



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHORT COURSE (SC1)

### HUMAN EXISTENCE, GOD AND HUMAN DESTINY

#### OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this module students will:

- 1.1 have developed a better understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church concerning human nature, the value of human life, the dignity of the human person and the meaning of human existence and destiny in the modern world.
- 1.2 be better able to interpret human experience and life in the modern world in light of the wisdom of the Catholic Tradition.
- 1.3 have developed a greater confidence and ability in responding to questions arising from human experience - particularly human suffering and death - as a result of their own personal reflection , their critical study of theological writings and consideration of the Church's teachings.
- 1.4 have a heightened appreciation and sense of awe and wonder before the mystery of God, creation and humanity.
- 1.5 have developed a better understanding of the nature of theological exploration.
- 1.6 have developed a greater confidence in addressing theological issues in the classroom situation.
- 1.7 have tried out and reflected upon a variety of approaches to theological education in the classroom.

#### STUDY GUIDE

This course is delivered by email wherever possible. However, on registration, Participants will receive all necessary material via post and email. Assignments should preferably be submitted by email as Word documents. Where this is not possible, hardcopy can be accepted provided that this has been agreed to by the course director – Paul Faller, [paulf@cie.org.za](mailto:paulf@cie.org.za), 083 326 4568.

This course consists of two main parts:

- A. A theological reflection on the topic, and
- B. An educational reflection on dealing with this and related topics in the classroom.

For each of these parts, A and B, there is an assignment which comes in two sections:

A1	short questions	A2	essay question
B1	reflection	B2	lesson planning, delivery & evaluation

### ENGAGING WITH THE MATERIALS

The course notes are presented in sections to help you pace your work week by week. The course should be completed in 9-10 weeks.

#### WEEKS 1-3

- Begin each week by reading the assigned materials for Part A through fairly quickly to get an overall impression.
- Take more time over a second reading as an exercise in journaling, responding to the tasks and questions found in the margins, giving more time to reflect on the materials.
- At the end of Week 3, choose the tasks and questions to submit as Assignment A1.

#### WEEKS 4-5

- Read the material for Part A a third time with Assignment A2 in mind. (You have a choice of two questions.)
- Search the internet and any available library for additional sources to enrich your reading for the assignment.
- Write a first draft and submit it to the course leader for comment if you wish.
- Write the final draft and submit Assignment A1 and A2 together.

#### WEEKS 6-7

- Begin each week by reading the materials for Part B, responding to the questions found in the margins.
- At the end of Week 7, respond to Assignment B1.

#### WEEKS 8-9

- Design, teach and evaluate a lesson on your chosen topic.
- Prepare Assignment B2 and submit Assignment B1 and B2 together.

### ASSESSMENT GUIDE

A total of 65 credits is necessary to complete the module satisfactorily. Credits are awarded as follows:

Part A				
Assignment A1	4x5=20			
Part A	Distinction	Competent	Pass	Resubmit*
Assignment A2	40	30	20	10
Part B	Distinction	Competent	Pass	Resubmit*
Assignment B1	20	15	10	5
Assignment B2	20	15	10	5

\*Any one of Assignment A2, B1 or B2 may be resubmitted to make up the required credits if necessary.

# CONTENTS

## PART A

### WEEK 1

#### INTRODUCTION

#### THE MODERN WORLD

The Context of Questions Concerning  
Human Existence and Destiny

#### THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

#### HUMAN NATURE

Grace  
Sin and Human Nature  
Original Sin

### WEEK 2

#### HUMAN SUFFERING

God's Will is our Healing  
Who Caused Jesus to Suffer?  
Incomplete answers to "Why do we  
suffer?"  
True Causes of Human Suffering

How to Respond to Suffering

### WEEK 3

#### HUMAN DESTINY – THE LAST THINGS

Eschatology  
Judgement  
Particular Judgement  
The General Judgement  
The Second Coming of Christ  
Heaven  
Purgatory  
Hell

### WEEKS 4-5

#### ASSIGNMENT A

## PART B

### WEEK 6

#### INTRODUCTION

#### WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

Four Levels of Theology  
Theology has a History  
Pre-Vatican II Theology  
The Second Vatican Council  
The Historical Method  
Thoughts on Theology

#### DOING THEOLOGY

Theological Reflection  
Theological Standpoints

### WEEK 7

#### TEACHING THEOLOGY

Outcomes for Theological Education  
Approaches to Theological Education  
Shared Christian Praxis  
Pedagogical Content Knowledge  
Tips for Teachers

### WEEKS 8-9

#### ASSIGNMENT B