MTh – MODULE DESCRIPTORS OVERVIEW

TH7802 - The Doctrine of Scripture - COMPULSORY

Scripture is central to the Christian faith and serves as a crucial epistemological foundation for work in theology and related subjects at Masters level and beyond. The history of the church has been inextricably connected in a variety of ways to its exegetical strategies and practices. The module relates to the module on the Early Church Fathers, given that the latter also devotes attention to patristic views of Scripture.

Aims
Through a study of set texts from the Church Fathers to the twenty-first century this module aims:
1. To evaluate critically a range of attempts to understand the nature of Scripture.
2. To assess various ways in which the Bible has been interpreted in various historical and theological contexts.
3. To consider how social and historical contexts can influence Biblical exegesis.

TH7806 - Creation and the Environment

The doctrine of Creation continues to be a theological matter needing its own presentation; having emphasised the priority of soteriology, Reformed evangelicalism has often overlooked this key doctrine. Also, biblical principles relating to environmental care and responsible ecosystem management have been articulated only recently, and not often at church level. This module seeks to address these two matters. It functions symbiotically, therefore, with both The History and Theology of Evangelicalism and Contemporary Church Issues for Evangelicalism, and intertwines with both The Doctrine of Scripture and methodologies presented within Research Methods.

Aims
1. To describe and discuss issues critical to the formulation of a coherent biblical theology of Creation.
2. To describe and analyse recent trends in environmental science and identify significant contemporary ecological concerns.
3. To relate and assess the practicability of principles of biblical Creation theology to contemporary ecological issues.

TH7812 - Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English

The Bible is the primary source document of Christianity. Examining select biblical texts, this module provides advanced exegetical and interpretative skills. This module is an alternative option to both Hebrew Grammar and Greek Grammar.

Aims
1. to develop advanced exegetical and interpretative skills through the study of select biblical texts in English translation.
2. to acquire systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of biblical texts in their original socio-historical context.
3. to examine key issues, themes and theological concepts in the texts under consideration and draw implications for Christian practice and contemporary contexts.

TH7817 - Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview

Christians should be able to engage the culture around them, bringing biblical categories to bear on popular cultural works that shape the way people live and believe in any given society.

Aims
1. To develop a theological (specifically, Reformed Protestant) understanding of popular culture grounded in the Bible.
2. To equip students with a method for interpreting and critiquing popular culture using a Christian worldview apologetic.
3. To explore issues related to the imagination, especially how Christians can create works that speak to both Christians and non-Christians in a post-Christian culture.

TH7823 - Biblical Theology

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the source document of Christianity, but there is considerable debate about the extent to which it is coherent and hence whether a whole-Bible theology is possible. In addition, there has been a neglect of the theological interpretation of the Bible as a whole in theological education. This module explores a range of approaches to biblical theology and facilitates the construction of a theoretical framework in which students can undertake biblical theology.

Aims
1. to equip students with a critical understanding of various approaches to biblical theology.
2. to understand and evaluate the history of biblical theology, critical issues and challenges of contemporary scholarship in biblical theology.
3. to enable students to undertake biblical theology by exploring biblical themes or examining the biblical theology of a book in the Bible and draw implications for Christian practice and contemporary contexts.

TH7825 - The Theology of the Early Church Fathers

This module gives students an opportunity for a detailed engagement with the various and varied iterations of patristic theology which have been both foundational and seminal for all subsequent Christian thought. The module relates to The Doctrine of Scripture module which also devotes some attention to patristic views of Scripture.

Aims
1. To gain an understanding of key themes in the theology of the Early Church Fathers.
2. To understand how the historical context shaped the writings of the Early Church Fathers.
3. To appreciate the relevance of the theology of the post-apostolic Early Church Fathers for Christians today.

TH7826 - The History and Theology of Evangelicalism

The rationale for the module is the encouragement of critical engagement with the evangelical tradition to which most students belong and enhancing their knowledge of the history and theology of that tradition.

Aims
1. To equip students with an overview of the nature and history of evangelicalism from 1730 onwards
2. To ensure that students engage with the scholarly debates and trends in the study of evangelicalism
3. To enable students to evaluate the key events and personalities in evangelical history
4. To facilitate an appropriate understanding of the issues in contemporary debates

TH7827 - The Spiritual Formation of the Leader

This module gives students the opportunity to study the interior, spiritual life of the Christian leader, providing a preparation for Christian ministry that complements other MTh modules which cover broader matters of biblical and theological knowledge.

Aims
1. To gain an understanding of key principles in forming a model of spirituality for Christian leadership.
2. To explore biblical motivations for the Christian leader.
3. To appreciate the spiritual integrity required of the Christian leader.

TH7828 Contemporary Church Issues for Evangelicalism

This module provides students with a systematic and critical understanding of the main current trends, divisions and challenges within evangelicalism, particularly in Britain. It emphasises a practical, contextual and contemporary application of the theological methodology taught in the other modules of the MTh programme, and deploys a range of techniques of research and enquiry.

Aims
The module enables students to understand the state of current British evangelicalism and to critically engage with the key issues that are faced by evangelicals in contemporary Britain and beyond. It equips them to engage with other evangelicals, and to consider how they might address these issues in their own subsequent ministries.

TH7831 - Preachers and their Preaching

In this module students explore the work of preachers in several historical periods. They have opportunity to study closely a range of sermons, paying careful attention to the nature and limitations of the available sources. Students consider how the historical circumstances of preachers have shaped their preaching, how the Bible was used in their preaching, and their understanding of the spiritual dynamics involved in the process. They also reflect on the impact made by the sermons of those preachers studied.

Aims
The aim of this module is to give students the opportunity to examine in historical perspective the use of the Bible in preaching. It explores the interrelationships between this use and theological traditions, social contexts, church communities, and the preacher's spiritual formation. It equips students to reflect on ways that the Bible may be used in preaching today.

TH7841 - Hebrew Texts

In the context of a programme on Scripture and Theology, this module enables learners to engage with the text of the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures, specifically by study of the book of Ruth and the Psalter. The book of Ruth is narrative literature, and as such it is representative of a significant literary genre of the Old Testament. The psalms have been an important part of both Jewish and Christian religious life and, being poetry, are representative of another significant literary genre in the Old Testament.

Aims
1. To read and translate selected portions of the book of Ruth and selected psalms.
2. To study aspects of grammar, syntax, discourse structure, parallelism and poetics.
3. To examine textual variants.
4. To make exegetical and theological comment on the text.

TH7842 - Greek Exegesis

This module builds on a foundation of New Testament Greek Grammar, such as is available in the UST GDip Programme. The module extends students' knowledge of *Koinē* Greek and to develop their skills in the exegesis of the Greek New Testament via the study of selected passages of varying genre and level of difficulty. The set texts, which may vary from year to year, will typically be an extended contiguous text (e.g., John 1-4) together with a selection of NT and extra-canonical passages of increasing difficulty.
In the course of the module, students will be introduced to a range of tools and methods for exegetical analysis and to a range of relevant scholarly literature.

Aims
1. To consolidate and extend students' previously acquired knowledge of Greek vocabulary, morphology and syntax.
2. To develop students' skills in the detailed exegesis of the Greek New Testament by (a) focussing on a selection of texts which sample different styles, genres and levels of difficulty and (b) employing a range of tools and methods for exegetical analysis.
3. To engage in a detailed examination of key issues in translation, textual criticism, exegesis arising from the set texts.

TH7843 - Advanced Greek Reading

This module introduces the parent language of *Koine* Greek (Attic) and introduces more diachronic considerations to the exegesis of *Koine* texts. The module introduces composition of Attic Greek prose as a means of embedding the canons of syntax and style. Ability to compose Greek is invaluable as an exegetical tool, since it requires awareness of how competing meanings would have been expressed. It allows the evaluation of exegetical options against their linguistic plausibility. The module also engages ongoing scholarly debates in the worlds of Classical and *Koine* Greek. The module would be preparatory for further postgraduate engagement with Greek texts, including the New Testament, LXX and OG, Greek Patristics, and their respective contemporary texts.

Aims
1. To build diachronic understanding of Greek vocabulary, morphology, syntax and style through study of Attic.
2. To build confidence in exegesis of Greek texts through attention to Classical prose composition.
3. To prepare students for further postgraduate research in Greek and Greek texts.

TH7830 - Research Methods – COMPULSORY

This module serves as an essential prerequisite for progressing to undertake the dissertation module in that it provides the necessary background in terms of awareness of methodology and methods.

Aims
1. To provide a systematic understanding of philosophical foundations relating to research.
2. To provide students with a critical appreciation of the distinctives of various methodologies.
3. To enable students to design a coherent research proposal.

TH7818 – Dissertation - COMPULSORY

The Dissertation module provides students with an opportunity to explore a topic of their own choice, subject to approval. Students may wish to investigate further a topic in a module which they have been studying. As a result, topics may reflect any of the three major strands of the programme, that is, biblical studies, theological and historical studies, as well as ministerial practice. The Dissertation module is the natural sequel to the Research Methods module where research methodology and methods are examined and a dissertation proposal is developed

Aims
1. To enable students to manage and execute independent research into a selected topic.
2. To enable students to demonstrate originality in the application of learning.
3. To enable students to exercise initiative and resolve problems.