

## GRADUATE DIPLOMA (GDip) - MODULE DESCRIPTORS OVERVIEW

### **TH6809 Studies in Preaching and Pastoral Theology**

Studies in biblical studies as well as theological and historical studies are all intended to come together in the area of ministerial practice. This module specifically seeks to equip students in how to communicate biblical and gospel truths to individuals and congregations, and also how to address everyday pastoral issues using biblically and theologically informed approaches.

#### **Aims**

1. To provide a theologically informed and a critically-aware appreciation of interpretative principles for preaching.
2. To develop greater skills in preparation of clear, engaging and relevant messages, using biblical texts.
3. To enable critical reflection on principles for pastoral care which are biblically and theologically informed.
4. To encourage the application of biblical and theological materials to the everyday realities of pastoral care situations.

### **TH6831 Hebrew Grammar**

The vast majority of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew. This module, by providing, a study of the grammar of biblical Hebrew, enables those who take it to have the tools to be able to begin to access this part of the Bible in its original language.

#### **Aims**

1. To provide a knowledge and understanding of the foundational elements of the grammar of biblical Hebrew.
2. To enable students to begin to read and translate Hebrew narrative texts.

### **TH6832 Greek Grammar**

Knowledge of New Testament Greek will enable students to engage with primary texts and scholarly works not only in New Testament studies, but also those of relevance to Old Testament, Historical Theology, Apologetics and Doctrine. In homiletics and applied Bible study, being able to engage with the NT text in Greek is a great advantage. This module serves as a foundation for further study of Greek.

**Aims**

1. To provide a foundational knowledge of Koine Greek, focussed on the New Testament
2. To prepare students to read and translate texts within the NT, including John's Gospel.

**TH6834 Studies in Systematic Theology**

Systematic theology is a holistic approach to understanding Christianity, comprising biblical, historical and theological perspectives in interaction with current philosophical and cultural developments. As such it provides an indispensable base for critical evaluation of all areas of theology.

**Aims**

1. To develop a critical appreciation of Reformed systematic theology within the context of the great tradition of the church.
2. To enhance an awareness of the biblical and heuristic coherence of Christian theology.
3. To explore the doctrines of God, humanity, Christology and Redemption, with attention to major areas of past and present debate, together with application to preaching and pastoral work.

**TH6836 Studies in the Old and New Testaments**

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the authoritative source document of Christianity, and needs to be studied critically in relation to contemporary scholarship. A detailed and systematic understanding of the Bible is foundational for all other modules.

**Aims**

1. To equip students with a critical and systematic understanding of the Old and New Testaments.
2. To examine major themes in the various writings of the Old and New Testaments.
3. To explore historical, exegetical and theological issues in the Old and New Testaments and draw implications for Christian practice and contemporary contexts.

### **TH6837 Turning Points in Church History**

This module gives students an overview of the history of Christianity and, as part of that, the history of Christian thought.

#### **Aims**

1. To gain an understanding of key moments and their significance in the history of the church.
2. To appreciate the relevance of historical theology and church history for Christians today.
3. To encourage critical thought concerning the events analysed.

### **TH6838 Church and Mission**

This module seeks to provide a comprehensive study of the church and its mission in the contemporary world context from exegetical, theological, and historical perspectives. Special emphasis will be given to developing a theological orientation that leads to a missional understanding of the church in the contemporary context.

#### **Aims**

1. To examine mission as a key biblical theme.
2. To reflect on the place of missiology in theology.
3. To analyse historical and contemporary paradigms of mission.
4. To critically evaluate current reflection on mission in various contexts.
5. To acquire skills that enhance the missionary encounter.

### **TH6839 Biblical Texts: English Exegesis**

This module is an alternative option to both Hebrew Grammar and Greek Grammar. It complements the module, Studies in the Old and New Testaments, in that it enables students to develop exegetical skills with selected passages from the Old and New Testaments.

#### **Aims**

1. To demonstrate the ways in which careful application of hermeneutical principles to biblical texts, along with disciplined use of a variety of literary and theologically sensitive tools, illuminates their meaning.
2. To explore how different biblical genres function and therefore how each should be approached for effective exegesis.
3. To provide close engagement with key Old Testament and New Testament texts from a variety of biblical genres in a way that will contribute to the students' development in exegetical skill as well as to their development of a holistic biblical theology and a deepened understanding of Christian faith and practice.

**TH6845 Children's, Youth and Family Ministry**

The module supplements the offerings in the Ministerial Practice strand of the GDip programme by providing opportunity for theological reflection and training for learners working or seeking to work with Children, Young People, and Families.

**Aims**

1. To train learners engaged in Children's, Youth and Family work to reflect critically and theologically on their own theory and practice in light of current scholarship and thinking.
2. To develop essential skills in this field for ministering within the context of the local church.