

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

PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2026-2027

Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Preliminary Timetable subject to change.

All courses will be offered In Person except where noted.

For the most up-to-date day and time information, please review the [Timetable Builder](#).

CHC120H1F: CATHOLICISM IN CONVERSATION

Instructor: TBA

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

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)

CHC200H1S: CHRISTIANITY AND THE ARTS

Instructor: Stephen Tardif

This course introduces students to creative works from throughout the global Christian tradition. The course explores the complex relationships that exist between religious and aesthetic imperatives, between theological and material sources, between beauty and suffering, and between artists and their patrons and audiences.

Exclusions: None

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

CHC203Y1: CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIETY THROUGH THE AGES

Instructor: Michael O'Connor

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)

CHC218H1F: CHRISTIANITY AND EDUCATION

Instructor: Reid Locklin

An exploration of pedagogy and child development theory, with a particular focus on the way Christians have employed these educational techniques historically. Attention will be given to the diversity of institutions and approaches to curriculum development across Christian history.

Exclusions: None

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

CHC300H1S LEC0101: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE I: THE DEVIL

Instructor: Francesco Morriello

This course examines the Devil as a dynamic and evolving presence across religious texts and media forms from antiquity to the present day, examining his prominent role in medieval Christianity and early modern debates shaped by witch trials and the Reformation. It explores the Victorian shift toward a more sympathetic and rebellious adversary, influenced by writers like John Milton and William Blake, and continues into modern reinterpretations in literature, film, TV, and digital media. Drawing on key literature and immersive lectures, this course explores how evolving religious and media contexts have shaped the world's first influencer into one of the most enduring and provocative forces in history. ***CHC300H1S LEC0101 is cross-listed with BMS301H1S LEC0201. Students cannot take both courses for credit.***

Exclusions: None

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

CHC304H1F: CHRISTIANITY, LAW AND SOCIETY

Instructor: Giulio Silano

An examination of Canon Law; the process by which it came into being, and its impact on contemporary culture. Premises and techniques of ecclesial law-making are compared to those of

other systems of legislation. Specific sections of the Code of Canon Law are examined.

Exclusions: SMC304H1

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

CHC309H1F: CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS

Instructor: John Meehan

This course explores developments in the relations between the Catholic Church and the states of Western Europe and America from the Enlightenment to the present. Of particular concern is Catholicism's response to the political theories of the Enlightenment, the secularization of the state and social justice issues.

Exclusions: SMC309H1

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

CHC311H1S: WHY THE CHURCH

Instructor: Giulio Silano

The Catholic Church claims to be the continuation of the event of Christ in history, the guarantor of the authenticity of each person's encounter with Christ, and the means by which His memory may be cultivated. The course examines the reasons for these claims and the forms they have taken.

Exclusions: SMC311H1

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

CHC330H1F: CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Instructor: Reid Locklin

Faith in Christ is central to Christianity. This course offers an advanced introduction to classical debates about the person and work of Christ, the modern Quest of the Historical Jesus, and selected feminist, liberationist and indigenized perspectives on Christ from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Exclusions: SMC330Y1, SMC330H1

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

CHC364H1S: THE CHRISTIAN BOOK

Instructor: Stephen Tardif

An interdisciplinary examination of the Bible as artifact and as an index of culture, art, and language. Topics include: the mediaeval giant Bibles, illuminated and illustrated Bibles, the Gutenberg Bible, The King James Bible, the Bible industry, the Bible online, the Bible as sacred object, sacred language and vernacular.

Exclusions: SMC364H1

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

CHC371H1F: FAITH AND PHYSICS

Instructor: Adam Hincks

The complex interplay between religious belief, culture, and the emergence of modern physical theory: rise and fall of mechanistic theories, relativity, particle physics and models of the Universe, Big Bang theory and Black Holes, etc.

Exclusions: SMC371H1

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

CHC378H1F: MAJOR CHRISTIAN THINKERS, UP TO 1300

Instructor: Jean-Olivier Richard, Stephen Tardif

An advanced introduction to the Christian intellectual tradition through a study of key texts from before 1300. Selected authors discuss a range of religious, intellectual, and cultural issues, from foundational Christian beliefs to the challenges of integrating non-Christian learning into Christian societies, institutions, scholarship, and literature.

Exclusions: None

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1

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

CHC379H1S: MAJOR CHRISTIAN THINKERS, 1300 TO PRESENT

Instructor: Jean-Olivier Richard, Stephen Tardif

An advanced introduction to the Christian intellectual tradition through a study of key texts from around the year 1300 to the present. Selected authors discuss a range of religious, intellectual, and cultural issues, from their role in the shaping of early modern and modern institutions to the challenge of integrating Christian values and ideals into our postmodern, plural, and global society.

Exclusions: SMC208Y1, SMC379H1

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1, CHC215H1

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

CHC382H1F: LITERATURE AND THE CHRISTIAN CHILD

Instructor: Michael O'Connor

An exploration of connections between a child's moral development and literature in Christian traditions. We examine literary, historical and philosophical developments appropriate to the child's imagination. The course will include the study of poems, catechetical materials, novels and other texts written for children.

Exclusions: SMC217H1, SMC382H1

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1, CHC200H1, CHC215H1

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

CHC383H1S: GOD AND GEOMETRY

Instructor: Jean-Olivier Richard

This course engages controversial issues in the natural sciences of importance to Christian faith, with particular emphases on their ancient and the medieval origins and enactments. Examples include: Harmony vs. Chaos, Creation vs. Evolution, Free Will vs. Determinism, Reason vs. Revelation, Miraculous vs. Natural Causation.

Exclusions: SMC233H1, SMC383H1

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1, CHC232h1

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

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. 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. 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

CHC400H1S LEC0101: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE 1: PSYCHOLOGY & RELIGION

Instructor: TBA

The course will begin with a discussion of the relationship between psychology and religion. It will then explore the relationship between religion and psychology -- history, methodology, research and application. It will review psychological theories and research on personality and their relationship to spirituality, religious behaviour, individual differences and abnormality, and review research on religious development. These findings will then be applied within the context of the social and organizational psychology of the church.

Prerequisites: 8.0 credits

Exclusions: None

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1/SMC203Y1

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. 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. 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

CHC456H1F: INDIAN CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Reid Locklin

An advanced study of the historical development, major theological writings and contemporary ethnographic studies of diverse Christian traditions in South Asia. Topics to be covered include the legacy of Thomas Christianity, Hindu-Christian dialogue, the Christian ashram movement, liturgical inculturation and religious hybridity.

Prerequisites: 4.0 credits

Exclusions: SMC456H1

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1, CHC303H1, RLG203H1 and/or RLG205H1

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

JCR303H1S: GLOBAL CHRISTIANITIES

Instructor: Reid Locklin

An advanced introduction to the diverse traditions and movements of contemporary Christianity, with special emphasis on the global South. Sample topics include new ecclesial communities, the rise of Pentecostalism and independent churches, liberation and indigenized theologies, and new forms of martyrdom in the 21st century.

Prerequisites: 4.0 credits

Exclusions: CHC303H1, SMC204H1, SMC207H1, SMC209H1, SMC303H1

Recommended Preparation: CHC203Y1, CHC215H1, RLG203H1

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

SMC188H1F: SMC ONE: THE GILSON SEMINAR IN FAITH AND IDEAS

Instructor: Michael O'Connor

This seminar is an interdisciplinary exploration of leading scholarly, intellectual and public questions related to ecology, science, literature, and public life. From a variety of perspectives, the seminar considers how religion, and how different kinds of religious experience, figure in the broader context of human affairs. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. Enrolment in SMC188H1 will automatically enroll you in SMC189H1 at the departmental level. The department will enroll you in SMC189H1 before the start of the term. <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/program/smc-one-the-gilson-seminar-in-faith-and-ideas>

Prerequisites: None

Exclusions: None

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

SMC189H1S: SMC ONE: THE GILSON SEMINAR IN FAITH AND ROME

Instructor: Michael O'Connor

This course provides an intensive international learning experience in Rome, Italy. It offers contemporary and historical models of integrating faith with reason, and religious practice with intellectual, creative, and public engagement, specifically the roles that the Catholic Church and Vatican play in Rome, in ecology, science, literature, and public life. This course includes a mandatory travel component to Rome, Italy, which takes place following the Winter term exam period. An ancillary fee to cover program costs will apply, excluding the costs of airfare. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/program/smc-one-the-gilson-seminar-in-faith-and-ideas>

Prerequisites: SMC188H1

Exclusions: None

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

SMC197H1S: SISTINE CHAPEL: HISTORY, IMAGERY, USAGE

Instructor: Michael O'Connor

The Sistine Chapel in Rome is a historical artifact, an artistic monument, and a house of worship—at once recognizable and mystifying. This seminar explores fifteenth-century origins, decoration by some of the most accomplished artists of the Italian renaissance, and continuing use (especially the election of popes). Topics will include: art and patronage, rhetoric and ritual, controversial restoration, and the Sistine Chapel in popular culture—with an emphasis on the close analysis of the major frescoes. The seminar will develop the academic skills needed for the analysis and discussion of texts, paintings, and ritual events. Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Prerequisites: None

Exclusions: None

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

SMC199H1F: INTELLIGENCE, ARTIFICIAL AND HUMAN

Instructor: Jean-Olivier Richard

What is human intelligence? How close are we to replicating it? How productive/reductive is the brain-computer analogy? What ethical challenges are posed by AI on workers, society, and the environment? Can we put a hold on "progress"? Is Silicon Valley the seat of a new techno-religion? What can they teach us about today's research priorities? What insight (or inspiration) can we get from works of science fiction about the future of human-AI interaction? Through reading discussion, written assignment, and workshops, this seminar will present students with the opportunity to integrate their computer science interests with philosophy, history, and

literature. There is an equivalent course offered by the Department of Computer Science. Students may take one or the other but not both. Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Prerequisites: None

Exclusions: CSC199H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and Its Institutions

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