



The University of Manchester



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

12.07.2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Studying Theology
Unit Code	102 (8102 for the distance learning version)
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	22 hours (n/a for the distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Rev Prof. Philip McCormack
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit provides an introduction to the process of studying Christian theology. After considering various approaches to the theological task; the unit explores an integrated, theological approach which gives due weight to Scripture, tradition and context. Far from being an irrelevance, such faith seeking understanding is vital to the health and mission of the Christian church. The unit considers various aspects of critical thinking, and illustrates the significance of critical thinking for an academic study of theology. In addition, a range of learning activities provides students with the opportunity to refresh essential study skills or be introduced to them for the first time. These skills are developed through a short formative assignment which forms the basis for the assessed essay expected at the end of the unit. Students are expected to take into account the feedback on the formative assignment as they prepare their final essay.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To provide a practical introduction to the academic study of theology for people beginning, or returning to, undergraduate studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- Explain how Scripture, tradition and context contribute to the process of doing theology
- Describe the critical and constructive aspects of the theological task

Intellectual Skills

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

- Discuss the nature of theology and identify different approaches to the theological task
- Discuss the significance of critical thinking for theological study

Practical Skills

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

- Identify, access and use relevant material from libraries and relevant online resources

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Use the study skills to plan and write an essay on a theological theme
- Express basic theological perspectives on various topics

Employability Skills

Work effectively with those who differing views and exercise discernment and tolerance within a framework of personal commitment

SYLLABUS

1. What is theology? Different types of theology
2. Why bother with theology? The basis for understanding the transforming nature of theology
3. How do we do theology?
4. Tools: Starting with Scripture 1
5. Tools: Starting with Scripture 2
6. Tools: Listening to the Great Tradition
7. Tools: Responding to Culture
8. Drawing on Scripture, Tradition & Culture – a reflective dialogue
9. Theological reflection and reflective practice
10. Models of reflection
11. Making connections (i.e. bringing it all together)

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

102: Interactive lectures

8102: Distance learning

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 102: An essay	1000 words	n/a
• 8102: An essay	1000 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 102: An essay	2000 words	100%
• 8102: An essay and a learning journal*	2000 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral feedback in class (102 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

<p>Bongmba, Elias Kifon, ed., <i>Routledge Handbook of African Theology</i> (Milton Park: TaylorFrancis, 2020) https://www.perlego.com/book/1580237/the-routledge-handbook-of-african-theology-pdf</p>
<p>Bennett, Zoë, <i>Using the Bible in Practical Theology: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives</i> (Milton Park: Taylor and Francis, 2016) https://www.perlego.com/book/1635028/using-the-bible-in-practical-theology-historicaland-contemporary-perspectivespdf</p>
<p>Bird, Michael F., <i>Evangelical Theology: Biblical and Systematic Introduction</i> (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020) https://www.perlego.com/book/1388307/evangelical-theology-second-edition-a-biblical-and-systematic-introduction-pdf</p>
<p>Chadwick C. and Tovey P., <i>Growing in Ministry: Using Critical Incident Analysis in Pastoral Care</i> (Grove Booklet 84, 2000)</p>
<p>Cottrell, S., <i>The Study Skills Handbook</i> (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003)</p>
<p>Green, L., <i>Let's Do Theology</i> (London: Mowbray, 1990) https://www.perlego.com/book/392442/lets-do-theology-resources-for-contextual-</p>

[theology-completely-updated-and-revised-pdf](#)

Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson, *Who Needs Theology?* (Leicester: IVP, 1996)

Hart, T., *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology* (London: SPCK, 1995)

McMillan, Kathleen and Jonathan Weyers, *How to Improve your Critical Thinking & Reflective Skills* (London: Pearson, 2012)

<https://www.perlego.com/book/810852/how-to-improve-your-critical-thinking-reflective-skills-pdf>

McGrath, A., *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001)

<https://www.perlego.com/book/995325/christian-theology-an-introduction-pdf>

McGrath, A., *Mere Theology: Christian Faith And The Discipleship Of The Mind* (London: SPCK, 2010)

<https://www.perlego.com/book/1470185/mere-theology-christian-faith-and-the-discipleship-of-the-mind-pdf>

Nash S and Nash J., *Tools for Reflective Ministry* (London: SPCK, 2012)

Pattison S., "Some Straw for the Bricks: A Basic Introduction to Theological Reflection", in Thompson, Judith and Stephen Pattison, *SCM Studyguide: Theological Reflection*, 2nd edn (London: SCM Press, 2019)

<https://www.perlego.com/book/1437504/scm-studyguide-theological-reflection-2nd-edition-pdf>

Rollins, P., *How (Not) To Speak of God* (London: SPCK, 2006)

Wright, T., *Scripture and the Authority of God* (London: SPCK, 2013)

<https://www.perlego.com/book/1469948/scripture-and-the-authority-of-godpdf>

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

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

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 hours (100 hours for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC

Valid from Date (Publishing Date)