



The University of Manchester



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor

27.07.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	The Doctrine of the Church and the Ethics of Distinctiveness
Unit Code	232 (8232 for distance learning version)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dotha Blackwood (<i>pro tem</i>)
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit begins with a critical survey of the ways in which the Church has been identified and defined - often in contrast to the scriptural concepts of 'the world' and 'the Kingdom of God' - within a variety of ecclesiological traditions. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own experience of Church life in response to these definitions. Particular attention is given to Baptist and Anabaptist understandings of the Church and its relationship with society. Notions of religious freedom also will be explored particularly with reference to the plurality of contemporary Western society.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

This unit seeks to continue an exploration of the doctrinal and ethical significance of the Church's creed by a sustained consideration of the doctrine of the Church, with special reference to different conceptions of the Church's role within society.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand, describe and evaluate some of the consistent ways in which the Church has been defined, following Scripture, in relationship to biblical conceptions of 'the

world' and 'the Kingdom of God'

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Apply critical skills by means of comparison and contrast to enduring debates and differences within the church

Practical Skills

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Apply their theological learning critically and constructively to their pastoral practice with particular reference to Church leadership and education

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Offer leadership to a community based on critically considered intellectual foundations and exhibit a mature approach to leadership in the context of differing opinions

Employability Skills

Offering competent and strategic leadership within the context of Christian Church and education, as well as mature leadership within any organisation in which differing opinions are expressed, are skills relevant in many employment contexts.

SYLLABUS

1. On this Rock: Biblical and theological foundations for the Church
2. Genesis and genius: Types, traditions and Baptist origins
3. The gathering Church: A community of disciples
4. The baptism of disciples: The nature of Christian initiation
5. The feast of life: Communion and body politics
6. A kingdom of priests: The government of the congregation
7. The children of the Church: People of promise
8. Ministers and members: Ordination and enabling
9. Relating and resourcing: The communion of churches
10. The separation of Church and state: Dissent, religious freedom and tolerance
11. Paradigms for engagement: The shape of the future

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

232: Interactive lectures

8232: Distance learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 232: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8232: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 232: An essay	3000 words	100%
• 8232: An essay and a learning journal*	3000 words	100%

* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has

been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (232 only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as free choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

CORE TEXTS:

Freeman, Curtis, *Contesting Catholicity* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014)
 Holmes, Stephen R., *Baptist Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2012)
 Wright, Nigel, *Free Church, Free State* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2005)

INDICATIVE READING:

Augustine, *The City of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956) pp. 1-511
 Avis, Paul, ed., *The Christian Church: An introduction to the major traditions* (London: SPCK, 2002)
 Freeman, Curtis, *Contesting Catholicity: Theology for Other Baptists* ((Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014)
 Harper B., and P.L. Metzger, *Exploring Ecclesiology: An evangelical and ecumenical Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009)
 Harvey, B., *Can These Bones Live? A catholic Baptist engagement with ecclesiology, hermeneutics and social theory* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2008)
 Haymes, Brian, Ruth Gouldbourne and Anthony R. Cross, *On Being the Church* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2008)
 Holmes, Stephen R., 'The radical ecclesiology of Nigel Wright' in Pieter J Lalleman (ed.), *Challenging to change: dialogues with a radical Baptist theologian* (London: Spurgeon's College, 2009) 117-128
 O'Donovan, Oliver, *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the roots of political theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
 Volf, Miroslav, *After our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)
 Wright, Nigel G., *Disavowing Constantine* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press 2000)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)
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ADDITIONAL NOTES

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APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	