

School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	Studying Christian Theology
Unit code	430
Credit rating	30
Level	7
Contact hours	40
Pre-requisite units	None
Co-requisite units	409 Reading and Using the Bible, 462 Spirituality
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Rev. Dotha N. Blackwood
ECT	15
Notional hours of learning	300

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

This unit provides a critical examination of various approaches to the theological task. It also explores the potential of an integrated approach to the process of doing theology, which gives due weight to Scripture, tradition and culture. Key themes, such as soteriology, Christology and the doctrine of the Trinity, will be outlined and critically explored. These central themes will help to demonstrate the relevance of theology's critical and constructive tasks. This focus upon specific doctrinal loci will further demonstrate the value of drawing upon the resources of Scripture, tradition and culture. The unit provides foundations for thinking theologically and critically, and enables students to deepen their appreciation of mainstream Christian belief.

AIMS

The aim of this unit is a critical examination of various approaches to studying Christian theology. It explores some central Christian doctrines drawing upon the resources of Scripture, tradition and culture.

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"> demonstrate and articulate how Scripture, tradition and culture contribute to an understanding of central Christian doctrines explore and evaluate some key elements of orthodox Trinitarian faith
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluate different approaches to the theological task discuss in an informed manner theology's critical and constructive tasks
Practical and transferable skills;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use IT and computer skills to effectively support research

personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrate different theories of, and approaches to Christian theology within a reflexive framework in the students' own context evaluate relevant literature and communicate ideas clearly in a reasoned and coherent manner
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ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: • A written assignment	2000 words (or equivalent)	n/a
Summative: • An essay	6000-6500 words	100%

FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	
Available on which programme(s)?	MA (compulsory)

Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why bother with theology? What is theological reflection? Using the Bible in theological reflection Trinitarian Theology 1 Trinitarian Theology 2 Christology 1 - Biblical Christological affirmations Christology 2 - The deity and humanity of Christ Athanasius: <i>On the Incarnation of the Word</i> Soteriology and atonement: The Cross as victory and the penal substitution model of atonement Soteriology and atonement: Moltmann's theology of the cross Eschatology
Teaching method	Interactive lectures, group research work and problem based learning
Additional eLearning content	Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's <i>Online</i> to support student learning
Feedback	Written feedback within 15 working days from submission
Date of approval (for office use)	
Information updated on	July 2013

INDICATIVE READING

- Ford, D.F., *Theology: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 1999)
- Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson, *Who Needs Theology?* (Leicester: IVP, 1996)
- Gunton, Colin E., *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002)
- Gunton, Colin E., *Yesterday and Today: A Study of Continuities in Christology*, 2nd edn (London: SPCK, 1997)
- Gunton, Colin E., *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology*, 2nd edn (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997)
- Hart, Trevor, *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology* (London: SPCK, 1995)
- Jones, G., *Christian Theology: A Brief Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999)
- Migliore, D.L., *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*, 2nd edn (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004)
- Moltmann, Jürgen, *The Crucified God* (London: SCM, 1974)
- Moltmann, Jürgen, *The Way of Jesus Christ* (London: SCM, 1990)
- Morgan, D.D., *The Humble God: A Basic Course in Christian Doctrine* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2005)
- Olson, Roger E., *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity* (Leicester: Apollos, 2002)
- Seitz, Christopher R. (ed.), *Nicene Christianity: The Future for a New Ecumenism* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2001)