



The University of Manchester



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

01.02.2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	The Doctrine of the Church and the Ethics of Distinctiveness
Unit Code	333
Unit Level	3
Contact Hours	22 hours
FHEQ Level	6
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Thomas A. Breimaier / Rev. David J. McLachlan
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 are also 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 unit 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 unit 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 unit 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 unit 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

- Offer competent and strategic leadership within the context of the Christian Church and education
- Offer mature leadership within any organisation in which differing opinions are expressed

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. The free state: Understanding the social and political order & the shape of the future

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Interactive lectures

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

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formative: An essay plan	750 words	n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An essay	3000 – 3500 words	100%

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class
- 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

As the weekly discussions will be drawn from topics related to relevant chapters from Nigel Wright's *Free Church, Free State*, this reading will be required to be completed prior to the class session. The entire book has been made available for students on [the College Moodle page](#). Additional digitally-available recommended reading will be available on a [specific Perlego page](#). Finally, any week-specific recommended reading will be posted under the relevant section on the unit's Moodle page.

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) pp.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., *Free Church, Free State: The positive Baptist vision* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2005)

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 hours (100 hours for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	