



EDINBURGH
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Bachelor of Theology
Course Content

2021-22



A PARTNER INSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

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Bachelor of Theology: Course Content

Introduction

The curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Theology extends over a minimum of three academic years of full-time study. Candidates who have completed cognate courses in another institution, but have withdrawn from its degree programme, may be awarded credits (up to a maximum of 180) in respect of these courses. They may then be permitted to count these credits as part of the overall requirements for the B.Th Degree (360 credits).

The prescribed curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Theology consists of 12 courses at 30 credits each. Compulsory courses include: two courses in Old Testament (Old Testament 1 and 2); two courses in New Testament (New Testament 1 and 2); two courses in Systematic Theology (Systematic Theology 1 and 2); two courses in Practical Theology (Practical Theology 1 and 2); and one course in Church History (Church History 1). In addition, those who are training for a full-time teaching/preaching ministry are expected to take Elementary Greek and Elementary Hebrew, and those who are to serve in Scotland are expected to take Church History 2 (Scottish Church History). However, for those whose interests and focus is elsewhere, up to three electives (each at 30 credits) may be taken, all of which consist of self-directed, supervised courses/electives with seminars at the requisite academic level in any of the five departments (Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology and Practical Theology) as agreed by the Course Organiser and the appropriate External Examiner.

Each course involves one academic year of full-time study and is worth 30 Credits. Courses are normally divided into two modules, each lasting for one semester (15 weeks).

Elementary Greek (or an elective) is normally taken in Year One of the 3-year B.Th and Elementary Hebrew (or an elective) normally in Year Two of the 3-year B.Th. Students who achieve the requisite standard in Elementary Hebrew are strongly urged to proceed to *Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology*; and students who achieve the requisite standard in Elementary Greek are strongly urged to proceed to *New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology*; but both departments offer alternative non-language courses (*Old Testament Studies* and *New Testament Studies* respectively). Students who take these non-language courses will be required to undertake additional work in English-based exegesis. Details of this additional work are published annually in the departmental Course Handbooks.

The minimum requirements for the award of credits for a course are specified in the Course Handbooks distributed to all students at the beginning of each academic year. The normal requirements are:

- Regular attendance at **ALL** meetings of the class (this includes distance learning students)
- Satisfactory and punctual completion of all essays and other course work
- Taking all prescribed examinations, and achieving a satisfactory standard
(Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology

External Examiner: Professor Andrew Clarke, University of Aberdeen

Course Organiser: Rev Daniel Sladek

The curriculum in Old Testament extends over two academic sessions. It consists of two courses, each worth 30 credits. Each course contains two modules, each occupying one semester:

OT 101	The Pentateuch
OT 102	The Historical Books
OT 201	Wisdom Literature and Poetic Books
OT 202	Prophecy

Additionally, students may undertake study of the Hebrew language. This course lasts for two semesters and is worth 30 credits. Ordinarily the Hebrew class is taken in the second year of study (3-year B.Th), and students wishing to pursue Hebrew further take *Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2* in the third year of their course (3-year B.Th). Students not wishing further formal language study would take *Old Testament Studies 2*.

Aims

Classes in this department seek to develop an understanding of the basic content of the Old Testament, critical awareness of the methods of interpretation that have been developed over the centuries to interpret the Old Testament, an ability to evaluate modern interpretative techniques as applied to Scripture, the development of exegetical skills, and competency in assessing the significance of the text in relation to the contemporary concerns of the Christian community and the kerygmatic imperative facing the Church. At each stage the aim is to study the texts as viewed against their cultural and historical background as well as in their canonical setting in relation to Christian teaching and the historic faith of the Church.

Assessment

Student performance is assessed both on coursework and end of semester examinations.

Course Requirements

The requirements for a pass in a class are: regular attendance on class lectures; completion and timely submission of all course work; sitting any end of semester examinations; a Grade Point Average of 9 (Grade D3) or higher over all forms of assessment.

(Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Old Testament Studies 1

Level: 1

30 credits

Lecturer: Rev Daniel Sladek

The course consists of two modules (**OT 101** and **OT 102**), each of one semester's duration.

In **OT 101** the Pentateuch is examined with respect to its literary form and structure, and particular attention is paid to the textual basis for Christian teaching in themes such as creation, the fall, covenant, Messianic hope, sacrifice and law.

Particular passages are assigned for exegetical study, and students are introduced to various aspects of current Old Testament studies, e.g. “Is there a single integrating theme in the Old Testament?”

In **OT 102** the historical books are examined, with particular passages being assigned for exegetical study. Attention is paid to the biblical view of history. Particular emphasis is given to the literary aspects of Old Testament narratives as a key to understanding particular passages. The principal aim is to determine the message of the various books.

Intended Learning Outcomes: OT 101 and OT 102

With regards to the relevant portion of the Old Testament canon,

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the ancient Near Eastern background appropriate both chronologically and culturally to the Biblical passage being studied, and an ability to evaluate its relevance for a correct understanding of that passage.
2. The student will demonstrate an awareness of the theological and literary features of the relevant Biblical books.
3. The student will be able to interpret selected passages of Scripture using appropriate exegetical principals.
4. The student will be able to evaluate and interact with modern critical theories relating to the relevant Biblical books.
5. The student will be able to show of the relevance of the Old Testament to the modern world and to express its teaching in a current context.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on class presentations, a portfolio of coursework, and an exegetical essay due at the end of the semester.

Elementary Hebrew

Level: 2

30 credits

Lecturer: Rev Daniel Sladek

Entrance Qualification

Entry to this course requires a previous pass in *Old Testament Studies 1*.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

There is a set text: Bonnie Pedrotti Kittel, Victoria Hoffer, and Rebecca Abts Wright, *Biblical Hebrew: Text and Workbook*, 2nd Edition fully revised by Victoria Hoffer (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005).

Teaching Aims

The focus is on the structure of the language and on the acquisition of basic linguistic forms (especially the verb) and of a core working vocabulary. Half the class time is taken up with presentation of the material to be learned, and the other half with working through and discussing various elementary exercises.

As time permits, in the second semester there will also be study of various prose passages from the Old Testament.

Assessment

In each semester there will be in-class tests focusing on acquisition of vocabulary and basic grammatical forms. The average mark obtained in these tests constitutes 50% of the course mark for the year. There will be an examination at the end of each semester, covering all work up to date. These examinations contribute 50% to the overall mark for the course. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2

Old Testament Studies 2

Level: 3

30 credits

Lecturer: Rev Will Traub

Students pursuing Hebrew studies further take *Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2*, and those students who do not take Hebrew in their third year follow the *Old Testament Studies 2* option. The main syllabus for these courses is the same.

Entrance Qualification

Entry to *Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2* requires previous passes in Old Testament Studies 1 and Hebrew. Entry to *Old Testament Studies 2* requires a previous pass in Old Testament Studies 1.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

The core course consists of two modules, **OT 201** and **OT 202**, each lasting for one semester.

OT 201 The aim of this course is to provide the participants with the core knowledge and skills needed to exegete texts of Wisdom Literature and Poetic Books found in the Old Testament (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations). This will be accomplished by applying those skills in the writing of several short and one longer exegetical essay. In addition, the location of this Wisdom Literature/Poetic Books within the canon of Scripture will be evaluated as well as the specific character of Semitic Wisdom Literature and Hebrew Poetry. Attention will be given to evaluating the date, authorship, setting, purpose, critical issues and theological significance particular to each canonical book.

OT 202 The aim of this course is to provide the participants with the core knowledge and skills needed to exegete texts of Prophetic Literature found in the Old Testament (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi). This will be accomplished by applying those skills in the writing of several short and one longer exegetical essay. In addition, attention will be given to the identification of literary characteristics specific to the Prophetic books in the OT canon. Matters of date, authorship, setting, purpose, critical issues and theological significance particular to each canonical book will also be discussed. The course will also cover the historical development as well as Messianic content of OT Prophecy.

Intended Learning Outcomes OT 201 and OT 202

Poetic Books and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament

1. The student will be able to identify and differentiate the various structures and functions of Hebrew poetry found in the context of the OT canon.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to make use of both the exegetical tools and literary characteristics specific to texts of Wisdom Literature and Poetic Books in the exegesis of passages found in this section of the canon.
3. The student will be able to summarise the relevant historical, hermeneutical and theological matters necessary to formulate a basic interpretation of the canonical books of Wisdom Literature/Poetic Books.
4. The student will be able to evaluate modern interpretative methods applied to the canonical books of Wisdom Literature/Poetic Books, and be able to assess the validity of the conclusions drawn by those methods.

Prophecy

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to make use of both the exegetical tools and literary characteristics specific to texts of Prophetic Literature in the exegesis of passages found in this section of the canon.
2. The student will be able to summarise the relevant historical, hermeneutical and theological matters necessary to formulate a basic interpretation of the canonical books of the Prophets
3. The student will be able to summarise and differentiate the basic message of the canonical books of the Prophets.
4. The student will be able to evaluate modern interpretative methods applied to the canonical books of the Prophets, and be able to assess the validity of the conclusions drawn by those methods.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on a combination of exams and coursework.

New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology

External Examiner: Professor Andrew Clarke, University of Aberdeen

Course Organiser: Professor John A. MacLeod

The curriculum in New Testament extends over two academic sessions. It consists of two courses, each worth 30 credits. Each course contains two modules, each occupying one semester:

New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 1/New Testament Studies 1

NT 101 Introduction to the Study of the New Testament/Theology of the Synoptic Gospels

NT 102 The Writings and Theology of John /The Early Church - the Writings of Luke-Acts

New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2/New Testament Studies 2

NT 201 The Life, Letters and Teaching of Paul

NT 202 The Letter to the Hebrews/ The General Letters/ The Revelation

Additionally, students may undertake study of the Greek language. This course lasts for two semesters and is worth 30 credits. Ordinarily the Greek class is taken in the first year of study in the 3-year B.Th, over two semesters (GK 001, GK 002), and students wishing to pursue Greek further take New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology in the second (GK 100) and third years of their course (GK 200).

Students not wishing further formal language study would take New Testament Studies 1 and 2, which requires more exegesis based on the English text (NET 100, NET 200).

Course aim

To provide the Christian professional with an understanding of the content and significance of the documents which make up the New Testament viewed against their cultural and historical setting as well as in their canonical setting in relation to Christian teaching and the historic faith of the Church.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should achieve:

1. An understanding of the basic content of the New Testament.
2. Critical awareness of the methods of interpretation that have been developed over the centuries.
3. Ability to evaluate modern interpretative critical techniques as applied to Scripture.
4. The development of exegetical skill.
5. Competency in assessing the significance of the text in relation to the contemporary concerns of the Christian community and the missionary objectives laid upon the Church.

Method of the course

Lectures will be given on all the major topics of New Testament introduction and theology.

In addition, much emphasis will be given to exegesis of important passages, and considerable time is devoted to class-room discussion where the students can contribute to the theological and exegetical process.

Students are required to attend all meetings appropriate to their subject.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Assessment

Student performance is assessed both on course work (essays/language tests) and on end of semester class examinations. Course work accounts for 50% of the assessment. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Course Requirements

The requirements for a pass in *New Testament 1* and *New Testament 2* are:

- Regular attendance at ALL meetings of the class (this includes distance learning students)
- Completion and timeous submission of all course work
- Sitting both end of semester examinations
- A grade point average of 9 (Grade D3) or higher over all forms of assessment

Elementary Greek

Level: 1

Credits 30

Course Organiser and Lecturer: Professor John Angus Macleod

The work of this department covers two main areas: the study of Biblical Greek and the study of New Testament Exegesis and Theology. Nothing is more important to a Christian pastor or evangelist than proficiency in the New Testament, and the study of New Testament Greek furthers that goal.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. The Elementary Greek class aims to give students knowledge of the basic vocabulary of New Testament Greek and an introduction to its grammar and syntax.
2. Using an in-house production, supplemented by *The Elements of New Testament Greek*, Jeremy Duff (CUP) students should be able to read and translate many parts of the New Testament in Greek by the end of the first year.

Assessment

There will be a test in class each semester which will constitute 40% of the overall *Elementary Greek* mark. There will also be an examination at the end of each semester which will constitute 60% of the overall *Elementary Greek* mark. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 1/New Testament Studies 1

Level: 2

Credits: 30

Course Organiser and Lecturer: Rev Thomas Davis

This course is compulsory for all candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Theology. It is normally taken in the second year of the programme of studies (3-year programme). This may be taken as a course which includes further study of the Greek language (*New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 1*) which requires a pass in Elementary Greek, or as a non-language course (*New Testament Studies 1*).

Common to both of these are two modules (NT 101 and NT 102), each of one semester's duration.

NT 101 Introduction to the Study of the New Testament/Theology of the Synoptic Gospels

NT 102 The Writings and Theology of John /The Early Church - the Writings of Luke-Acts

The first module, *Introduction to the Study of the New Testament/Theology of the Synoptic Gospels*, begins with lectures on the political, social and religious background of the New Testament, the formation of the New Testament Canon and the history of New Testament interpretation since the Reformation. After an introduction to the Synoptic Gospels, the course proceeds to an interwoven approach to the life, titles, miracles, parables and teaching of Jesus, focusing primarily on the subject of the Kingdom of God.

The second module, *The Writings and Theology of John /The Early Church - the Writings of Luke-Acts*, introduce the student more formally to the literary structures of John and Luke-Acts. The lectures on John's Gospel introduce the book and its unique structure, exploring its teaching on God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and Salvation. The writings of Luke-Acts provide even more insight on the links between gospel and the early church and its mission.

GK 100. For those who are continuing the study of New Testament Greek (GK 100) an opportunity is given to translate and exegete passages from all four Gospels and the book of Acts. Students will also become familiar with the various lexical aids and computer programs designed to aid study of biblical texts in Greek.

NET 100. Those who choose not to pursue their study of New Testament Greek will perform additional exegetical assignments based on the English New Testament text (NET 100). They will, however, be able to benefit fully from the class exegetical lectures which are all conducted on the basis of the English text.

Intended Learning Outcomes: NT 101

Students should achieve:

1. An awareness of the political, social and religious environment in which the New Testament was formed and compiled
2. An increasing ability to engage in the scholarly study of the New Testament making due use of critical apparatus

3. Gain understanding to evaluate modern interpretative critical techniques applied to the Synoptic Gospels
4. An awareness of the life and teaching of Jesus, in particular in relation to the Kingdom of God, as presented in the Synoptic Gospels
5. Understanding of the importance of assessing the situations out of which the Synoptic Gospels arose and the effect this has on the presentation of the life and teaching of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels

Intended Learning Outcomes: NT 102

Students should achieve:

1. An awareness of the importance of purpose and background in approaching books of the New Testament
2. An appreciation of the importance of style and structure in Lucan and Johannine writings in particular
3. Increased understanding of Johannine Christology and Soteriology
4. Familiarity with the political, social and religious environment which lies behind the extension of the New Testament Church in the Book of Acts
5. An appreciation of the theological purpose that lies behind the Gospel of John and the writings of Luke
6. Ability to assess the historicity and accuracy of the formation, organisation and extension of the early Christian Church as presented by Luke
7. Increased awareness of the importance of assessing style, structure and narrative in the study and exegesis of the New Testament

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Assessment

Course work – 50%: Those doing the language course (GK 100) will sit a Greek test once per semester, while those who are doing the non-language course (NET 100) will submit one exegetical essay based on the English text. In addition, both language and non-language students must submit a 2,000-word exegetical essay each semester.

Examination – 50%: There will be a 3-hour examination at the end of each semester.

New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2/New Testament Studies 2

Level: 3

Credits: 30

Lecturer: Dr Alistair Wilson

This course is compulsory for all candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Theology and the Licentiate in Theology. It is normally taken in the third year of the Programme of Studies.

This may be taken as a course which includes further study of the Greek language (*New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology 2*) which requires a pass in GK 100, or as a non-language course (*New Testament Studies 2*).

Common to both of these are two modules (NT 201 and NT 202), each of one semester's duration.

NT 201 The Life, Letters and Teaching of Paul

NT 202 The Letter to the Hebrews/The General Letters/The Revelation

The first module, *The Life, Letters and Teaching of Paul* begins with an introduction to the background to Paul's letters, an examination of the significance of his conversion, and a chronology of his ministry followed by an introduction to each of the letters ascribed to him in the New Testament canon. The teaching of Paul on Scripture, the law and the Spirit are examined in some depth.

The second module, *The Letter to the Hebrews/The General Letters/The Revelation*, will briefly introduce the *General Letters* (James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3, John and Jude) but the focus of the teaching and exegesis will be on Hebrews and the book of Revelation. This will enable the student to appreciate the use of the Old Testament in the New (Hebrews) and how to interpret Christian apocalyptic material (Revelation).

GK 200 For those who are continuing the study of New Testament Greek (GK 200) an opportunity is given to translate and exegete passages from relevant sections of the letters of Paul, Hebrews and Revelation. Students will also become increasingly competent with the various lexical aids and computer programs designed to aid study of biblical texts in Greek.

NET 200 Those who choose not to pursue their study of New Testament Greek will perform additional exegetical assignments based on the English New Testament text (NET 200). They will, however, be able to benefit fully from the class exegetical lectures which are all conducted on the basis of the English text.

Intended Learning Outcomes: NT 201

Students should achieve:

1. An understanding of Paul within the ancient background of his own day as a Jew, a Roman Citizen, a Christian and apostle;
2. Awareness of the controversy over authorship of some of the canonical Pauline letters;
3. An ability to ascertain the background behind the Letters of Paul and to make competent use of modern scholarly tools in exegeting these letters;
4. Familiarity with various approaches to Pauline theology in post reformation scholarship so as to be able to make an assessment of their validity;
5. An ability to ascertain, define and assess certain doctrines and ethics taught by Paul in the Letters ascribed to him in the New Testament.

Intended Learning Outcomes: NT 202

Students should achieve:

1. Further appreciation of the different styles of language and content within the New Testament;
2. Understanding of the background of and the themes engaged with in the General Letters, Hebrews and Revelation;
3. Awareness of the different uses made of the Old Testament by writers of the New Testament, particularly with respect to Hebrews and Revelation;

4. Appreciation of the importance of genre and structure in interpretation of the Apocalypse.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Assessment:

Course work – 50%: Those doing the language course (GK 200) will sit a Greek test once per semester, while those who are doing the non-language course (NET 200) will submit one exegetical essay based on the English text. In addition, both language and non-language students must submit a 2,000-word exegetical essay each semester.

Examination – 50%: there will also be a 3-hour examination at the end of each semester. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Church History

External Examiner: Dr Emma Macleod, University of Stirling

Course Organiser: Rev Nigel Anderson

The curriculum in Church History extends over two academic sessions. It consists of two courses, each worth 30 credits. Each course contains two modules, each occupying one semester, as follows:

Church History 1

CH 101 Ancient and Medieval Church

CH 102 Reformation and Modern Church

Church History 2

CH 201 Christianity in Scotland: John Knox to the Revolution Settlement

CH 202 Christianity in Scotland: Thomas Boston to the Present Day

Course Aims

The course aims to give a comprehensive overview of the worldwide expansion of Christianity with particular emphasis on Europe; to furnish students with an understanding of the origins of Protestantism and the ideas which inspired it; and to introduce them to the post-Reformation history and thought of the Protestant Church in Scotland. It also aims to foster familiarity with the resources available to the ecclesiastical historian and to develop skills in critical analysis, orderly presentation and reasoned argument.

Method of the Course

Church History courses will consist of lectures, seminars and student-centred learning. For the latter two, from time to time, students will be expected to prepare and introduce short papers on prescribed subjects which will then be used as the basis for discussion.

Students are required to attend all meetings of the class each semester.

In the course of the lectures students will be directed to a range of relevant historical literature with which they will be expected to give evidence of critical acquaintance.

Assessment

Assessment is based on both coursework (Essays) and end-of-semester Class Examinations. Coursework accounts for 50% of the assessment. In both Essays and Class Examinations, students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of original sources, and of critical reading and appraisal of secondary sources. Seminar-papers will not be formally graded. **(Please note that class examinations will be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)**

Course Requirements

The requirements for a Pass in both *Church History 1* and *Church History 2* are:

- Regular attendance at class lectures
- Completion of all coursework
- Sitting both end-of-semester examinations
- A Grade Point Average of 9 (Grade D3) or higher over all forms of assessment

Church History 1

Level: 1

Credits: 30

Course Lecturer: Dr Zachary Purvis

Course Overview

This course examines the major themes, events, and personalities in the history of the Christian church. It consists of two modules, each occupying one semester:

CH 101 Ancient and Medieval Church

CH 102 Reformation and Modern Church

The first module covers the ancient and medieval church, ca. AD 100–1500. The second module covers the period from the European Reformations to the present day. The course focuses on the development of ideas in their cultural, social, and political contexts. Special attention is given to primary sources.

Eligibility

The course is compulsory for all candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Theology and the Licentiate in Theology. It is normally taken in the first year of the 3-year programme.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Assessment

There will be a three-hour examination at the end of each semester. This will constitute 50% of the assessment. Examination papers will offer a choice of **three** out of **six** questions. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Students will also be required to submit a 2,000-word essay in each semester. This will account for 50% of the assessment.

Intended Learning Outcomes: CH 101 & CH 102

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the broad history of Christianity in ancient, medieval, Reformation, and modern epochs
2. Read primary sources from a variety of periods, genres, and styles
3. Understand and apply the concepts of change over time, causality, context, complexity, and contingency in history
4. Analyse texts, ideas, and debates critically and with comprehension
5. Begin to engage with secondary scholarship
6. Discern and assess the development of Christian doctrine, piety, and practice through the centuries

Church History 2

Level: 2

Credits: 30

Lecturer: Principal Iver Martin

This course traces the development of Christian (mainly Presbyterian) thought in Scotland from the Reformation to the Twentieth Century, at the same time relating theological movements to general ecclesiastical and social trends.

This course consists of two modules, each occupying one semester.

CH 201 Christianity in Scotland: John Knox to the Revolution Settlement
CH 202 Christianity in Scotland: Thomas Boston to the Present Day

Method of the Course

The overall method of the course is chronological, in which significant events and developments, as well as individual thinkers are focussed on in their historical context. Lectures, followed by discussion, will be the normal method of course-delivery. There will also be seminar discussion of important primary documents.

Aims

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the church history and theological literature of Presbyterian Scotland, to generate a sense of the flow and interaction of ideas and the development of principles, and to promote skill in using the tools and resources available for the study of Scottish church history and Scottish Christian thought.

Intended Learning Outcomes: CH 201 & CH 202

Students should achieve:

1. A basic grasp of the history of ideas in Scottish life and culture, particularly on theological topics.
2. Familiarity with the contribution of individual theologians and with enduring Scottish contributions on particular theological topics.
3. Awareness of theological progress, shifts and developments in the period under review.
4. Insight into the relation between the story of Scottish theology and the wider history of the Scottish church.
5. Acquaintance with the bibliographical and other resources relevant to continuing study of Scottish church history and theology.
6. Ability to explain the historical background to current ecclesiastical life, faith, order and worship.
7. Growing competence in critical analysis of historical sources and the interpretations of historians.

Eligibility

Admission is conditional on securing a pass in Church History 1. This course is normally taken in the second year of the 3-year course.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Assessment

There will be a three-hour examination at the end of each semester. This will constitute 50% of the assessment. Examination papers will offer a choice of **three** out of **six** questions. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during Covid-19 restrictions. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Students will also be required to submit a 2,500-word essay in each semester. This will constitute 50% of the assessment.

Systematic Theology

External Examiner: Dr Jon Balsarak, University of Bristol

Course Organiser: Professor Bob Akroyd

Course Overview

Systematic Theology covers all major doctrines of Christianity. Systematic Theology 1 is usually taken in the second year of the B.Th. degree while Systematic Theology 2 is taken in the final year.

Systematic Theology 1 is comprised of two semester components:

Systematic Theology 101 God and His Word

Systematic Theology 102 The Triune God, His World and His Church

Systematic Theology 2 is comprised of two semester components:

Systematic Theology 201 Redemption Accomplished: Christology and Atonement

Systematic Theology 202 Redemption Applied: The Christian Experience of Salvation

Course Aims

According to John M Frame, “Systematic Theology is any study that answers the question, ‘What does the whole Bible teach about any given topic?’” This course equips students to better understand what they believe regarding Christian theology. Students will be expected 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?”

Eligibility

Candidates for the B.Th. degree are required to take Systematic Theology 1 and Systematic Theology 2.

Class Hours **(Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)**

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Theological Standpoint

The course is conducted from the standpoint of personal commitment to the authority of scripture and subscription to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and it reflects and promotes the Calvinistic strand of the Reformation and the Evangelical strand of Scottish Presbyterianism.

Course Requirements

The requirements for a Pass in Systematic Theology 1 and Systematic Theology 2 are:

- Regular attendance at class lectures
- Completion of all required course work
- Sitting both end-of-semester examinations
- A Grade Point Average of 9 (Grade D3) or higher over all forms of assessment

Assessment

Each semester, students will submit an essay and sit a three-hour examination. The essays and the examinations each account for 50% of the year grade. (Please note that class examinations may be modified during the Covid-19 outbreak. Please refer to instructions from the Course Organiser.)

Systematic Theology 1

Level: 2

Credits: 30

Course Lecturer: Professor Bob Akroyd

Systematic Theology 101 God and His Word

Course Aims

Understanding the doctrines of Scripture and God are absolutely foundational to all theological study. Students will grow in their ability to think biblically, to communicate theological truths fluently, and to defend their positions sensitively and yet confidently.

Intended Learning Outcomes: ST 101

Students should be able to:

1. Appreciate the presuppositions that underpin the study of theology in general and the rationale for studying Systematic Theology in particular
2. Articulate fluently and defend fervently the biblical doctrine of God's nature and character
3. Evaluate traditional approaches to the Christian doctrine of God
4. Identify with Christian perceptions of God's attributes and their biblical basis
5. Engage with challenging (and controversial) theological concepts with balance and discernment
6. Identify and distinguish General Revelation and Special Revelation
7. Understand the humanness of the Bible and the proper role of biblical criticism
8. Articulate with the concepts of inspiration, inerrancy, infallibility and authority
9. Appreciate the nature of Scripture and understand the foundational importance of the doctrine of scripture for all other theological explorations

Systematic Theology 102 The Triune God, His World and His Church

Course Aims

In Systematic Theology 1, students will grow in their competence to craft theological arguments and to anticipate and address conflicts with other worldviews. Students will have a growing realization that the lived experience of faith and the study of Christian Theology are intertwined and mutually enriching.

Intended Learning Outcomes: ST 102

Students should:

1. Be familiar with the biblical basis for the doctrine of the Trinity
2. Be able to identify both orthodox and heterodox articulations of the Trinity
3. Understand the key concepts in the church doctrine of the Trinity and be aware of the on-going discussions with regard to the doctrine of the trinity

4. Have an awareness of the Reformed doctrines of predestination and election as well as a wider appreciation of God's eternal decree and its ramifications
5. Appreciate the biblical doctrine of creation and its relation to modern thought.
6. Connect the doctrine of divine providence consistently with the divine character
7. Grasp the main contours of biblical anthropology, including the *imago Dei*, the Fall and gender
8. Understanding the biblical doctrine of sin and its implications including evil
9. Be familiar with the biblical doctrine of the church as well as the distinctive Reformed understandings of ecclesiology

Systematic Theology 2

Level: 3

Credits: 30

Course Lecturer: Professor Bob Akroyd

Systematic Theology 201 Redemption Accomplished: Christology and Atonement

Course Aims

Unless the person and work of Jesus Christ is properly understood, Christian theology becomes untenable or inexplicable. Students will be able to present and defend the two natures of Christ and define the Christian doctrine of salvation. Students will be aware of both ancient and modern challenges to orthodox theology and will be able to critique them with clarity.

Intended Learning Outcomes: ST 201

Students should achieve:

1. A clear grasp of the Christian doctrine of the incarnation
2. Familiarity with the issues involved in the early Christological controversies
3. An awareness of key trends in recent Christological study
4. A clear understanding of the fundamental concepts in the New Testament doctrine of the atonement
5. A basic acquaintance with the history of the doctrine of the atonement
6. An ability to evaluate intra-Confessional debates on such issues as the extent of the atonement
7. Confidence in presenting the person and work of Christ clearly to those within and those outside the Christian community
8. An understanding and appreciation of the claim and consequences of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ

Systematic Theology 202 Redemption Applied: The Christian Experience of Salvation

Course Aims

By the end of Systematic Theology 2, students should be able to articulate each of the seven major theological doctrines. Students will be able to build each doctrine from scripture and defend each doctrine from error. Analytical and critical skills will be developed to give students an overall ability to articulate, define, and defend the foundational truths of Christian theology.

Intended Learning Outcomes: ST 202

Students should achieve:

1. A clear understanding of the main elements in the Protestant doctrine of the experience of salvation
2. An ability to reflect theologically on key elements in Christian discipleship
3. A critical understanding of the nature of the sacraments and their place in the life and worship of the various Christian traditions
4. A familiarity with key concepts in Christian eschatology, and with related debates
5. An ability to formulate a clear statement of the Christian gospel
6. A Confidence in the timeless and universal relevance of the Christian message

Practical Theology

External Examiner: Dr Jon Balsarak, University of Bristol.

Course Organiser: Professor Bob Akroyd

Course Aims

Practical Theology 1 focuses on the character of a Christian. This course will outline what is expected of a follower of Jesus Christ in terms of growing in maturity, exercising leadership, caring for others and providing biblically based counselling.

Practical Theology 2 focuses on developing skills to apply biblical and theological truths in our society. This will include the interface between Christian theology and secular philosophy as well as between biblical standards and societal norms.

Eligibility

Candidates for the B.Th. degree are required to take Practical Theology 1 and Practical Theology 2. The prerequisite for admission to Practical Theology 2 is a Pass in Practical Theology 1.

Methodology

The Practical Theology syllabus is delivered by practitioners actively engaged in Christian ministry. The course is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and extra-mural visits.

Course Requirements

The requirements for a Pass in Practical Theology 1 and Practical Theology 2 are:

- Regular attendance on class lectures and active engagement with lecturers and classmates
- Completion of all required course work
- A Grade Point Average of 9 (Grade D3) or higher over all forms of assessment

Assessment

Coursework in Practical Theology can include research essays, reflective essays, personal or ministry projects. There are no exams.

Class Hours (Please note that class times and duration may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The class meets four hours a week throughout both semesters.

Practical Theology 1

Level: 1

Credits: 30

Lecturers: Bob Akroyd, Alistair Wilson, Derek Newton, Louise MacMillan and Mark Stirling

Practical Theology 1 consists of two semesters each with two modules:

[n.b.: The order of these modules may be altered to accommodate external lecturers]

Practical Theology 101

Our Great Commission

Christian Maturity & Leadership

Practical Theology 102

Pastoral Care

Christian Counselling & Caring

Course Aims

1. Students will study the Great Commission to better appreciate the purpose of their theological education and to better identify their own role in fulfilling Jesus' commission to his disciples.
2. Students will identify and apply biblical principles to maturity and leadership. They will reflect critically on their own actions and attitudes to better model service, sacrifice and integrity.
3. Students will gain foundation of knowledge and insight that will stimulate them to provide relevant pastoral care to their congregations, their communities, their families, and themselves.
4. Students will be equipped to better respond appropriately to people in distress. Students will be taught the biblical principles which undergird pastoral care and Biblical counselling. In all situations, students develop an attitude characterised by prayer, compassion, care and concern.

Intended Learning Outcomes: Our Great Commission

Students should be able to:

- Appreciate the more fully the Great Commission and their own role in its fulfilment
- Better connect their theological studies with the wide-ranging implications of the Great Commission
- Appreciate the role of the local church and their position in it
- Identify key figures (past and present) instrumental in the fulfilling of this Commission
- Consider the global dimensions of the Christian church and the outworking of the Great Commission

Intended Learning Outcomes: Christian Maturity and Leadership

Students should be able to:

- Develop a robust biblical theological understanding of the connections between maturity, discipleship, ecclesiology and mission, and the God-given role of leaders in relationship to these
- Connect their maturity with the restoration of the image of God through gracious union with Christ
- Appreciate the idea of relational disciple-making leadership.
- Develop a biblical understanding of power and authority and consider how they are to be applied
- Identify and reflect on their own propensities to common leadership pitfalls

Intended Learning Outcomes: Pastoral Care

Students should be able to:

- Articulate a clear understanding of the theology of pastoral care and its relationship to the gospel
- Develop an awareness of key resources on pastoral care and issues of pastoral concern
- Identify, analyse and prepare strategies to address issues commonly encountered in pastoral care
- know when and how to advise people to seek more trained help for their problem

- Develop the self-awareness necessary to respond effectively to the stresses of pastoral ministry

Intended Learning Outcomes: Christian Counselling & Caring

Students who successfully complete the course should be able to:

- Understand a progressive view of sanctification and apply this to their lives and to the lives of others
- Understand how Biblical Counselling can be applied to every area of church life
- Demonstrate growth in the ability to love others well through talking, listening and prayer
- Demonstrate increasing knowledge of God, self and others by cultivating depth of godly character

Practical Theology 2

Level: 2

Credits: 30

Lecturers: Bob Akroyd, Alistair Wilson, Neil MacMillan, Louise MacMillan, Mark Stirling, and Duncan Peters

Practical Theology 2 consists of two semesters each with the following modules:

[n.b.: The order of these modules may be altered to accommodate external lecturers]

Practical Theology 201

Ethics: Engaging with Contemporary Issues

Apologetics & Worldviews: Engaging Critics and Sceptics

Practical Theology 202

Specialist Studies in Christian Counselling: Developing Healthy Relationships

Specialist Studies in World Religions: Engaging with Islam

Evangelism & Mission: Engaging the World and its People

Course Aims

- Students will identify contemporary ethical issues. Students will consider how to apply Biblical principles to a range of ethical issues while engaging critically with modern secular views.
- Students will be introduced to contemporary Christian apologetics, in order to be equipped to engage with the changing demands of our contemporary culture.
- Students will consider the impact of the incarnation and atonement on their vertical relationship with God and horizontal relationships with people. As we understand our dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ, real change can take place and healthy relationships can be fostered.
- Students will be introduced to the origins, historical development, beliefs and practices of Islam. Students will engage intelligently and sympathetically with Muslims. Students will reflect on theological, apologetic and missiological issues arising from this study of Islam and its adherents.

- Mission must be rooted in Scripture, theologically informed, and historically aware. The local church is the primary locus for mission and evangelism. Students will also gain an insight into missionary strategies and the skills to analyse the functioning of different churches in this light.

Intended Learning Outcomes: Ethics: Engaging with Contemporary Issues

Students should be able to:

- Develop a biblical/theological framework for ethics
- Understanding that ethics is theology and theology is ethics
- Learn to think critically and engage theologically with other ethical systems and their adherents
- Thoughtfully consider and confidently respond to ethical questions in contemporary society
- Demonstrate pastoral sensitivity and wisdom in the application of Christian ethical teaching

Intended Learning Outcomes: Apologetics and Worldviews: Engaging Critics and Sceptics

Students should be able to:

- Identify the main apologetic emphases in the New Testament and explain their significance
- Evaluate the significance of some key figures and writings in apologetics
- Articulate their own individual apologetic approach to a variety of contemporary questions
- Understand the variety of worldviews and consider their divergence with a Christian worldview
- Engage with people with different worldviews in order to present the Christian message effectively

Intended Learning Outcomes: Specialist Studies in Christian Counselling: Developing Healthy Relationships

Students should be able to:

- Have confidence and skill to ask appropriate questions and engage with people in various settings
- Have sensitivity to listen well and respond empathetically and appropriately
- Gain a better understanding of human relationships
- Be better able to identify examples of both healthy and dysfunctional relationships
- Connect prayer, scripture and real-life scenarios with clarity and sensitivity

Intended Learning Outcomes: Specialist Studies in World Religions: Engaging with Islam

Students should be able to:

- Engage with followers of Islam and communicate the Christian message in a multi-faith society
- Have a more detailed understanding of Islam (beliefs, practices, and sacred writings)
- Engage with the theological and apologetic issues that arise in dialogue with followers of Islam
- Appreciate the challenges and opportunities of conveying the Gospel to followers of religions

Intended Learning Outcomes: Evangelism & Mission: Engaging the people of the world

Students should be able to:

- give a critical overview of the theology and practice of mission in the history of the church
- Critically Analyse the relationship between gospel and culture and gospel and social justice
- Review the relationship between gospel, mission and evangelism in various local church settings
- Evaluate critically various approaches to church revitalisation and church planting
- Understand and articulate the gospel message and the gospel mandate
- Consider the implication of Great Commission on global and cross-cultural mission
- Be aware of recent development in missiological theory and practice

Elective Studies in Practical Theology (Semester Courses)

Course Organiser: Professor Bob Akroyd

Overview for Elective Studies

Electives are offered within the Practical theology department to enable students to pursue more specialised areas of study which are not directly offered in the core curriculum.

Eligibility

Elective modules may be taken by students as an alternative to Elementary Hebrew, Elementary Greek or Church History 2. The prerequisite for admission to Elective Studies is permission of the course organiser.

Methodology

Learning takes place in practical placements, through self- study, tutorials, small group seminars, guided reading and interaction with the course organiser or the placement supervisor.

Availability of Elective Courses

Please consult with the course organizer to determine which electives are offered in each semester.

Christian Spirituality (Level 1)

Credits: 15

Course Aims

By engaging with a variety of Christian approaches and key Christian writers, students can cultivate their spiritual life and reflect rigorously but reverently on their own Christian devotion and practice.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- appreciate and critically engage with the diverse expressions of Christian spirituality
- familiarise themselves with key texts in the history of Christian spirituality
- reflect thoughtfully upon their own spirituality and their own Christian tradition
- consider how to respond appropriately to some of the main crises in Christian spirituality

Reformed Spirituality (Level 1)

Credits: 15

Course Aims

Students will engage personally with Reformed writers and theology to facilitate their spiritual formation and to consider how Reformed Spirituality could find expression personally and corporately.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- articulate the major elements of Reformed Theology and a Reformed worldview
- identify and engage personally with the key writers and classic texts of Reformed Spirituality
- consider how Reformed Theology can be a catalyst to evangelism and global mission
- reflect critically upon their own spirituality through a study of Reformed Spirituality

World Religions (Level 1)

Credits: 15

Course Aims

Students will gain a better understanding of the history, scriptures, beliefs, practices, worldviews and cultures of some of the major world religions. Students will consider how different religious traditions intersect with Christianity to better convey the Christian message with clarity and respect.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the course should be able to:

- appreciate the diversity of religious belief and practice and major worldviews
- identify the tenets, sacred texts, practices and beliefs of the major world religions
- cultivate a generosity of spirit regarding adherents of other world religions
- explore the vital connection between world religions, interfaith dialogue, and Christian mission
- cultivate a prayerful interest for people from different countries, cultures and religions

Religion, Morality and Philosophy (Level 1)

Credits: 15

Course Aims

Students will gain a greater insight into contemporary religious, moral and philosophical issues. Students will explore different moral frameworks. For those interested in religious education, this course follows the contours of the Scottish Higher Curriculum in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the course should be able to:

- identify major figures in philosophy and significant philosophical movements
- explore moral issues from a variety of religious and philosophical standpoints

- identify key moral frameworks - both theistic and non-theistic
- construct reasoned and well-structured responses to contemporary moral questions
- analyse and explain religious and philosophical questions along with relevant theoretical ideas
- cultivate an attitude of respect, tolerance and generosity to those hold different moral positions
- critically evaluating the Christian faith in relationship to morality and decision making

Communication (Level 2)

Credits: 15

Course Aims

The **Communication** elective enables students to study biblical principles of communication and elements of good public speaking. Students can improve their verbal and written communication skills which will serve them well in their spheres of service.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Identify key biblical texts and principles that shape and inform communication
- Identify key biblical instances and examples of good (and bad) communication
- Understand and articulate key principles of classical rhetoric and logic
- Identify and avoid logical fallacies, poor argumentation, and other pitfalls
- Appreciate the wide variety of communication styles and contexts
- Reflect critically upon Christian and secular literature
- Reflect critically on their own communication skills and competencies
- Work collaboratively with fellow students and lecturers to capture best practice

Leadership (Level 2)

Credits: 15

Course Aims

THERE are two ways of representing and recommending true religion and virtue to the world; the one, by doctrine and precept; the other, by instance and example; both are abundantly used in the Holy Scriptures.

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758), Introduction to *The Life & Diary of David Brainerd* [1749].

This elective course is designed for students who are already leaders or who aspire to lead. Biblical precepts and examples of leadership will be discussed alongside of leadership models in sports and business. Students will reflect on both the character and skills of a leader and consider how Jesus' principle in Mark 10.45 can find contemporary expression. To further enrich their skills, students will reflect on a variety of leadership texts and examples so that they lead well, wisely, and humbly.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Identify key biblical **doctrines** and **precepts** to inform Christian leadership
- Identify key biblical **instances** and **examples** of good and bad leadership

- Identify and engage with key articulations in and outside of the Christian tradition
- Consider how different leadership models can inform and enrich good practice
- Engage and interact with fellow students to consider how to lead well and wisely
- Identify leadership pitfalls and appreciate the damage caused by poor leadership

Church or Community Based Electives

Studies in Practical Theology (Level 1) **Credits: 15**

Continuing Studies in Practical Theology (Level 1) **Credits: 15**

Studies in Practical Theology: Mission (Level 1) **Credits: 15**

Continuing Studies in Practical Theology: Mission (Level 1) **Credits: 15**

Rationale

Students who select one or more of these electives will have a clear interest in an area of practical ministry. These electives allow scope for research, practice and reflection with appropriate supervision and support in a hands-on setting for ministry or mission.

Studies in Practical Theology would give students an introduction to practical ministry and Christian service. This elective would most likely be based in a local church or a charitable or community organisation.

Continuing Studies in Practical Theology would enable students to specialise in a particular area of practical theology such as pastoral care, mercy ministry or discipleship.

Studies in Practical Theology: Mission would give students a wide-ranging introduction to the work of Christian mission in either a local, international or cross-cultural setting.

Continuing Studies in Practical Theology: Mission would enable students to specialise in a particular area of interest within Cross-cultural Mission, International Mission, Evangelism, Church Planting, Church Revitalisation or Urban Mission.

Course Aims

Students will learn by studying and by practicing ministry. Areas of individual interest can be explored, developed, observed and practiced. Reflective practice, regular supervision and guided self-study will help prepare students for future ministry or mission.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Understand the place of practical theology within the theological curriculum
- Identify key authors and texts in the fields of mission and ministry
- Appreciate the wide variety of human experience, belief and practice
- Reflect critically upon the main themes of practical theology
- Reflect critically upon their own practice of theology in real-life situations
- Reflect critically upon their own character, competence, and experience
- Work collaboratively with regular supervision and oversight

- Articulate their understanding of mission and the implications of the Great Commission