

Module Title:	Theology of John Duns Scotus
Module Code:	446 FTDS
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM, Ph.D.

Module Aims:

This module will guide a first reader through important texts of Duns Scotus and will introduce the student to the complexities of Scotus' method. Some of the key aspects of Scotus' thought will be outlined to show the importance and relevance of Scotus for contemporary theology.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module students should be able to demonstrate

1. understanding of the importance of Duns Scotus as a theological thinker and of his importance for contemporary theology
2. familiarity with the thought of Duns Scotus
3. an ability to read the important texts of Scotus and have knowledge of the important doctrines of Scotus
4. to offer an explanation of the doctrine of the Primacy of Christ
5. to distinguish between fact and opinion in relation to Scotus' thought and make appropriate choices from Scotus' texts and secondary sources on him

Indicative Module Content:

Duns Scotus is one of the most important thinkers of the medieval period and one of the most difficult to unravel. The module begins with placing Duns Scotus in the intellectual climate and environment of his time to highlight his uniqueness. It then moves to consider Scotus as a specifically Franciscan thinker and some of the important aspects of his thought, especially the *Transcendentals*, *Pure Perfections*, *Univocity of Being* and *Individuation in Common Nature* [more commonly referred to by the misnomer of 'haecceitas'], are explored as the foundation stones for the architecture of his theology. His proof for the existence of God is examined as the context for understanding the nature of his theology as carefully nuanced and systematic. The module ends with an exploration of his teaching on the Trinity, especially the Person of the Father, the Primacy of Christ and the importance of this doctrine to contemporary *Christology*, *Soteriology* and

Anthropology. Some attention is also paid to the criticism of Duns Scotus by Pope Benedict XVI in the Regensberg lecture.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

1. Lecture
2. Class discussions
3. private study

Assessment:

This module will be assessed through two 2,500 word essays that demonstrate the student's ability to compare and contrast Scotus' thought with his contemporaries and/or give an analysis on how Scotus' doctrine could be significant for theology today.

Illustrative Bibliography

Bettoni E. (1961)	<i>Scotus: The Basic Principles of his Philosophy</i>	CUP
Ingham M B. (2003)	<i>Scotus For Dunces</i>	Franciscan Institute Press
Williams T (Ed). (2001)	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus</i>	CUP
Wolter A. (1994)	<i>Duns Scotus: Metaphysician</i>	Purdue University Press

Journals

Cross R. (2001; 2003)	"Great medieval Thinkers: Duns Scotus; The Metaphysics of the Incarnation," <i>Historical Series</i>	Ashdown, CUP
Mulholland S. (1994; 2002)	"Christ the Haecceitas of God, Rescuing Duns Scotus"	<i>The Cord</i>
Mulholland S. (2001)	"The Incarnation In Duns Scotus"	<i>The Franciscan</i>