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

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	**Introduction to Christian Doctrine**
Unit Code	133 (8133 distance learning version)
Unit Level	1
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning)
FHEQ Level	4
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Graham J. Watts
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

Lectures focus on the task of theology as reflection on the Gospel narrative. An exploration of the biblical foundation of doctrine, its historical development and cultural shaping is rooted in a sustained examination of the Apostles' Creed. This will facilitate an appreciation of the contemporary, practical implications of Christian belief. A foundation is laid for later units which focus on the nature of theological thinking and the relationship between doctrine and ethics.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To introduce students to the study of Christian doctrine as articulated in the Apostles' Creed and to some of its ethical consequences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Understand the nature of the theological task and appreciate the distinctive nature of

Christian belief as articulated in the Apostles' Creed

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
• Identify and examine the ways in which the Church has formulated and expressed its beliefs in changing historical and cultural contexts

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
• Apply the key theological concepts and/or ethical consequences of Christian belief and practice in the context of ministry and mission

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
• Identify, access and use relevant material from libraries and online resources

Employability Skills

Understand ways in which personal commitment can helpfully and creatively contribute to corporate identity and good practice.

SYLLABUS

1. What is theology? 'I believe….' Introduction to the study of Doctrine 2. The Doctrine of Revelation; 'I believe in God…..' 3. Exploring the Trinity; 'I believe in God the Father….' 4. The Good Creation; 'maker of heaven and earth….' 5. Humanity in the image of God 6. The Person and Work of Christ (1); 'And in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord…' 7. The Person and Work of Christ (2); the story of Jesus and the gift of salvation 8. Who is the Spirit?; 'I believe in the Holy Spirit….' 9. Living in Faith: Theism, Atheism and Christian belief 10. Living in Hope; 'The resurrection of the body….' 11. Living the Christian Story: Christian Ethics as living Christian Theology

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

133: Interactive lectures 8133: Distance learning Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: • 133: An essay plan • 8133: An essay plan	 300 words 300 words	 n/a n/a
Summative: • 133: An essay • 8133: An essay *and a* learning journal*	 2000 words 2000 words	 100% 100% Pass/fail*
* 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.

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (133 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

Gunton, Colin, *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002)

Gunton, Colin, Steve Holmes and Murray Rae, *The Practice of Theology* (London: SCM, 2001)

Hart, Trevor, *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 1995)

McGrath, Alister, *Theology: The Basics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008)

McGrath, Alister, *The Christian Theology Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995)

Migliore, D., *Faith Seeking Understanding* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2nd edn 2004)

Olson, R., *The Mosaic of Christian Belief* (Leicester: IVP, 2002)

Spence, Alan, *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: T&T Clark, 2008)

Tanner, K. *Jesus, humanity and the Trinity: a brief systematic theology*, Scottish Journal of Theology. Current issues in theology (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2001)

Wright, Nigel G. *Vital Truth: The Convictions of the Christian Community* (Eugene Or: Wipf & Stock, 2015)

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)	