



The University of Manchester



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

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Spirituality
Unit Code	162 (8162 distance learning version)
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning)
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Peter J. Morden
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit begins by evaluating different understandings of the term 'spirituality' and seeks to establish a framework within which Christian spirituality can be analysed. Foundational themes in Christian spirituality are considered such as the Bible, prayer, contemplation, the sacraments, holiness and the relationship between the inner and outer dimensions of Christian spirituality. The unit also offers an introduction to some of the main spiritual streams of the Christian faith: Evangelical, Eastern Orthodox, Black and Celtic spiritualities are considered. Specific experiences such as the dark night of the soul are also given attention, as are questions relating to personality and spiritual development. Throughout the unit there is a focus on the practice of Christian spirituality.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To consider the different dimensions of Christian spirituality and to provide the means whereby students can further develop their own spiritual lives and the lives of others.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- Discuss the significance of different understandings of spirituality and have a framework for understanding specifically Christian spirituality

Intellectual Skills

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

- Demonstrate the aptitude to reflect appropriately on spiritual experience

Practical Skills

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

- Identify and implement approaches that will assist in their own spiritual growth
- Write a reflective essay

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Reflect on how resilience as, demonstrated in the history of Christian spirituality, could enable one to face setbacks while adjusting to pressure and adapting to change

Employability Skills

This unit helps to develop self awareness, and is designed to prepare students to engage across a spectrum of understandings of spirituality in varying contexts. It assists in preparing graduates to respect and appreciate approaches to spirituality.

SYLLABUS

1. Definitions of 'spirituality'; the 'spiritual journey' in the Bible and in Christian history
2. Approaches to engaging with the Bible, including *lectio divina*
3. Approaches to prayer and contemplation; the work of Henri Nouwen; the place of art in spirituality
4. The sacraments in Christian spirituality, with a special focus on the Lord's Supper (Eucharist)
5. Christian approaches to 'holiness'
6. The experience known as the 'dark night of the soul'
7. The place of Christian community in the development of Christian spirituality; Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*; the relationship between personality and spirituality
8. The 'Celtic Tradition' of spirituality; the Northumbria Community
9. Eastern Orthodoxy
10. Black spirituality (guest lecturer)
11. Application to contemporary discipleship and ministry

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

162: Interactive lectures

8162: Distance learning

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

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 162: An essay plan • 8162: An essay plan 	300 words 300 words	n/a n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 162: A reflective essay • 8162: A reflective essay and a learning journal* 	2000 words 2000 words	100% 100% Pass/fail*
<p>* 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.</p>		

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (162 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

Clarke, Clifton, *The Reason Why We Sing: Introducing Black Pentecostal Spirituality* (Grove Spirituality Series [61]. Cambridge: Grove Books, 1997)

Foster, Richard, *Streams of Living Water* (London: HarperCollins, 1999)

McGrath, Alister E., *Christian Spirituality* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999)

Morden, Peter J., 'Communion with Christ and his People': *The Spirituality of C.H. Spurgeon (1834-92)* (Centre for Baptist History and Heritage Studies 4; Oxford: Regent's Park College, 2010 / Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2014)

Philip Sheldrake (ed.), *New SCM Dictionary of Christian Spirituality* (London: SCM, 2004-5)

Peterson, Eugene H., *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2005)

Peterson, Eugene H., *Subversive Spirituality* (Vancouver: Eerdmans/Regent College, 1997)

Shaw, Luci, *Polishing the Petoskey Stone: New and Selected Poems* (Wheaton, Illinois, 1990)

Tidball, Derek J., *The Message of Holiness: Restoring God's Masterpiece* (Leicester: IVP, 2010)

Smith, Karen E., *Christian Spirituality* (London: SCM, 2007)

Stackhouse, Ian, *The Day is Yours: Slow Spirituality in a Fast Moving World* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2008)

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)