



Religion and Belief in a Secular Age

MDI Summer School for Religious Educators (1)

[June 8th - 11th 2009]

Conference and Summer School

Drawing upon the themes highlighted in Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age* this innovative four-day summer school and affiliated international conference will provide participants with an opportunity to engage meaningfully and reflectively with the contemporary Irish religious experience by attending a series of workshops facilitated by leading philosophers and theologians.



Themes

In an increasingly secularized Ireland, teachers of Religious Education face increasing challenges in the classroom. The aim of this summer school is to better equip R.E. teachers in addressing the issues that arise as a direct result of the current shift towards secularization in Ireland. This is of particular relevance to those teaching Sections A ('The Search for Meaning and Values') and I ('Religion and the Irish Experience') of the Leaving Certificate R.E. Syllabus and also to Section D ('The Question of Faith') of the Junior Certificate R.E. Syllabus. Furthermore, this summer school aims to assist R.E. teachers in:

- developing a more nuanced understanding of the contours of a secular age and the uniquely Irish context given its particularly rapidly changing cultural landscape
- obtaining a deeper understanding of the cultural context of contemporary Ireland
- identifying the defining themes of a secular age
- examining the manner in which religion can contribute anew to Irish society and culture
- tracing the rapidly changing ethical/moral landscape in Ireland. This is of particular relevance to those teaching Sections D ('Moral Decision-Making') and F ('Issues of Justice and Peace') of the Leaving Certificate R.E. Syllabus and also to Section F ('The Moral Challenge') of the Junior Certificate R.E. Syllabus
- critically and reflectively engaging with current research on the contemporary Irish religious experience.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. identify the defining themes of a secular age
2. critically reflect on the relationship between religion, belief and modernity
3. identify the ways in which the recent work of Charles Taylor provides insights into the nature and function of religious discourse in secular society
4. describe the manner in which the dialogue between theology and

5. philosophy can contribute anew to Irish society and culture
5. understand the conditions for religious belief in Ireland today in the light of Taylor's contention that a secular age is not inhospitable to the positive influence of a spiritual and/or religious worldview.

When does it take place?

This summer school is offered on campus at the Institute over 4 days (Monday 8th - Thursday 11th June 2009) for audit (CPD) or credit. Those who wish to audit this summer school may participate in all or some of the workshops and associated conference events as they so choose.

What do I receive upon completion?

Participants for credit will attend all plenary sessions, parallel sessions and summer school workshops at the international summer conference 'A Secular Age': Charles Taylor and the Irish Context. Upon completion of module related reading and the approved module assignment participants will receive 10 credits which can contribute to a Postgraduate Award in Religion and Education, or Religion and Culture.

Awards for which the 10 credits can be applied:

Graduate Certificate (30 credits = 3 modules)

Graduate Diploma (60 credits = 6 modules)

Master of Arts (90 credits = 6 modules + minor thesis)

[For a taught PG award participants may take a maximum of three modules by intensive summer schools. A maximum of two such modules may be taken outside of the context of formal registration for a PG award]

Further information on modules available on the Postgraduate Religion and Education programme can be found at:

www.materdei.ie

What are the entry requirements?

- Applicants should be teaching RE in a second level school.
- Applicants who wish to enroll for credit must meet the entry requirements of the programme (email admissions@materdei.dcu.ie).

How do I enroll for the Summer School?

Applications must be received by 1st May 2009. For further information contact:

Admissions Office,

Mater Dei Institute of Education, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3.

Tel: 01 808-6518 / Email: admissions@materdei.dcu.ie

What are the fees?

- Audit Fee (CPD): €200
- Credit Fee: €395 [Participants registering as a postgraduate student, no additional fee. The fee for a taught PG award shall be the 'normal fee' less the fees paid for the intensive summer school].

Parking is free and lunch is included in the fees above.
(Map and accommodation information available on reverse)