

MTh Module Descriptors

BS71 Union with Christ: A Biblical Theological Approach

This module is an in-depth study of Union and Participation with Christ in the New Testament (and across the whole canon of Scripture). The module takes an exegetical-theological approach, demonstrating the value of careful exegesis in theological formulation and synthesis. The special focus is on an eschatological-relational view of Union with Christ.

Aims

You will be able critically to assess and apply different scholarly views of Union and Participation with Christ, grounding your approach in the text of Scripture.

OT71 OT Studies: Psalms

This module is an in-depth study of the Old Testament, focusing upon the Book of Psalms. It examines the structure, themes, and theology of the Psalter, as well as Biblical Hebrew poetic conventions. The special focus is cutting-edge approaches to the Book of Psalms as a coherent literary whole.

Aims

1. You will be able to read biblical Hebrew poetry (in English or Hebrew) with an up-to-date awareness of competing scholarly theories.
2. You will be able to enjoy individual Psalms within the context of the whole Book of Psalms and the wider canon, with an up-to-date awareness of current scholarly research into Psalms and the Psalter as a book, suitable for further post-graduate study.
3. In keeping with the Reformed and Evangelical ethos of the School, you will be able to appreciate the pervasively Christological nature of the Book of Psalms as a centre-piece of the Christian Bible, as it has been throughout history.

OT73 OT Studies: Ezekiel

This module is an in-depth study of the Old Testament, focusing upon the prophecy of Ezekiel. It examines the book's historical and socio-cultural backdrop, literary structure, rhetoric and themes, interpretive cruxes, and theology. Attention is paid to scholarly trends in the discussion of Old Testament prophecy in general and Ezekiel in particular. The subject matter is highly relevant since Christian theology is ultimately

about knowing the God of the Bible, and the theme of the knowledge of God dominates the book of Ezekiel.

Aims

1. You will be able to read the book of Ezekiel (in English or Hebrew) with greater understanding of those collected oracles and an awareness of the deep learning in current Ezekiel scholarship.
2. You will explore theories about Ezekiel as 'trauma literature', as shaped by inner-biblical interpretation, as displaying a 'radical theocentricity', as rhetorically gripping and provocative discourse, etc. The module may serve as preparation for further post-graduate study in the Old Testament prophets.
3. In keeping with the Reformed and Evangelical ethos of the School, you will be able to appreciate the literary and theological links between this Old Testament literature and the New Testament witness to Jesus Christ.

HB72 Hebrew Reading: Narrative and Poetry

In the context of a programme on Scripture and Theology, this module enables learners to gain proficiency in handling the different genres of the Old Testament, by combining the reading of larger blocks of Hebrew text with closer study of distinctive features of different Hebrew genres and philological problems, in order to lay the foundation for advanced exegetical and theological work.

Aims

1. To read and translate selected portions of Hebrew text representative of the main genres of the Hebrew Bible: narrative, prophecy, wisdom, law.
2. To study aspects of grammar, syntax, lexicon/philology, and features of various genres.
3. To make exegetical and theological comment on the text.

HB74 Advanced Hebrew Reading

This module develops proficiency in the language by exposure to the full diachronic range of biblical Hebrew texts, in particular to texts representative of Early Biblical Hebrew (EBH) and Late Biblical Hebrew (LBH). As well as considering diachrony, the module introduces students to some aspects of comparative philology useful for an understanding of Hebrew texts.

Understanding of syntax, style and register will be deepened by means of Hebrew composition.

The module places an emphasis on the fluent and competent reading of larger sections of the biblical text in Hebrew.

Aims

To build confidence in reading competently and interpreting the most challenging Hebrew texts of the OT. This will involve not only the preparation of a large volume of Hebrew texts, but also diachronic study of Hebrew texts.

GK72 Greek Reading

This module builds on a foundation of New Testament Greek Grammar, such as is available in the UST GDip Programme, and aims to train students to read Greek texts with understanding.

We introduce matters of syntax, with a focus on the variety of contexts in which the foundational elements can be found. This is essential to reading with understanding, and to evaluating exegetical decisions.

We build up reading speed through reading longer passages and a variety of authors, with the conviction that the skills of close exegesis need to be rooted in exposure to large volumes of texts. Students will be introduced to a range of tools and methods for exegetical analysis and to a range of relevant scholarly literature.

The module is preparatory for the Advanced Greek Reading MTh module.

Aims

You will learn to read and exegete Greek texts with a growing understanding of Syntax and stylistic variation, for the sake of plausible exegesis and preparation of NT texts from the Greek during busy lives.

GK74 Advanced Greek Reading

This module introduces the parent language of *Koine* Greek (Attic). It introduces Greek Patristic Texts, building up to the challenging texts that use Atticising style. From that base, we engage the GNT authors who use such style.

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 post-graduate engagement with Greek texts, including the (a) New Testament, (b) LXX and OG, (c) Greek Patristics, and their respective contemporary texts, with some scope for specialisation within the module.

The module cements confidence and fluency in reading, through exposure to a growing volume and variety of challenging texts.

Aims

You will build confidence in reading, and plausibly exegeting, even the most challenging GNT texts even during busy lives. To that end, you will learn to read and write Classical Greek and engage with a large volume of advanced Greek texts.

ST71 Scripture and Hermeneutics

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. And today there is need for ongoing reflection on how theologians should view the nature of Scripture and approach the task of interpretation/exegesis. 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 their various historical and theological contexts.
3. To consider how social and historical contexts can influence Biblical exegesis.

CH71 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.

CH73 Soteriology of the Reformation

Soteriology is the application of the historic doctrines of the Church to humanity and clearly lay at the heart of the debates that brought about the Reformation. This module traces the medieval and Reformation discussions surrounding the way in which God and humanity relate and complements material in other modules on early church and later evangelical developments. The module will examine the exegesis, doctrinal reasoning, and ethical developments at the Reformation as part of the bridge between the Church Fathers and the emergence of evangelical theology.

Aims

1. To describe and discuss Reformation soteriology and its relationship to the perspectives that preceded it in the medieval Church.
2. To relate soteriology to the doctrines of God, Christ, and scripture, using the five Reformation 'solas' as an interpretive key.

CH75 History and Theology of Evangelicalism

To encourage critical reflection & engagement with the history and theology of evangelicalism. Most students come from this Christian tradition and there is significant interest in understanding origins, personalities and distinctives. It is important for students to engage with their own tradition in an academic context with awareness of both strengths and weaknesses.

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 consider key theological issues and debates within evangelicalism
5. To facilitate an appropriate understanding of the issues in contemporary debates

MM71 Preaching and Preachers

In this module students explore the content and goal of preaching, concentrating particularly upon the theology of preaching – that is, how the nature of God informs preaching. They have opportunity to study closely a range of sermons and texts upon which they are based. Students consider the portrayal of preaching in Scripture itself (particularly the New Testament), the role of affections and the spiritual dynamics

involved in preaching. The following connections are studied: preaching and the doctrine of God; preaching and Union with Christ; Preaching and the Holy Spirit.

Aims

The aim of this module is to give students the opportunity to examine in contemporary and historical perspective the use of Scripture in preaching. It explores the interrelationships between the use of Scripture in preaching and: biblical and systematic theology; church context; and the preacher's spiritual formation. It equips students to reflect on how to use the Bible in preaching today.

MM73 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.

MM74 Christian Theology of Religions and Global Mission

This module focuses on various Christian understandings of non-Christian religions, and does so from historical-theological as well as contemporary perspectives. Students will be encouraged to consider, theologically, what is going on in non-Christian religions, and to work through the implications of such understandings for the proclamation of the Gospel and the mission of the Church today. The module equips students to engage with historic and contemporary thought in a nuanced and sophisticated way, and should enable them to engage in current debate as well as with adherents of non-Christian religions in an informed and sensitive way. The module relates to some of the material in Theology of the Early Church Fathers and Soteriology of the Reformation.

Aims

1. To consider the idea of revelation and various understandings of the relationship between revelation and non-Christian religion – particularly within the Evangelical Reformed tradition.

2. To work through the soteriological implications of these viewpoints, by critical engagement with Alan Race's threefold Exclusivism, Inclusivism and Pluralism classification and various uses of and objections to this taxonomy.
3. To consider the relationship between theology of religions and mission, and the implications of this for the Church's understanding of mission.

MM75 Contemporary Church Issues

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.

MM77 Biblical Counselling and Care in the Local Church

This module is an advanced study of the dynamics of biblical change and growth (progressive sanctification) within local churches. Both dynamics within the church body and internal to the individual are covered. The module considers the nature and purpose of church, pastoral care and the relationship between public (preaching) and private (1-1 and small group) ministry using Christian Scripture.

Aims

You will engage with and flexibly apply a rigorous model of the dynamics of biblical change to different church contexts, identifying principles that facilitate growth toward spiritual maturity. This will include setting expectations and vision for the development of a church culture which emphasises mutual care and equips in personal ministry of the word. You will identify and practice essential methodological principles and personal skills for effective 1:1 and small group pastoral conversations.

DS71 Dissertation

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, in a particular way, 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 ministry practice.

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.

Research Methods (compulsory self-study module)

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.