



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	<b>The Doctrine of the Church and the Ethics of Distinctiveness</b>
Unit Code	232 (8232 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	Dr Thomas A. Breimaier / Rev. David K. McLachlan
ECTS	5

**EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

The unit begins with a critical survey of the ways in which the Church has been identified and defined - often in contrast to the scriptural concepts of 'the world' and 'the Kingdom of God' - within a variety of ecclesiological traditions. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own experience of Church life in response to these definitions. Particular attention is given to Baptist and Anabaptist understandings of the Church and its relationship with society. Notions of religious freedom also will be explored particularly with reference to the plurality of contemporary Western society.

**COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

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**AIMS**

This unit seeks to continue an exploration of the doctrinal and ethical significance of the Church's creed by a sustained consideration of the doctrine of the Church, with special reference to different conceptions of the Church's role within society.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Knowledge and Understanding**

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

- Understand, describe and evaluate some of the consistent ways in which the Church has been defined, following Scripture, in relationship to biblical conceptions of 'the world' and 'the Kingdom of God'

## Intellectual Skills

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

- Apply critical skills by means of comparison and contrast to enduring debates and differences within the church

## Practical Skills

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

- Apply their theological learning critically and constructively to their pastoral practice with particular reference to Church leadership and education

## Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

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

- Offer leadership to a community based on critically considered intellectual foundations and exhibit a mature approach to leadership in the context of differing opinions

## Employability Skills

Offering competent and strategic leadership within the context of Christian Church and education, as well as mature leadership within any organisation in which differing opinions are expressed, are skills relevant in many employment contexts.

## SYLLABUS

1. On this Rock: Biblical and theological foundations for the Church
2. Genesis and genius: Types, traditions and Baptist origins
3. The gathering Church: A community of disciples
4. The baptism of disciples: The nature of Christian initiation
5. The feast of life: Communion and body politics
6. A kingdom of priests: The government of the congregation
7. The children of the Church: People of promise
8. Ministers and members: Ordination and enabling
9. Relating and resourcing: The communion of churches
10. The separation of Church and state: Dissent, religious freedom and tolerance
11. The free state: Understanding the social and political order
12. Paradigms for engagement: The shape of the future

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

232: Interactive lectures

8232: Distance learning

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<b>Formative:</b>		
• 232: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8232: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
<b>Summative:</b>		
• 232: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8232: An essay and a learning journal*	2500 words	100%

\* 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 (232 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)?	Available as free choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

## RECOMMENDED READING

Augustine, *The City of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956) pp. 1-511  
Avis, Paul, ed., *The Christian Church: An introduction to the major traditions* (London: SPCK, 2002)  
Freeman, Curtis, *Contesting Catholicity: Theology for Other Baptists* ((Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014)  
Harper B., and P.L. Metzger, *Exploring Ecclesiology: An evangelical and ecumenical Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009)  
Harvey, B., *Can These Bones Live? A catholic Baptist engagement with ecclesiology, hermeneutics and social theory* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2008)  
Haymes, Brian, Ruth Gouldbourne and Anthony R. Cross, *On Being the Church* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2008)  
Holmes, Stephen R., 'The radical ecclesiology of Nigel Wright' in Pieter J Lalleman (ed.), *Challenging to change: dialogues with a radical Baptist theologian* (London: Spurgeon's College, 2009) 117-128  
O'Donovan, Oliver, *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the roots of political theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)  
Volf, Miroslav, *After our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)  
Wright, Nigel G., *Free Church, Free State: The positive Baptist vision* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2005)  
Wright, Nigel G., *Disavowing Constantine* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press 2000)

## 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

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**APPROVAL**

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	