-vis the idea of divine intervention).

**Prerequisites:** 4.0 credits

**Exclusions:** None

**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)