

M.A.(Theology)

Units Offered in 2008

SEMESTER 1:

BS526 Daniel (Eng)

(George Athas)

This unit enables students to extend their exegetical and theological skills to Old Testament apocalyptic literature, and aims to give students a framework for interpreting the canonical book of Daniel, taking due account of its historical, literary and theological characteristics.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- One seminar paper (3,500 words) to be presented to the class and subsequently rewritten as an essay incorporating relevant criticisms and feedback (*externally assessed*) (40%)
- Three exegetical exercises of 1,000 words each (36%)
- One book review (1,500 words) (24%)

BS544 The Theology of Acts

(David Peterson)

This unit develops the skills in New Testament exegesis and hermeneutics acquired in the undergraduate programme. It will assist in the development of the graduate's ability to interpret the New Testament documents theologically, historically and pastorally. With particular attention to the insights of Narrative Criticism, the unit will examine how the author of Acts expresses a theological agenda. The study of particular theological themes will lead to an integration of the findings, and to a consideration of valid methods of contemporary application. In this way, it will personally challenge them with various models of gospel-focused ministries portrayed in Acts.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- A 4,000 word essay arising out of the student's seminar presentation (*externally marked*). (50%)
- A 1,000 word critical review of one of the essays on 'Luke and the Jews' or 'Acts as Narrative' in R.C. Tannehill, *The Shape of Luke's Story Essays on Luke-Acts* (Eugene OR: Cascade, 2005) (10%)
- A 2 hour examination on the course content, designed to test the student's ability to recall and integrate material previously studied and to answer questions on the subject material which may require a rethink of conclusions previously reached. (40%)

BS546 1 Corinthians 5-11: Theological and Ethical Issues (Gk)

(Brian Rosner)

The purpose of this unit is to develop a methodologically aware, structurally and theologically focused approach to exegesis, through a sustained analysis of the Greek text of 1 Corinthians 5-11, with special reference to the task of moving from text to theology, exposition and application, in particular the relevance of these chapters for contemporary Christian ministry.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- A 3,500 word essay arising out of the student's seminar presentation, and modified in the light of comments and criticisms of the seminar group. (*externally marked*) (40%)
- A 1,000 word critical response to another seminar paper. (20%)
- Two exegetical exercises on the Greek text of 1 Corinthians 5-11 (20%)
- Two exegetical tests on the Greek text of 1 Cor 5-11 (20%)

BS559 States and Origins: Investigating the Johannine Letters (Gk)
(Bill Salier)

The purpose of this unit is to develop a methodologically aware, structurally and theologically focused approach to exegesis, through a sustained analysis of the Johannine letters, and so provide a strong basis for good communication of the New Testament in a preaching and teaching ministry.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- Two exegetical papers on the Greek text of the Johannine letter (1000 words each) (30%)
- A written critique of one seminar paper and class contribution (1000 words) (15%)
- A 1000 word reflection on the process and product of a sermon or bible study series prepared and delivered on the Johannine letters (15%)
- A 4000 word essay (*externally examined*) (40%)

BS578 The Life and Times of Jesus: A Study Tour of Israel
(Paul Barnett)

Expands the candidate's understanding of the geography, topography and climate of the (biblical) land of Israel and to have a firmer grasp of the historical setting of the Gospel narratives.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- Three 800 word papers on key sites in Palestine (20%)
- Two 800 word papers on key gospel figures (20%)
- A 1,000 word translation and commentary on one Gospel passage (20%)
- A 3,000 word research paper (*externally marked*) (40%)
- Submission of a reading diary

CM557 Rise and Development of Islam
(Greg Anderson)

This unit provides a critical engagement with an issue of major significance for Christian ministry in the contemporary context. It builds on knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level in investigating from the perspective of biblical Christianity, the history of the development of pluriform Islamic religion from the time of Muhammad's life to the present day, thereby enabling students to understand the wide variety of expressions of Islamic belief and culture today in a way that equips them to engage with Muslims in a ministry context.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- One 4,000 word essay (*internally marked*) (50%)
- One 4,000 word essay (*externally marked*) (50%)

CT540 Politics and Christians (ALSO CM)
(Andrew Cameron)

Theologically examines the role of government and of Christians toward government. A historical examination of political theology will lead to some modern and local case-studies.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- Seminar paper of 4,000 words (*externally examined*) (50%)
- Research project of 4,000 words (50%)

CT599 Project

1. Projects comprise a piece of research, within the bounds of an approved bibliography, under the direction of a Faculty adviser appointed by the College.
2. Two Projects may be chosen within the eight required units. The Project(s) will normally be undertaken when all other subjects are complete.
3. Projects must be 8-10,000 words in length.
4. See section 4.2.16 of the *Student Handbook* for project guidelines.

SEMESTER 1 & 2:

Winter Break in Christchurch, New Zealand:

CT508 Justification by Faith Today

(Peter O'Brien & Mark Thompson)

The purpose of this unit is to examine and interact with the contemporary debates about this critical doctrine within the disciplines of New Testament studies and Systematic Theology.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- A 1,500 word critical review of a contemporary theological presentation of justification (20%)
 - A 2,000 word seminar presentation on a key text bearing on the doctrine of justification in Scripture (30%)
 - A 4000 word essay exploring a theological issue connected with the doctrine of justification (50%)
(externally examined).
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Winter Break in Perth:

CM557 Rise and Development of Islam

(Greg Anderson)

Same details as for Semester 1.

SEMESTER 2:
BS503 Understanding Exodus in its Canonical Context (Eng)
(Paul Williamson)

Examines key passages and explores major theological issues relevant to interpreting and preaching from the book as part of the Christian Bible.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- Four 500-word exercises on set passages (20%)
- One seminar paper (4,000 words) (*externally assessed*) (50%)
- One 2,000 word sermon text (30%)

BS507 Judges: The Preacher and the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament (Heb)
(Barry Webb)

An exegetical and theological study of the Hebrew text of Judges, with special reference to preaching from it as Christian scripture.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- Five 500 word exegetical exercises (30%)
- A 3,500 word seminar paper/essay (*externally examined*) (40%)
- A 2,000 word sermon in written form (30%)

BS541 Mark as Persuasive Narrative (Gk)
(Peter Bolt)

An exegetical and theological analysis of Mark in its canonical form using both historical and literary criticism.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- One seminar presentation of a completed paper of 4,000 words (*externally examined*) (50%)
- 1,000 words critical response to another seminar paper (20%)
- Six assignments (500 words each) on the Greek text of Mark (30%)

BS558 The Epistles of Peter (Gk)
(Richard Gibson)

The purpose of this unit is to develop a methodologically aware, structurally and theologically focused approach to exegesis, through a sustained analysis of the Petrine epistles, and so provide a strong basis for good communication of the New Testament in a preaching and teaching ministry.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- Two exegetical papers on the Greek text of the Petrine letter (1000 words each) (30%)
- A written critique of one seminar paper and class contribution (1000 words) (15%)
- A 1000 word reflection on the process and product of a sermon or bible study series prepared and delivered on the Petrine letters (15%)
- A 4000 word essay (*externally examined*) (40%)

CM558 Islamic Law, Theology and Spirituality
(Colin Chapman)

This unit will build on the knowledge and skills developed in the MA unit CM557 Rise and Development of Islam, thus enabling the student to depend their understanding of the theological and legal basis of Islamic belief and practice from key Islamic texts, as well as popular expressions of Islam, in a way that equips them to engage with Muslims in a ministry context.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- One 4,000 word essay (*internally marked*) (50%)
- One 4,000 word essay (*externally marked*) (50%)

CT516 Puritan Spirituality

(Gerald Bray)

By looking at the way in which the Reformation impacted the Church of England beyond the official establishment, the unit will enable the students to have a deeper understanding of the way a particular set of values influenced and transformed English-speaking Christianity, with effects that still echo in the modern world and in the ongoing spiritual life of the church.

Assessments for the unit will be based on:

- A 4,000 word essay on the work of a major Puritan writer other than John Bunyan and Richard Baxter. Within the social and ecclesial context of the seventeenth century, the essay should critically evaluate the contribution made by the chosen writer and identify its importance in the development of the Puritan movement. *(internally marked)* (50%)
- A 4,000 word essay critically evaluating the approach to pastoral care as seen in either of the following: (50%)
John Bunyan, *A Pilgrim's Progress* [333pp]
Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor* [256pp] *(externally examined)*

CT599 Project

Same details as for Semester 1.

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