



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

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Course Unit title	<b>Spirituality (short unit)</b>
Unit code	462
Credit rating	15
Level	7
Contact hours	20
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	409 Reading and Using the Bible, 430 Studying Christian Theology
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Paul Goodliff and Dr Peter J. Morden
ECT	7.5
Notional hours of learning	150

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT**

This unit introduces the main spiritual streams within the Christian faith. It looks at spirituality in the gospels and in the early church. The main traditions examined and evaluated are evangelical spirituality, Ignatian spirituality, mystical and contemplative streams of spirituality, Franciscan spirituality and the social justice tradition, Celtic spirituality, and holiness and Pentecostal/charismatic spirituality. Figures who have shaped these traditions are briefly noted, for example Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich, Ignatius Loyola and John Wesley. Consideration is also given to a few specific topics in the area of spirituality experience such as the dark night of the soul, spirituality and personality, and spiritual direction. In the course of looking at these topics, connections are made with the needs of the contemporary Church.

**AIMS**

To understand the forms that Christian spirituality has taken within the main traditions of the Christian Church and to assess their application in contemporary Christian practice.

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

<b>Category of outcome</b>	By the end of this unit students should be able to:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate a sound knowledge and a critical understanding of themes in Christian spirituality</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analyse major streams of spiritual practice</li> </ul>
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evaluate the relevance and application of different strands of spirituality to Christian life and ministry today</li> </ul>
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>critically reflect on their own spirituality</li> <li>integrate biblical and historical information into their personal situation</li> <li>work together in small groups</li> </ul>

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An essay plan</li> </ul>		n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An essay</li> </ul>	4000 words	100%

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the main spiritual streams within Christianity</li> <li>Spirituality in the gospels</li> <li>Spirituality in the early church</li> <li>Evangelical spirituality</li> <li>Ignatian spirituality</li> <li>Mystical and contemplative spirituality</li> <li>The Orthodox tradition</li> <li>Franciscan spirituality and the social justice tradition</li> <li>Celtic spirituality</li> <li>Holiness and Pentecostal / charismatic spirituality</li> <li>The dark night of the soul</li> <li>Keeping a journal</li> <li>Spiritual direction</li> <li>Sacramental practice</li> <li>Black spirituality</li> <li>Women and spiritual experience</li> <li>Personality and spiritual development</li> <li>Persons studied include Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich, Ignatius Loyola and John Wesley</li> </ul>
Teaching method	Seminar group
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 ( <i>for office use</i> )	
Information updated on	February 2021

## INDICATIVE READING

Baker, Denise, *Julian of Norwich's 'Showings': Form Vision to Book* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1994)

Bebbington, David W., *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s* (London: Routledge, 2003)

Dyer, Anne E. and William K. Kay, *Pentecostal Studies: A Reader* (London: SCM, 2017)

Haykin, Michael A.G., *Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory: The Piety of Samuel and Sarah Pearce* (Kitchener, Ontario: Joshua Press, 2012)

Jenkins, Philip, *The Lost History of Christianity* (London: HarperCollins, 2009)

Lalleman, Pieter J., Peter J. Morden and Anthony R. Cross (eds), *Grounded in Grace: Essays to Honour Ian M. Randall* (London: Spurgeon's College and Baptist Historical Society, 2013 / Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2020)

Lee, Hak Joon, *We Will Get to the Promised Land: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Communal-Political Spirituality* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2017)

McGrath, Alister, *Christian Spirituality* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2013)

Morden, Peter J., *'Communion with Christ and his People': The Spirituality of C.H. Spurgeon (1834-92)* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2014)

Morden, Peter J., *The Message of Discipleship: Following Jesus in Today's World* (London: Inter-Varsity Press [Bible Speaks Today], 2018)

All the books highlighted in bold are available on Perlego. See the full list: [Spirituality 462 curated by Perlego | Perlego](#)