

Access to Theology

Further Information



EDINBURGH
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A PARTNER INSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
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Required Texts for Access to Theology Course

Students are encouraged to purchase the following titles to facilitate their studies at ETS:

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Goheen, Michael W., *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. London: SPCK, 2004.

Deyoung, Kevin, *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is worth knowing, trusting and loving*. Nottingham: IVP, 2014.

Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, Douglas, *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Packer, J. I., *Knowing God*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2005.

Reeves, Michael, *The Breeze of the Centuries: Introducing Great Theologians from the Apostolic Fathers to Aquinas*. Nottingham: IVP, 2010.

Reeves, Michael, *On Giants Shoulders: Introducing Great Theologians from Luther to Barth*. Nottingham: IVP, 2011.

Reeves, Michael, *The Unquenchable Flame: Introducing the Reformation*. Nottingham: IVP, 2009.

Shelley, Bruce L., *Church History in Plain Language*. 4th ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2014.

Tripp, Paul David, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*. Phillipsburg, N. J.: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2002.

Welch, Edward T., *When People are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man*. Phillipsburg, N. J.: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2012.

Introductory Reading

Students are encouraged to read these texts to prepare for the Access to Theology Course:

Dever, Mark E., *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2007.

Kapic, Kelly M., *A Little Book for New Theologians*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012.

Lane, Tony, *Exploring Christian Doctrine*. London: SPCK, 2013.

Macleod, Donald, *A Faith to Live By: Understanding Christian Doctrine*. Fearn: Christian Focus Publications, 2002.

Metzger, Will, *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel Wholly by Grace Communicated Truthfully & Lovingly*. 4th ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012.

Ryken, Philip Graham, *Christian Worldview: A Student's Guide*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Course Lecturers

Systematic Theology Lecturer: Bob Akroyd (Access to Theology Course Organiser)

Bob is a native of Lawrenceville, New Jersey but since 1990, Edinburgh has been his home. Bob studied American History at the University of Virginia prior to commencing a course in Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh. While studying Scottish history, something unexpected happened: Bob became a Christian. History studies were followed by theological training at the Free Church College (now ETS). Then Bob served for 12 years as an assistant minister at Buccleuch Free Church in Edinburgh's southside. He was appointed Professor of Systematic Theology in 2012. He also oversees the Access to Theology Course and the Diploma in Christian Youthwork Course. Bob has served as an Honorary Chaplain at the University of Edinburgh and continues to serve as a prison Chaplain at HMP Edinburgh. Bob is married to Heather and they both serve at Buccleuch Free Church. Favorites include: A Confederacy of Dunces, P.G. Wodehouse, Gone with the Wind, West Wing, William Gladstone, Abraham Lincoln, and ribeye steak and chips. Bob is passionate about preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and sharing the gospel.

Old Testament Lecturer: James Ross

James currently lives in Edinburgh where he has served as minister of Buccleuch Free Church since 2016. A native of the Isle of Skye, James pursued a history degree at the University of Glasgow, then did a Masters in Information and Library Studies at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen where he met his wife Vickie. After getting married and working in Glasgow, James sensed a call to Christian ministry and so they moved to Dingwall where he completed a degree in theological studies at HTC. During that time both James and Vickie were part-time youth workers for Dingwall Free Church, where he also began preaching and served as an elder. From there, it was on to ETS in Edinburgh before serving as international student worker in Glasgow for 4 years. Now they have boomeranged back to Edinburgh where they enjoy life in Edinburgh along with their 2 boys, Kasper and Sebastian.

James is a big fan of quality coffee, reading good books, board games, and fun with his family. He also loves showing how the Old Testament points us to Jesus and the Gospel of Grace, and helping Christians and non-Christians see the beauty of God's story of redemption.

New Testament Lecturer: Colin Dow

Colin currently lives in Glasgow, was born in Cyprus and raised in Golspie. He became a Christian at the age of 15 and went onto study Solid-State Chemistry in Aberdeen University. Having graduated with Honours and PhD, Colin went to work as a research

engineer for a French multi-national company based in Lyon. He began ETS training in 2000, was licensed in 2003 and ordained to the ministry in Glasgow City Free Church, where he's been ever since. Colin, known by most everyone as Dowboy, is married to Kathmar and they have four children. He loves reading crime-thrillers, spin-classes, football and rugby. Colin's idea of a good night-in consists in a box-set of McGyver, a Greek Moussaka and a bowl of olives. Colin is deeply inspired by the person of Jesus Christ described in the New Testament and the transforming influence of the resurrection.

Practical Theology Lecturer: Karl Dahlfred

Karl has served as a missionary in Thailand with OMF International since 2006. From 2007-2010, he worked alongside a Thai church and its pastor in church planting and from 2012-2016, he lived in Bangkok, teaching church history and missions at Bangkok Bible Seminary, assisting in editing and translation of Thai Christian books at OMF Publishers Thailand and was a founding elder of Grace City Church, Bangkok. Since 2017, he began a Ph.D. in World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh, looking at a topic in church and mission history in Thailand. Karl earned a Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology (Th.M.) at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Karl is married and has three children. His blog and list of published work may be found at www.dahlfred.com

Church History Lecturer: Tim Gessner

Tim is originally from Los Angeles California though he was living near Portland Oregon more recently. He moved to Edinburgh to pursue his PhD and recently returned hopefully to remain. He studied at Multnomah Bible College/Multnomah University and graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Theology in 1989. He continued his education at Dallas Theological Seminary 1996 with a Masters in Theology (graduated with high honours). He received a Masters in Ecclesiastical History (2012) and a Doctorate in Historical Theology from the University of Edinburgh in 2016. Tim is married to Doreen and they have two grown children still living in the United States. Tim taught theology at Multnomah Biblical Seminary from 2007 to 2013. Tim has a passion to help students see how practical Christian Theology is and to provide his students with the skills to think theologically about our world. His conviction that Theology is a process which builds upon Biblical exegesis drives the connection between the Bible and theological process. His classes focus on teaching critical thinking, or "thinking theologically" as Tim phrases it. Currently, Tim works in technical sales for a company in the USA. He has a background in computer programming and business.

Module Lectures

Systematic Theology Lectures

1. Doctrine of God
2. Doctrine of Scripture
3. Doctrine of Humanity
4. Doctrine of Jesus
5. Doctrine of Salvation
6. Doctrines of the Church and the End Times

Old Testament Lectures

1. Introduction and key themes
2. From Creation to New Creation (Genesis 1-11)
3. Promises and the Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50)
4. Redemption and God's purpose (Exodus 1-19, Numbers 9-17)
5. Law and God's purpose (Exodus 20-24 and Deuteronomy 1-12)
6. Sacrifice and God's purpose (Leviticus 1-9)
7. Promised Land and God's purpose (Joshua-Ruth)
8. Kingship and God's purpose (1 Samuel 1-11, 2 Samuel 1-8, 1 Kings 1-11, 2 Kings 18-25)
9. Exile, Restoration and God's purpose (Hosea, Amos, Jeremiah 31-34, Isaiah 40-66)
10. Jesus fulfils God's purpose

New Testament Lectures: Jesus and the New Testament

1. Jesus and the World
2. Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke)
3. Jesus and the Writings of John (John, 1,2,3 John & Revelation)
4. Jesus and Acts
5. Jesus and Paul

Practical Theology Lectures: Mission and World Christianity

1. Biblical Basis for Missions
2. History of Missions and World Christianity
3. Ministering Cross-Culturally
4. Strategies and Methods in Modern Mission

Church History Lectures

1. Introduction and key themes
2. The Early Church – Councils and Doctrine
3. The Early Church – Christendom and one Church
4. The Medieval Church – Monasticism and the Church Fathers

5. The Medieval Church – Decay and Church split
6. The Reformation Church – Background and foundations
7. The Reformation Church – Who makes doctrine
8. The Modern Church – Modernism and Post-modernism

Aims and Objectives

Systematic Course Aims & Objectives

This course equips students:

- to know and understand what they believe and why they believe it
- to know and understand what they do not believe and why they do not believe it
- Regarding each topic, students will be encouraged to address the following questions posed by Daniel L. Akin (ed.) in *A Theology for the Church*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2014:
 - “What does the Bible say?”
 - “What has the church believed?”
 - “How does it all fit together?”
 - “How does this doctrine impact the church today?”

Old Testament Course Aims & Objectives

- To give students a brief overview of the history of God’s dealings with his people during the period of Old Testament history
- To highlight themes that run throughout the Old Testament
- To show how Jesus fulfils what the Old Testament foreshadows

New Testament Course Aims & Objectives

- To give students an overview of the world into which Jesus came and the Kingdom of God was proclaimed
- To encourage students to observe the fuller picture the Gospels paint of Jesus
- To explore how the message of Jesus formed and impacted the early Christian church
- To give students confidence in the worship and witness of Jesus

Practical Theology Course Aims & Objectives

- Possess a basic knowledge of the biblical basis and task of world missions from the historical, cultural, and strategic perspective
- Appreciate God’s greatness in expanding His Kingdom through His missionary servants
- Be motivated to participate in world missions, by either becoming a missionary or supporting missions efforts of one’s local church, or both

Church History Course Aims & Objectives

- To provide students with an understanding of the major events in the history of the Church
- To demonstrate key themes and ideas in the history of the Church
- To show that the Church and the Church's understanding develop through time.
- To give students an understanding of how our modern Church practices came to be.