

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

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Incarnation and Atonement
Unit Code	234 (8234 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	Professor Philip J. McCormack / Rev. David K. McLachlan
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit traces the historical development and differing theological articulations of the person and work of Christ. Theories and metaphors of atonement are compared and contrasted and their significance for a Christian understanding of humanity will be explored. This includes an exploration of issues of justice and differing responses to the problem of human suffering. The unit concludes with a sustained examination of the doctrine of resurrection and a consideration of the scope of final salvation by exploring the doctrine of election.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit traces the historical development and differing theological articulations of the person and work of Christ. Theories and metaphors of atonement are compared and contrasted and their significance for a Christian understanding of humanity will be explored. This includes an exploration of issues of justice and differing responses to the problem of human suffering. The unit concludes with a sustained examination of the doctrine of resurrection and a consideration of the scope of final salvation by exploring the doctrine of election.

AIMS

To explore the Christian doctrine of Christ and the distinctively Christian understanding of salvation. The pastoral and ethical implications of these doctrines will be explored.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- Articulate and evaluate the manner in which the person and work of Christ has been expressed within the tradition of the Church

Intellectual Skills

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

- Reflect theologically on the significance of Christology and Atonement for the nature of humanity

Practical Skills

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

- Apply key methods and concepts of historical, theological and ethical analysis

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Apply the content of the unit to the construction of teaching material and pastoral resources for use in ministry

Employability Skills

The skills gained in this unit will enable graduates to demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between belief and ethics in such a way as to facilitate a personal and practical contribution to key ethical debates within society

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to the person and work of Christ
 2. Incarnation and atonement: the theology of Athanasius
 3. Chalcedon and beyond: one person, two natures
 4. The Priesthood of Christ
 5. The Cross as satisfaction: Anselm's 'Cur Deus Homo'
 6. The Cross as penalty; Calvin, P.T. Forsyth and the recent atonement debate
 7. Atonement as redemption and reconciliation: T.F Torrance
 8. The cross and the problem of suffering; Moltmann and 'The Crucified God'
 9. Righteousness and rights
 10. Resurrection and the moral life
- The scope of salvation: the doctrine of election – Calvinism, Arminianism and Barth

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

234: Interactive lectures

8234: Distance Learning

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

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 234: A class test	45 minutes	n/a
• 8234: An online test	45 minutes	n/a
Summative:		
• 234: A written project	2500 words	100%
• 234: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8234: <i>and a learning journal*</i>		Pass/fail*

* 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 (234 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)?	Core Unit (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

E-resources (Perlego)

<https://www.perlego.com/reading-list/344831/unit-234>

Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo* in *The Library of Christian Classics X*
Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (London: Mowbray, 1953)
Barth, Karl, *Church Dogmatics* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1956-1975) IV 1, 157-357
Fiddes, Paul S., *Past Event and Present Salvation: The Christian Idea of Atonement* (London: Darton Longman and Todd, 1989)
Goldingay, John (ed.), *Atonement Today* (London: SPCK, 1995)
Gunton, Colin E., *The Actuality of Atonement* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1988)
McGrath, Alister E. (ed.), *The Christian Theology Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001²)
Moltmann, Jürgen, *The Crucified God* (London: SCM, 1974)
Owen, John, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. W.H. Goold (London: Banner of Truth, 1967) vol. X, 140-421
Smail, Tom, *Once and for All* (London: Darton Longman and Todd, 1998)
Torrance, Thomas F., *Atonement* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2009)
White, Vernon, *Atonement and Incarnation: An essay in universalism and particularity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991)

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)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	