

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

23.02.2016

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Credit Rating     | 10  |
| Course Unit Title | <b>Incarnation and Atonement</b>                        |
| Unit Code         | 234 (8234 for distance learning version)                |
| Unit Level        | 2   |
| Contact Hours     | 22 (n/a for distance learning version)                  |
| FHEQ Level        | 5   |
| Teaching Period   | Flexible delivery                                       |
| Teaching Staff    | Professor Philip J. McCormack / Rev. David K. McLachlan |
| ECTS              | 5   |

**EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

The unit traces the historical development and differing theological articulations of the person and work of Christ. Theories and metaphors of atonement are compared and contrasted and their significance for a Christian understanding of humanity will be explored. This includes an exploration of issues of justice and differing responses to the problem of human suffering. The unit concludes with a sustained examination of the doctrine of resurrection and a consideration of the scope of final salvation by exploring the doctrine of election.

**COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

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**AIMS**

To explore the Christian doctrine of Christ and the distinctively Christian understanding of salvation. The pastoral and ethical implications of these doctrines will be explored.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Knowledge and Understanding**

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

- Articulate and evaluate the manner in which the person and work of Christ has been expressed within the tradition of the Church

## Intellectual Skills

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

- Reflect theologically on the significance of Christology and Atonement for the nature of humanity

## Practical Skills

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

- Apply key methods and concepts of historical, theological and ethical analysis

## Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Apply the content of the unit to the construction of teaching material and pastoral resources for use in ministry

## Employability Skills

The skills gained in this unit will enable graduates to demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between belief and ethics in such a way as to facilitate a personal and practical contribution to key ethical debates within society

## SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to the person and work of Christ
  2. Incarnation and atonement: the theology of Athanasius
  3. Chalcedon and beyond: one person, two natures
  4. The Priesthood of Christ
  5. The Cross as satisfaction: Anselm's 'Cur Deus Homo'
  6. The Cross as penalty; Calvin, P.T. Forsyth and the recent atonement debate
  7. Atonement as redemption and reconciliation: T.F Torrance
  8. The cross and the problem of suffering; Moltmann and 'The Crucified God'
  9. Righteousness and rights
  10. Resurrection and the moral life
- The scope of salvation: the doctrine of election – Calvinism, Arminianism and Barth

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

234: Interactive lectures  
8234: Distance Learning  
Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

| Assessment task                        | Length     | Weighting within unit |
|--|------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Formative:</b>                      |            |                       |
| • 234: A class test                    | 45 minutes | n/a                   |
| • 8234: An online test                 | 45 minutes | n/a                   |
| <b>Summative:</b>                      |            |                       |
| • 234: A written project               | 2500 words | 100%                  |
| • 234: An essay                        | 2500 words | 100%                  |
| • 8234: <i>and a learning journal*</i> |            | 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 (234 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

Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo* in *The Library of Christian Classics X*  
Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (London: Mowbray, 1953)  
Barth, Karl, *Church Dogmatics* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1956-1975) IV 1, 157-357  
Fiddes, Paul S., *Past Event and Present Salvation: The Christian Idea of Atonement* (London: Darton Longman and Todd, 1989)  
Goldingay, John (ed.), *Atonement Today* (London: SPCK, 1995)  
Gunton, Colin E., *The Actuality of Atonement* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1988)  
McGrath, Alister E. (ed.), *The Christian Theology Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001<sup>2</sup>)  
Moltmann, Jürgen, *The Crucified God* (London: SCM, 1974)  
Owen, John, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. W.H. Goold (London: Banner of Truth, 1967) vol. X, 140-421  
Smail, Tom, *Once and for All* (London: Darton Longman and Todd, 1998)  
Torrance, Thomas F., *Atonement* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2009)  
White, Vernon, *Atonement and Incarnation: An essay in universalism and particularity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991)

### SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

### PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

### INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

### APPROVAL

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Date approved by UGC              |  |
| Valid from Date (Publishing Date) |  |

