



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

25.08.2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	Theological Enquiry and Interpretation
Unit code	402
Credit rating	15
Level	7
Contact hours	16 (In-service pathways: 9)
Pre-requisite units	None
Co-requisite units	None
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Joshua T. Searle
ECT	7.5
Notional hours of learning	150

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

In today's rapidly-changing world new demands are being made on ministers of the gospel. It is increasingly imperative that Christian leaders today be equipped with the intellectual tools to enable them to practice their ministry in original, creative and compassionate ways. This unit introduces students to a transformative theology for these changing times. The aim is to equip, empower and encourage Christian leaders to develop a ministerial practice that is life-giving, life-enhancing, rooted in biblical teaching and conversant with the best insights from a range of contemporary ministerial theology, drawn from a wide variety of sources and traditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

The unit introduces the ethos and opportunities of studying theology at Master's level. The process of doing theology is approached from two sides: theological reflection on situations in ministry or aspects of culture, and the creative construction of models for thinking and practice, appropriate to the contemporary world, on the basis of theology's classic sources. It highlights the processes and arts of interpretation as central to theology, from whichever aspect it is approached: interpretation of the Bible, of Christian tradition, doctrine and experience, and of culture. It builds on undergraduate-level study of theology by exposing more of the roots, presuppositions and philosophy of the discipline. It provides the foundation for the Master's in Theology programme, whether students are taking the general Advanced Christian Studies pathway or the more specialist pathways in biblical and doctrinal, radical free church, historical or practical dimensions, by accentuating the theological demands and implications of each.

AIMS

To survey and analyze the field of theological study as Master's students are expected to engage with it, and especially to elucidate the tasks of interpretation which are inherent in the practices of theological reflection and constructive theology.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	By the end of this unit students should be able to:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> articulate the tasks of theological reflection and constructive theology analyze the processes of interpretation involved in these tasks
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify appropriate sources for the construction of contemporary theology interpret 'texts' from Scripture, tradition, experience and culture with critical insight make coherent connections between different sources of theology
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use IT and computer skills to effectively support research select from a range of sources those most relevant to a particular Master's level investigation in theology critique sources and use independent judgement in a way appropriate to Master's level present written work to a professional standard appropriate for Master's level

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 402: Oral presentation	10 minutes	n/a
Book review draft	500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 402: Recording of oral presentation	15 minutes	50%
Book review article	2,500 words	50%

FEEDBACK METHODS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral feedback in class Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days
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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

- Bird, M., *Evangelical Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013) – [available HERE](#)
- Cameron, H., et al., *Researching Practice in Ministry and Mission: A Companion* (London: SCM, 2013) – [available HERE](#)
- Graham, E., et al., *Theological Reflection: Volume 1: Methods* (London: SCM Press, 2019) – [available HERE](#)
- Hopkins, D. N., *Black Theology: Essays on Global Perspectives* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2017) – [available HERE](#)
- Reddie, A. et al (eds.), *Black Theology in Britain* (London: Taylor and Francis, 2016) – available in full by [clicking HERE](#)
- Greene, L., *Let's Do Theology: Resources for Contextual Theology*, 2nd edition (London: Bloomsbury, 2012) – [available HERE](#)
- Grenz, S, et al., *20th-Century Theology: God and the World in a Transitional Age* (Downers Grove, PA: IVP Academic, 2010) – [available HERE](#)
- McGrath, A., *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Oxford: Wiley, 2016) – [available HERE](#)
- Nessian, C., *The Vitality of Liberation Theology* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012) – [available HERE](#)
- Veeneman, M., *Introducing Theological Method: A Survey of Contemporary Theologians and Approaches* – [available HERE](#)
- Searle, J. T., *Theology After Christendom: Forming Prophets for a Post-Christian World* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2020) – [available HERE](#)

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)