

**Programme Description for PhD of Theology and Religion**  
**180 ECTS**

**Centre of Mission and Global Studies**

**VID Stavanger**

**Valid from spring 2020, revised spring 2021, revisions approved by the Education  
Committee 30.11. 2023**

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# 1. Presentation of the Study Programme

The PhD programme is open for projects in the fields of theology and religion. Theology and Religious Studies are two distinct scholarly fields, which historically represented rather different research perspectives on religious faith. The programme aims at enabling PhD candidates to generate new knowledge in these two research traditions and to critically reflect on the traditions and the spectre of methods they represent.

The field of theology traditionally consisted of the four disciplines Old Testament, New Testament, Church History and Systematic Theology. Later, other disciplines were added, and for VID, this concerns in particular Missiology and Practical Theology. The theological research tradition has been discipline-oriented, and historically and textually focused, but has gradually become more interdisciplinary and empirically focused. This development is also reflected within VID, which has a particular focus on global issues and questions.

The field of religious studies has traditionally been based in the historically oriented Science of Religion/History of Religion where text and/or linguistic based studies and hermeneutics were essential. Gradually, approaches from anthropology, sociology and gender studies have broadened the focus on religious studies, and more attention on everyday religion and meaning-making, individual and institutional practices and roles have been implemented. At VID, the focus is primarily on empirical studies of current religious trends, globally and locally.

There are important material and methodological parallels between VID's focus in theology and religion. First, there is an overlap in methodology, in the programme's focus on interdisciplinary and empirical methods. Second, there is a global focus and an interest in the interaction between the global and the local, in particular encounters of religions and cultures. The programme offers an interdisciplinary context for one's specialized concentration, whether it is authoritative texts and their interpretation and reception, systematic theology, ethics, historical and/or cultural studies of religion, or empirical research on religious beliefs and practice.

The programme in theology and religion is intended to prepare candidates for professional careers in teaching, writing, and scholarship, as well as for leadership opportunities with religious organizations, social service agencies, NGOs, publishing, and in educational institutions.

## 2. Target Group and Admission Requirements

Admission to the PhD programme normally requires a Master's Degree (120 ECTS) or equivalent in Theology, Religious studies or other related academic disciplines. The University may after specific individual assessment approve other equivalent education as a basis for admission. Applicants may be required to take certain courses and/or special tests prior to admission in order to ensure that the entrance requirements are fulfilled

The application should include completed application form, relevant documentation of education and research experience, and a project description (max. 10 pages), containing the following:

- Main aim and research questions
- sources and method(s)
- Current research situation and relevant theoretical perspectives
- Legal and research ethical challenges

### 3. Learning Outcome

Having successfully completed the PhD programme, the candidate is expected to meet the following requirements:

#### **Knowledge:**

The Candidate

- is in the forefront of knowledge within their respective discipline in either theology or religious studies
- can reflect critically on the historical differences between the scholarly traditions and inter-disciplinary meeting points
- is in the forefront of knowledge concerning global perspectives and issues in the study of theology and religion
- masters these fields' philosophy of science and methodologies
- can evaluate the expediency and application of the various methods within the fields of theology and religious studies
- has a thorough understanding of the various processes within research and scholarly projects

#### **Skills:**

The Candidate

- can formulate problems, plan and carry out research and scholarly work of a high international standard within their respective field
- can choose and apply appropriate methods for their research
- can contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, methods, interpretations and forms of documentation in the fields of theology and religion
- can apply global and intercultural perspectives on contemporary issues in theology and religion
- can handle complex academic issues and challenge established knowledge and practice in the field
- can engage in popular dissemination of research within their field

#### **General competence:**

The Candidate

- can identify relevant ethical issues and carry out their research with scholarly integrity
- can manage complex interdisciplinary assignments and projects
- can communicate research and development work through recognized Norwegian and international channels
- can participate in academic debates in international forums
- can assess the need for, initiate and practice innovation

### 4. Work and Teaching Methods

The PhD education normally consists of three years full-time study or six years half-time study. It includes:

- A formalized training (PhD courses) that covers general introduction to research/academic work as well as to the discipline and topic in which the thesis is to be written; the work load of the formalized training has a minimum of 30 ECTS credits,
- An independent research project that is carried out under academic supervision; this research project is expected to have a work load of 150 ECTS, and it is presented:

- either as a monograph of approximately 100.000 words,
- or as a collection of 3-5 scholarly articles that are published or accepted for publication in international journals with a high standing, and with an introduction relating the articles to each other and to the current research discourse.

PhD courses: The courses are arranged as intensive course weeks. They consist of lectures, group-work and discussion, a variety of pre-course and post-course assignments, and individual reading. For more details, see pt. 7 and the course description for each individual course.

Supervision: Each student is assigned two supervisors as a general rule, the project is allocated 210 hours formal supervision. For more, see §7 in Regulations for the PhD Degree at VID Specialized University.

Paper presentation seminars and research groups: The students are required to present and respond to at least one paper per year, either in the programme's regular paper presentation seminars, or in a research group. The students are expected to be active participants in their respective research groups and are required to participate in at least one paper presentation seminar in the PhD programme each semester.

## **5. Internationalization**

The students are expected to participate in international research conferences, and encouraged to be involved in international research cooperation.

They are also expected to spend some time as visitors/students at a relevant international research institution. The students are required to plan such activities from the start of their PhD period, and they are offered information about exchange institutions and funding possibilities.

## **6. Forms of Assessment**

The courses (30 ECTS) are evaluated by pass/fail. See each individual course description for forms of assessment. Research seminar/conference participation and response activities must be documented. The regulations for the PhD degree at VID and the guidelines and additional provisions for the PhD programmes at VID regulate the evaluation of the dissertation.

## **7. Structure of the Study Programme**

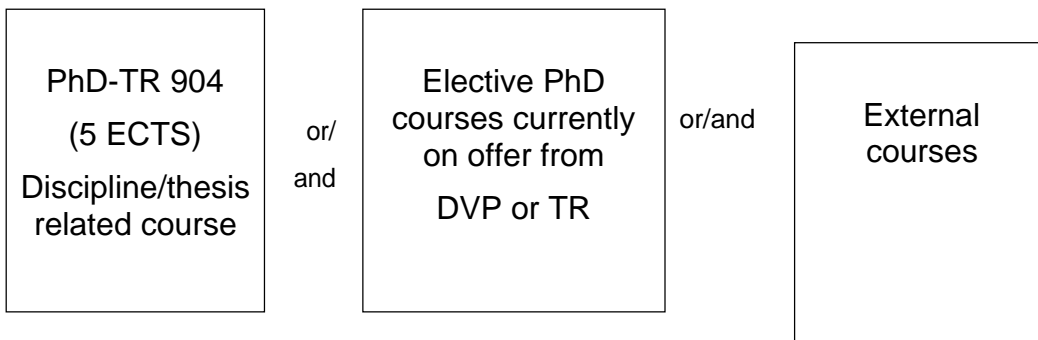
The study programme offers a combination of compulsory and elective courses and is structured in order to accommodate the needs of the different students. Each student prepares an individual education plan, which includes plan for internationalization.

## Thesis (150 ECTS)

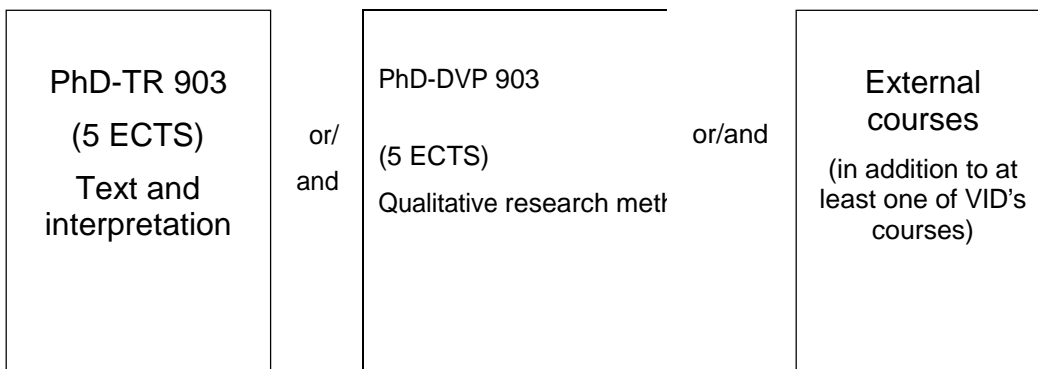
Either: a monograph of 100.000 words  
Or: a collection of 3-5 scholarly articles, with an introduction

## Training (minimum 30 ECTS)

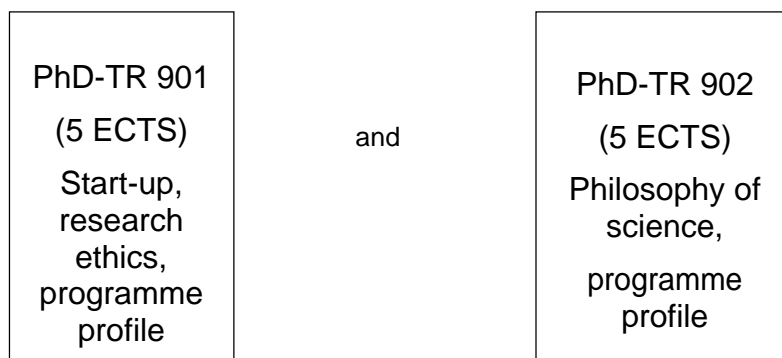
*Discipline/thesis related courses (10 ECTS - minimum)*



*Theory/method courses (5 ECTS – minimum)*



*Introductory courses (10 ECTS)*



The programme offers introductory courses every year. PhD 901 and Phd 902 are compulsory. Three method courses are arranged in cooperation with VID's PhD programme in Diaconia, Values and Professional Practice (DVP). Students in the TR programme must take at least one of these. The programme offers a number of elective courses: the students can design a topic/thesis specific course together with their supervisor; a selection of PhD courses is offered in the programme on a rotating basis; and the student can take courses offered in VID's PhD programme in Diaconia, Values and Professional Praxis (DVP). Participation in external courses and seminars—or a research school—may replace corresponding parts of in the programme's course catalogue, provided acceptance by centre leader and follow-up by the supervisor. In other words 15 out of 30 required ECTS are compulsory to take inside the programme, the other 15 (+), the student is free to take either within or outside the PhD programme.

PhD-TR 901	Start-up, research ethics, programme profile	compulsory	5 ECTS
PhD-TR 902	Philosophy of Science, programme profile	compulsory	5 ECTS
PhD-TR 903	Textual analysis/Text and interpretation	elective	5 ECTS
PhD-DVP 903	Qualitative research methods	elective	5 ECTS
PhD-DVP 904	Quantitative research methods	elective	5 ECTS
PhD-TR 904	Discipline/thesis related course	elective	5 ECTS

In addition to the courses listed above, the PhD programme will offer tuition and courses in generic research skills. This activity will be planned and implemented in close communication with the PhD students, and be a supplement to the individual supervision. Themes for such courses are e.g.:

- writing of the extended abstract in the article-based dissertation
- creating the literature review, writing a scientific article, writing academic English, co-authorship
- challenges in the supervision relationship
- the use of certain tools (Endnote, Nvivo, SPSS)
- participating and presenting in international research conferences
- presenting research to the public
- planning for a post-doctoral career

## 8. Facts about the Study Programme

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The Title of the Study Programme:  
PhD in Theology and Religion

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ISCED Code: 0221: Religion and theology (08.2 - 221)

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Study Programme Code:	Qualification Level:
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Language of Instruction: English

Mode of Study: Full Time and Part Time (50 %  
Workload)

Professional Training: No

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Length of Programme:	Start of the Academic Year:	Campus:
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### Target Group and Admission Requirements

Admission to the PhD programme normally requires a Master's Degree (120 ECTS) or equivalent in Theology, Religious studies or other related academic disciplines. The University may after specific individual assessment approve other equivalent education as a basis for admission. Applicants may be required to take certain courses and/or special tests prior to admission in order to ensure that the entrance requirements are fulfilled

### Contents and Profile of the Study Programme

The PhD programme is open for projects in the fields of theology and religion. The programme aims at enabling PhD students to generate new knowledge in these two research traditions and to critically reflect on the traditions and the spectre of methods they represent.

Theology and Religious Studies are two distinct scholarly fields, which historically represented rather different research perspectives on religious faith. There are, however, important material and methodological parallels between VID's focus in theology and religion. Firstly, there is an overlap in methodology, in the programme's focus on interdisciplinary and empirical methods. Secondly there is a global focus and an interest in the interaction between the global and the local, in particular encounters of religions and cultures. The programme offers an interdisciplinary context for one's specialized concentration, whether it is authoritative texts and their interpretation and reception, systematic theology, ethics, historical and/or cultural studies of religion, or empirical research on religious beliefs and practice.

### Learning Outcome

#### Knowledge:

The Candidate

- is in the forefront of knowledge within their respective discipline in either theology or religious studies
- can reflect critically on the historical differences between the scholarly traditions and inter-disciplinary meeting points
- is in the forefront of knowledge concerning global perspectives and issues in the study



of theology and religion

- masters these fields' philosophy of science and methodologies
- can evaluate the expediency and application of the various methods within the fields of theology and religious studies
- has a thorough understanding of the various processes within research and scholarly projects

**Skills:**

The Candidate

- can formulate problems, plan and carry out research and scholarly work of a high international standard within their respective field
- can choose and apply appropriate methods for their research
- can contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, methods, interpretations and forms of documentation in the fields of theology and religion
- can apply global and intercultural perspectives on contemporary issues in theology and religion
- can handle complex academic issues and challenge established knowledge and practice in the field
- can engage in popular dissemination of research within their field

**General competence:**

The Candidate

- can identify relevant ethical issues and carry out their research with scholarly integrity
- can manage complex interdisciplinary assignments and projects
- can communicate research and development work through recognized Norwegian and international channels
- can participate in academic debates in international forums
- can assess the need for, initiate and practice innovation

**Occupational Profiles of Graduates**

The programme in theology and religion is intended to prepare candidates for professional careers in teaching, writing, and scholarship, as well as for leadership opportunities with religious organizations, social service agencies, NGOs, publishing, and in educational institutions.

**Access to Further Studies after Completing the Study Programme**

Not applicable

# Course Descriptions

## PhD-TR 901: Start-up, Research Ethics, programme profile

<b>Facts about the Course</b>	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Professional Training</b>
Course Code: PHD-TR 901 Number of ECTS: 5 Available as Single Course: No Type of Course: Compulsory  Cycle: Third Cycle  Year of Study Full Time: First Year Part Time: Second Year Prerequisites:	Language of Instruction: English Campus: Stavanger Semester: Autumn/Spring Compulsory Attendance: Yes	Professional Training: No  <b>Student Workload</b> Scope of Tuition: 15 hours Scope of Self-Study Activities: 120 hours Total Workload: 135 hours

### Course Content

The course introduces the PhD student to what it means to do a PhD in theology and religious studies in the context of VID Specialized University. There are four focus areas: (i) Introduction to the PhD thesis genres, to the structure, aims and requirements of this PhD programme, and to the art of writing and publishing academic texts. (ii) Research ethics, with attention both to the individual PhD projects and to key documents in the national and international research ethical discourses. (iii) Information literacy, including training in the use of library resources and bibliographical management tools. (iv) Exposure to VID's profile and core values, with particular attention to its institutional education and research focus on the global ministry of the church and to encounters of religions and cultures in global contexts.

Main Subjects:

- Writing a PhD thesis: genres, organization and expectations of academic texts
- The relationship between PhD student, research team and supervisors
- Research ethical principles and regulations
- Research ethical challenges the PhD student may encounter
- Information literacy: library resources, search strategies and tools, reference and data management, and communication of research results
- Introduction to the PhD programme's profile

### Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the students the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

#### Knowledge:

The Student

- has a thorough understanding of the PhD thesis genres and of writing PhD texts
- is well acquainted with national and international research ethical expectations and regulations
- has good overview of VID's research focus on the global ministry of the church and encounters of culture and religions

## Skills:

The Student

- is able to start writing a PhD thesis and other academic texts
- can make use of relevant library resources, advanced search strategies and reference management tools
- can identify and reflect on research ethical issues in their own field

## General Competence:

The Student

- is able to critically assess the research ethical challenges in relation to current national and international research ethical discourses and documents

## Work and Teaching Methods

- Pre-course work: read the curriculum and documents of the course and prepare to present your PhD project in class
- Lectures

## Compulsory Activities

- Prepare a presentation of the PhD project and present in class.
- Participate in the course lectures

Compulsory activities must be approved before the student can sit for the exam.

## Assessment

Form of Assessment	Length	Grade	Weight
Essay, 3000 words (+/- 10%)	N/a	Passed/Fail	100/100
Video presentation, 15 minutes	N/a	Passed/Fail	100/100

## Additional Information about Assessment:

The student:

- Either* write a 3.000 (+/- 10%) words essay in relation to research ethical challenges of the thesis project
- Or* produce a 15 minutes video presentation reflecting on research ethical challenges of the thesis project

VID's compulsory declaration for mandatory assignments must be enclosed with the essay.

## Other

The course is offered as an intensive course week with 3 days of lectures and seminars.

# PhD-TR 902: Philosophy of Science

## Facts about the Course

Course Code: PHD-TR 902  
Number of ECTS: 5  
Available as Single Course: Yes  
Type of Course: Compulsory

Cycle: Third Cycle

Year of Study  
Full Time: Not set  
Part Time: Not set

Prerequisites:

## Tuition

Language of Instruction: English  
Campus: Stavanger  
Semester: Autumn/Spring  
Compulsory Attendance: Yes

## Professional Training

Professional Training: No

## Student Workload

Scope of Tuition:  
15 hours  
Scope of Self-Study Activities:  
120 hours  
Total Workload: 135 hours

## Course content

The course is compulsory for students in the PhD Programme in Theology and Religion. The course gives the student a thorough introduction into Philosophy of Science within the humanities and social sciences. The course gives an overview of relevant historical and contemporary philosophical discourses, and discusses in particular how theology and religious studies as academic disciplines relate to Philosophy of Science in general, and to one another. The course enables the student to identify, discuss and compare central philosophical scientific traditions within the humanities and social sciences, and critically relate these to their own research project.

## Main Subjects:

- Historical developments in Philosophy of Science within the humanities and social sciences
- Hermeneutical concerns within the humanities and social sciences
- The transition from positivism to postmodernism within Philosophy of Science, and the effect of this on the humanities and social sciences.
- The particular contribution of feminist epistemology to philosophy of science
- Theology and religious studies as academic disciplines in relation to contemporary trends within Philosophy of Science, and in relation to one another
- Programme profile: hermeneutical concerns reflecting the current interpretive context of the global mission of the church, e.g. postcolonial perspectives.

## Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the students the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

## **Knowledge:**

The Student

- is familiar with historical and contemporary lines in Philosophy of Science, with particular attention to the humanities and social sciences
- has a thorough understanding of hermeneutical concerns within the humanities and social sciences, such as oppressive and liberating mechanisms, and can relate these to their own research project
- has a thorough understanding of how the transition from positivism to postmodernism within Philosophy of Science concerns the humanities and social sciences
- has a thorough understanding of contemporary trends within Philosophy of Science from the perspectives of theology and religious studies, and on how these two disciplines relate to one another
- is familiar with current interpretive contexts of the global mission of the church

## **Skills:**

The Student

- is able to handle complex theoretical questions and can formulate research problems and projects in relation to relevant hermeneutical concerns
- can identify and reflect upon philosophical scientific concerns within theology and/or religious studies, and challenge established knowledge in the field
- is able to apply gender and postcolonial critique on issues to their research project
- is able to reflect upon the current interpretive context of the global mission of the church, and of encounters of religions and cultures in global contexts

## **General Competence:**

The Student

- is able to identify and critically relate science philosophical concerns within their own field
- has a thorough understanding of hermeneutical concerns for the production of knowledge
- has a thorough understanding of how science generates conditions and potentials for creating and completing good research
- can partake in academic debates nationally and internationally about philosophical scientific issues within the humanities and social sciences

## **Work and Teaching Methods**

- **Pre-course work:** read the curriculum of the course and write a 500 words note on a concern within Philosophy of Science, which is related to own thesis project.
- Lectures

## Compulsory Activities

- Write a 500 words note (cf. pre-course work)
- Participate in the course lectures

Compulsory activities must be approved before the student can sit for the exam.

## Assessment

Form of Assessment	Length	Grade	Weight
Essay, 3000 words (+/- 10%)	N/a	Passed/Fail	100/100

### Additional Information about Assessment:

Write a 3.000 words essay on a concern within Philosophy of Science related to own thesis project, based on the reading list and lectures.

VID's compulsory declaration for mandatory assignments must be enclosed with the essay.

### Other

The course is offered as an intensive course week with 3 days of lectures and seminars.

## PhD-TR 903 Text and Interpretation

Facts about the Course	Tuition	Professional Training
Course Code: PHD-TR 903	Language of Instruction: English	Professional Training: No
Number of ECTS credits: 5	Campus: Stavanger	<b>Student Workload</b>
Available as Single Course: Yes	Semester: Autumn/Spring	
Type of Course: Elective	Compulsory Attendance: No	Scope of Tuition: 15 hours
Cycle: Third Cycle		Scope of Self-Study Activities: 120 hours
Year of Study		Total Workload: 135 hours
Full Time: First Year		
Part Time: Second Year		
Prerequisites:		

### Course Content

The course gives PhD candidates working with texts (in particular authoritative texts, but also other kinds of historical and contemporary texts) a thorough introduction to relevant scholarly approaches to reading and interpretation of texts. It further addresses potentials and challenges of reading and interpreting texts as historical artefacts and from contemporary experiences and concerns. There will be a particular focus on intercultural, interreligious and emancipatory interpretative perspectives.

Main Subjects:

- Text theory and literacy
- Different approaches to text analysis
- Hermeneutical theory
- Postcolonial theory

### Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the candidates the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

#### Knowledge:

The Candidate

- Has in-depth knowledge of relevant hermeneutical theories
- Has a thorough understanding of postcolonial theory and its contributions to interpretation of texts
- Can contribute to the development of new interpretations through application of intercultural/religious and emancipatory methodological perspectives and approaches
- Has a good understanding of contemporary text theory



- Has a good overview of different approaches to text analysis

**Skills:**

The Candidate

- Can evaluate the historical and hermeneutical presuppositions and perspectives of current textual methodologies, and is able to develop new insights in the field
- Can formulate problems in the field of textual studies, in dialogue with current discourses
- Can select and use an appropriate methodology for text analysis in one’s own PhD project

**General Competence:**

The Candidate

- Can identify research ethical issues and power dynamics related to choices of interpretative perspectives in research design, implementation and analysis, and carry out research with scholarly integrity
- Can participate in public debate/discussion on the significance and contribution of text interpretative skills in understanding complex, pluralistic (religious and cultural) societies

**Work and Teaching Methods**

The course is offered as an intensive three-day course week with precourse work and a final assessment.

- Post-course work:

**Compulsory Activities**

- The lectures
- Pre-course work: Read the course literature and write a blog post discussing some central hermeneutical, theoretical and/or methodological challenges in text interpretation. Give examples from own project.

**Assessment**

Form of Assessment	Length	Grade	Weight
Essay, 3,000 words (+/- 10%)	N/a	Passed/Fail	100/100

Write an essay (3,000 words +/- 10%) discussing hermeneutical, theoretical and/or methodological challenges related to text and interpretation in your thesis project.

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**Additional Information about Assessment:** None.

## **Other**

The reading list will be adjusted and updated regularly.

Admission requirements: The course is open to PhD students who are enrolled in one of VID's PhD programmes. The course is open to PhD students from other institutions. PhD students from other institutions must document that they are admitted to a PhD programme equivalent to VID's PhD programme in Theology and Religion.

## PhD-TR 904: Discipline/Thesis Related Course

<b>Facts about the Course</b>	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Professional Training</b>
Course Code: PHD-TR 904 Number of ECTS: 5 Available as Single Course: No Type of Course: Elective  Cycle: Third Cycle  Year of Study Full Time: Not set Part Time: Not set Prerequisites:	Language of Instruction: English Campus: Stavanger Semester: Autumn/Spring Compulsory Attendance: No	Professional Training: No  <b>Student Workload</b> Scope of Tuition: 15 hours Scope of Self-Study Activities: 120 hours Total Workload: 135 hours

### Course Content

The course is geared to specific concerns of the student's research topic and/or discipline. Reading list and topics are developed by the supervisor(s) together with the student, and assessed by the programme coordinator. The course gives the students an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of themes, theories and methods particular and relevant to their discipline and/or thesis.

Main Subjects:

- General aspects of the discipline: sources and research history
- Themes and perspectives particular to the thesis topic: research situation, and methodological/hermeneutical challenges and concerns
- Theories of particular importance to the discipline and/or thesis

### Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the students the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

#### Knowledge:

The Student

- is in the forefront of knowledge with regard to thematic focus and methodological/ hermeneutical approach of the particular research project
- can evaluate alternative approaches, and can contribute to the development of new theory and knowledge

#### Skills:

The Student

- can formulate problems and start doing research of a high international standard
- can handle complex issues related to the research project and challenge established knowledge and practice in the field

## General Competence:

The Student

- can identify research ethical concerns related to their topic and methodology
- can do research with scholarly integrity

## Work and Teaching Methods

It is up to the supervisor and student to construct this course, but plans and implementation must be approved by the programme coordinator. The course will normally include some of the following work methods:

- Active participation in a disciplinary and/or thematic seminar/workshop/conference closely related to the thesis
- Colloquium

## Compulsory Activities

## Assessment

Form of Assessment	Length	Grade	Weight
Oral examination, 45 minutes	N/a	Passed/Fail	100/100
Essay, 3000 words (+/- 10%)	N/a	Passed/Fail	100/100

### Additional Information about Assessment:

Choose either form of assessment

The oral exam is based on a reading list related to the discipline and/or thematic focus and/or method and/or hermeneutics of the thesis.

The essay relates to the discipline and/or thematic focus and/or method and/or hermeneutics of the thesis.

## PhD-TR 905: Migration and Religion

Facts about the Course	Tuition	Professional Training
Course Code: PHD-TR 905 Number of ECTS: 5 Available as Single Course: Yes Type of Course: Elective  Cycle: Third Cycle	Language of Instruction: English Campus: Stavanger Semester: Spring Compulsory Attendance: Yes	Professional Training: No  <b>Student Workload</b> Scope of Tuition: 15 hours Scope of Self-Study Activities: 120 hours

### Course Content

The aim of the course is to give an in-depth presentation and discussion of the complex interaction between religion and migration, including the central concepts, approaches and methodologies in this field of study. The course's main focus is on the role, significance and impact of religious communities, discourses and practices on different types of migration and integration processes. It further addresses how migration phenomena affect individual and communal expressions of faith and practice. The course introduces central migration theories and conceptual discussions of migration terminology, and presents and discusses relevant theories on globalization processes and transnational dynamics.

#### Main Subjects:

International migration: Theoretical and conceptual perspectives. Processes of globalization and transnational religious networks. Religion as challenge and resource in integration processes. Theological perspectives on migration.

#### Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the students the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

##### Knowledge:

The Student

- Has a good overview of central migration theories and migration related concepts
- Has in-depth knowledge of how globalization and migration processes de-territorializes religion
- Has thorough understanding of challenges and contributions of religious communities in different integration processes
- Has solid knowledge of different theological approaches and perspectives on migration

##### Skills:

The Student

- Can discuss and challenge central migration theories and concepts
- Can critically discuss and evaluate theologies on migration
- Can critically discuss how religion is a part of general transnational processes
- Can analyse the role of religious communities in the interactions between migrant and "host" communities.

##### General Competence:

The Student

- Can identify relevant research problems in the field of migration and religion, and plan and carry out

research with scholarly integrity

- Can communicate research and participate in national and international debates on topics related to migration and religion
- Can on the basis of relevant research on transnational religion formulate, plan and carry out research on transnational religious communities
- Can develop projects on, and in cooperation with, religious communities in the processes of migration, interaction and integration

### **Work and Teaching Methods**

- Pre-course work
- Student presentations
- Colloquium
- Presentations from the practice field
- Lectures

### **Compulsory Activities**

Prepare and present in class a presentation of the PhD project and how it relates to the course (5 min)

### **Assessment**

<b>Form of Assessment</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Oral examination	20 minutes	Pass/Fail

### **Additional Information about Assessment:**

The oral examination will take place approximately one month after the close of the course. The students will be asked to reflect on their own thesis in relation to theories and perspectives offered in the course.

### **Other**

The course is offered as an intensive course week with 3 days of lectures and seminars.

Admission requirement: Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program.

# PhD-TR 906: African biblical and theological

## hermeneutics Course Content

The aim of the course is to give an in-depth presentation and discussion of major hermeneutical models in African biblical studies and theology, in particular models emphasizing inculturation, liberation and reconstruction perspectives. The course will focus on the background, development and current expressions of these models, with postcolonial theory as a means of critical orientation. Interaction and tension between the models will be particularly emphasized, as well as examples of tension within the individual models, especially womanist criticism of lacking gender sensitivity in traditional expressions of the inculturation and liberation models.

Main subjects:

- Historical developments in African biblical and theological hermeneutics, in particular models emphasizing inculturation, liberation and reconstruction perspectives.
- The transition from colonial to postcolonial contexts, and the effects of this on church and theology.
- The critical role and contribution by African feminist/womanist perspectives.

### Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the students the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

#### Knowledge:

The student

- has a robust overview of the background, development and current expressions of inculturation, liberation and reconstruction models of African biblical and theological hermeneutics,
- has solid knowledge of the potential and critiques of postcolonial theory to offer interpretive perspectives to models of African biblical and theological hermeneutics,
- has in-depth understanding of the interaction and tension between the models of African biblical and theological hermeneutics, as well as examples of tension within the individual models.

#### Skills:

The student

**Course Code:**

**Number of ECTS: 5**

**Available as Single Course: Yes**

**Type of Course: Elective**

**Cycle: Third Cycle**

**Full Time: Not Relevant**

**Part Time: Not Relevant**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**Campus: Stavanger**

**Compulsory Attendance: No**

**Professional Training: No**

**Scope of Tuition: 15 hours**

**Scope of Self-Study Activities:**

120 hours

**Total Workload:**

135 hours

- can discuss how interpretive contexts are reflected in the major hermeneutical models, especially in post-colonial contexts,
- can discuss and evaluate the interaction and tension between the major hermeneutical models,
- can critically discuss the role of gender-related questions in the major hermeneutical models.

### **General Competence:**

The student

- can identify relevant research questions in the field of African biblical and theological hermeneutics and carry out research with scholarly and ethical integrity,
- can express and communicate key perspectives of African biblical and theological hermeneutics in scholarly and popular contexts.

### **Work and Teaching Methods**

- Pre-course work
- Student presentations
- Lectures

### **Compulsory Activities**

- Prepare and present a ten-minute discussion in class of main points and challenges of one of the models of African biblical and theological hermeneutics.

### **Assessment**

<b>Form of Assessment</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Individual oral examination	20 minutes	Pass/Fail

### **Additional Information about Assessment:**

The oral examination will take place approximately one month after the close of the course. The students will be asked to reflect on their own thesis in relation to theories and perspectives offered in the course.

### **Other**

- The course is open for students in VID's PhD programs and in corresponding PhD programs. It is also open for applicants who have an academic background that would qualify for being admitted into VID's PhD programs.
- Organizing: The course is offered as an intensive course week with three days of lectures and seminars.



# PhD-TR 907: Theology and Qualitative Research – Church and

## Practice Course Content

The course aims to connect research methods and fundamental epistemological reflections to the shape of the research project, by reflecting on the relationship between theology and qualitative research. With a particular focus on church and practice as research context, the course challenges the students to reflect on how the relationship between theology and qualitative research shapes their research project as a whole. The course also offers a mapping of the current research front on approaches to theology and qualitative research, including a review of practical theology as a theological research discipline.

Main subjects:

- The relationship between theology and qualitative research and how it may shape research design
- Epistemology, ecclesiology and empirical data – how different approaches may conflict and coincide
- Practical theology as a research discipline

## Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the students the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

### Knowledge:

The student

- is in the forefront of knowledge on how empirical theological research and systematic theological research may interrelate
- can evaluate with expediency and accuracy how different analytical strategies relate to different epistemological paradigms in theological research on church and practice
- masters different methodological approaches to theology and qualitative research, focusing on church and practice, and has advanced knowledge of what it means that practical theology as a discipline is contested
- can contribute to the developing of new insights on theology and qualitative research, with particular focus on church and practice as research context

**Course Code:**

**Number of ECTS: 5**

**Available as Single Course: Yes**

**Type of Course: Elective**

**Cycle: Third Cycle**

**Full Time: Not Relevant**

**Part Time: Not Relevant**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**Campus: Stavanger**

**Semester: Spring**

**Compulsory Attendance: No**

**Professional Training: No**

**Length of Professional Training: 0**  
hours/weeks

**Scope of Tuition:**  
15 hours

**Scope of other Learning**  
**Activities:**  
0 hours

**Scope of Self-Study Activities:**  
120 hours

**Total Workload:**  
135 hours

## Skills:

The student

- can formulate reflections on how his/her research project holds capacity to «generate» theology with regard to research design, method and research question
- can map the field of practical theology as a research discipline
- can employ and develop different analytical strategies which may challenge established knowledge and practice in the field of theology and qualitative research in order to develop research of high international standard
- can handle complex academic issues, such as articulating the role of *reflexivity* in his/her research project

## General Competence:

The student

- can identify and reflect on how analytical strategies and research design relates to research ethics
- can manage complex interdisciplinary assignments

## Work and Teaching Methods

- Pre-course work
- Student presentations
- Lectures

## Compulsory Activities

- Prepare and present a first draft of the written assignment (see assessment), reflecting on the following theme: “what understanding of theology is expressed in the way your research project is shaped (your research question, your research design, your methodology), and how does your understanding of the relationship between theology and qualitative research shape your research project as a whole?”

## Assessment

Form of Assessment	Duration	Grade
Written assignment (2000 words +/-10%)	Whole term	Pass/Fail

## Other

The course is offered as an intensive course week with three days of lectures and seminars.

It is recommended that the candidate has completed the introduction courses in one of VID's PhD-programme (or equivalent) prior to the course.

Admission requirement: Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program.