

ST AUGUSTINE



Higher Certificate in **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

A LEADER IN ETHICAL EDUCATION

Founded in 1999, St Augustine is a respected provider of quality, values-based, tertiary education. All of the degrees and certificates that St Augustine offers are accredited by the South African Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). Further, St Augustine is canonically recognised as a Catholic 'university' by both the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) and the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Vatican; it is a member of IFCU (International Federation of Catholic Universities). Inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the mission of St Augustine is to produce graduates who have learnt 'to think rigorously, so as to act rightly and to serve humanity better'.

Registered with the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Certificate No 2000/HE08/002).

Structure

OF THE PROGRAMME

The curriculum of the Higher Certificate in Biblical Studies (HCBS) extends over a minimum of two years of part-time study. The maximum period of registration is three years. The course is divided into eight (8) modules, each of which is in two parts; seven are compulsory and one is an elective.

EACH MODULE INCLUDES WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING AND SIMULATED WORK EXPERIENCE COMPONENTS.

COMPULSORY MODULES

HCBS101 THE BIBLE AND BIBLICAL MINISTRY

This module includes those skills necessary for biblical literacy, focusing on comprehension of written material, ability to make summaries, critical reading and response; it includes an introduction to the use of library resources, computing and the internet. The module then moves on to an introduction to the Bible as the Word of God. It explores the use of the Bible in worship and introduces skills for interpreting biblical texts. It includes work integrated learning and simulated work experience components such as facilitating Bible study groups, Bible prayer groups and the use of the Bible in the Liturgy.

HCBS102 OLD TESTAMENT AND BEGINNINGS

This course surveys the development and structure of the Old Testament, its relation to the Hebrew Bible, its historical and cultural background, the major themes it deals with and the ways of interpreting it. The module then moves on to the Creation stories and the following stories in the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis, paying attention to their literary form and theological purpose, so providing context for study of the rest of the Old Testament.

HCBS103 PATRIARCHS AND LATTER PROPHETS

This module deals with selected passages from the book of Genesis that deal with the patriarchs, using traditional Jewish methods and resources for Bible study. This module further deals with the nature of prophecy and the functions of prophets in the theocracy of Israel. Attention is given to the characters and influence of each of the following: Amos, Hosea, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Micah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

HCBS104 NEW TESTAMENT AND GOSPEL OF MARK

This module traces the development of the Gospels and other New Testament writings as faith documents of the Early Church and provides a framework within which to interpret them. The Gospel of Mark offers an overview of the plan and purpose of the Gospel according to Mark and provides the context for reading and interpreting the Gospel, with special emphasis on the Passion narrative.



HCBS105 PASSION AND RESURRECTION STORIES AND GOSPEL OF JOHN

In this module, the synoptic Gospel accounts of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus are compared and their cultural and theological differences examined. This module then gives an overview of the plan and purpose of John's Gospel and examines some of its special features, such as the use of narrative and discourse. This provides a starting point for reading and interpreting some of those stories found only in this Gospel.

HCBS106 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AND PAUL'S LETTERS

This module looks at the relation between Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. It investigates some aspects of the spread of Christianity in the first century and the implications of this for the Church today. It further offers a study of letter writing in the first century, examines the question of authorship and the plan and purpose of Paul's letters. It provides the backdrop for reading and interpreting selected passages from the letters of Paul.

HCBS107 BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH AND LIFE

This module focuses in the first part on the nature and task of theology, in relation to biblical themes: The personhood of God, the Human Person, Jesus the Saviour and the Holy Spirit. In part two, the focus is on the Sacraments, Moral Theology and the Last Things.

OPTIONAL MODULES

HCBS108 PSALMS AND PARABLES IN THE SYNOPTICS

This module deals with the nature of Hebrew poetry, the formation and structure of the book of Psalms, with the interpretation of 15 individual and communal lament, praise, thanksgiving and royal psalms, and with the use of the psalms in Christian prayer. This course further helps students to interpret the parables correctly by being able to distinguish between parable and allegory.

HCBS109 THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS AND SERMON ON THE MOUNT

This module explains the significance of the Writings in terms of how they relate to the rest of the Old Testament; the unique literary features of each book and the significance of each book for its original audience and audiences of today. The following books will be studied: Lamentations, Ruth, Daniel and Song of Songs. The second part will be an examination of the 'Sermon on the Mount' as found both in Matthew and Luke with an emphasis on this act as a charter for Christian living.

For admission requirements, details on the content of the individual modules, and dates of teaching weeks, please consult the Prospectus or the St Augustine website (www.staugustine.ac.za).

Depending on demand, or other relevant factors, St Augustine reserves the right NOT to offer any particular Module or Course.



About

ST AUGUSTINE

- A 'university' in all senses of the word, currently, South African legislation prevents St Augustine – and other private tertiary academic institutions - calling itself a 'university'
- Situated in the secure, leafy suburb of Victory Park, Johannesburg, St Augustine provides high quality lecturing in creative small-class formats, with personalised tuition
- The emphasis is on helping students to engage in critical and interdisciplinary reflection, in the light of the values of human dignity and the common good
- The pass rate is higher than that achieved at many South African universities
- Graduates acquire skills and discipline that employers seek in the South African workplace
- Graduates are equipped to serve as ethical and intellectual leaders across various sectors of society
- St Augustine possesses a well-stocked library covering all relevant disciplines
- To the benefit of its staff and students, St Augustine is a member of a global network of Catholic universities, many of which are amongst the most highly ranked universities in the world

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For more details, please contact us at admin@staugustine.ac.za or phone us on 011 380 9000.

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SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADER IN ETHICAL EDUCATION

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