



THL105 Introduction to Old Testament Studies

This subject is a foundational introduction to the contents of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and to basic scholarly tools and critical methods used in Old Testament studies. It surveys the formation of the Old Testament, both as a whole and as comprising collections of books, while focusing on selected texts from the Torah (Pentateuch), Prophets, Writings and Apocrypha. It pays particular attention to issues of oral and textual transmission, historical and geographical context, religion and culture, genre and canon, exegesis, interpretation and diverse theological perspectives.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the contents of the Old Testament and of its social, cultural and historical background;
- be able to demonstrate familiarity with key historical, cultural, literary and theological issues pertaining to the study of the Old Testament;
- be able to discuss in a way that shows developing critical awareness a range of texts from the Pentateuch, Prophets, Writings and Apocrypha;
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of interpretive issues concerning the relationship between the two Testaments in the Christian Bible;
- be able to discuss the use of Old Testament texts in the life of the contemporary Church;
- be able to engage in basic exegesis of Old Testament texts and to interact with primary biblical sources and secondary literature; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including basic research, writing and communication skills.



THL111 Introduction to Christian Theology

This subject offers an introductory engagement with the major doctrines of the Christian faith, including God as Trinity, the person and work of Christ, the Spirit, humanity and the church. It explores the tasks, methods and sources of Christian theology, enabling students to develop initial skills of theological reasoning together with the capacity to use theological vocabulary. Attention is given to historical and contemporary approaches to doing theology, as well as to the relation between Christian doctrine and Christian practice.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to engage at an introductory level with the major doctrines of the Christian faith;
- be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the tasks, methods and sources of Christian theology;
- be able to identify key theologians and to demonstrate an understanding of their place in the development of Christian theology;
- be able to engage critically with both historical and contemporary approaches to doing theology;
- be able to demonstrate an ability to make connections between Christian theology and ministerial or practical contexts; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including basic research, writing and communication skills.



THL120 Practical Theology

This subject introduces students to the discipline of Practical Theology in which theory and practice are considered together across a range of areas of ministry, mission, worship and pastoral care. It examines its relationship to the biblical, systematic and historical sub-disciplines in theology. Students will develop an understanding of what is distinctive about Practical Theology and the range of methodologies appropriate to it.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate an appreciation of the distinctive nature of Practical Theology within the discipline of theology;
- be able to articulate the relationship of Practical Theology to the biblical, systematic and historical sub-disciplines of theology;
- be able to demonstrate a foundational understanding of the place of practical theology in ministry and mission;
- be able to describe the foundational praxis models and demonstrate initial skills in reflective practice; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including basic research, writing and communication skills.



THL131 Early Church History

This foundation subject introduces students to skills appropriate to studying church history, including the use and analysis of early sources, both written and non-written, and later historical interpretations. It encompasses the contributions of the Apostolic Fathers and early Christian Apologists, and explores early challenges to the Christian movement from within and without. Close attention is given to church-state relations and the formulation of Christian theology by prominent theologians and significant councils, especially those convened at Nicaea and Chalcedon. The subject also examines early Christian monasticism, issues of ethnicity and gender, mission and the claims of the Bishop of Rome to supremacy. Consistent attention is given to understanding the broader context of the Graeco-Roman world in which Christianity developed.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate a broad and critical understanding of the principal movements in theology, ecclesiology and politics in the Christian Church during its formative period;
- be able to demonstrate a knowledge of the primary source documents of this period and be able to analyse, interpret, and critically review these documents;
- be able to analyse and critically evaluate historiographical approaches to the Christian faith across different cultures and ecclesial communities;
- be able to research and communicate the relevance of historical documents for understanding the historical origins of contemporary churches in Australia and Asia;
- be able to review critically and analyse the contribution of historians and historiographical perspectives from a variety of denominational and historical contexts; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided and collaborative learning, including basic research, writing and communication skills relevant to history as a discipline.



THL245 God and Humanity

This subject examines the development, critique and reformulation of theological ideas regarding humanity and humanity's relation to God and creation. Traditional themes in theological anthropology are considered, including creation, the imago dei, sin, grace, salvation and vocation. Challenges to historical formulations, including the challenge of difference, are brought into conversation with contemporary approaches such as feminist, postcolonial, ecological, queer and liberation discourses.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to discuss key theological ideas regarding humanity and humanity's relation to God and creation in historical and contemporary contexts;
- be able to engage critically with contemporary challenges to Christian theological anthropology, including difference;
- be able to assess critically recent constructive theological anthropologies and their societal and cultural relevance; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including sound research, writing and communication skills.



THL256 Theology and the Arts

This subject addresses the role of the arts as integral to Christian theology and life, both in classical and popular understanding, by exploring the ways in which theology and the arts mutually interpret each other to give a broader understanding of human life and of God. Attention is given to the role in theology, worship, and discipleship of the verbal, visual, performing and fine arts. Selected genres including, for example, literature, poetry, painting, sculpture, music, dance/mime, drama/theatre, architecture, photography and film are explored. The relationship between aesthetics and religious experience in the context of worship and discipleship, and the role of media and culture in the Christian Church, are also addressed.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the relationship between aesthetics and religious experience and expression;
- be able to discuss critically the use of various and/or specific artistic media in the history of Christianity;
- be able to discuss critically the contextual and theoretical frameworks within various and/or specific forms of art;
- be able to apply theological interpretation to various and/or specific forms of art; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including sound research, writing and communication skills.



THL257 Religion in Chinese Culture

This subject is an introduction to religious life in Chinese culture, emphasizing the interaction of religion with culture and society in both historical and contemporary China. The subject covers cultural and religious life in the geographical area of Greater China (the mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao), as well as the Chinese diaspora in Asia and beyond. This subject focuses on the historical Chinese religions of Daoism, Buddhism, and Chinese Folk Religion, as well as Confucianism, although the issue of whether Confucianism is a religion or a philosophy is contested by scholars. This subject also includes a focus on other religious communities in China, including: Christianity (Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Indigenous), Islam, and various minority traditions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate a broad introductory knowledge of the central themes of religious life in Chinese culture;
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of the key issues in interpreting the relationship between traditional Chinese religion and Christianity;
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, religious and social factors in the development of religious life in China, from both historical and contemporary perspectives;
- be able to articulate an understanding of the insights gained in this subject and their relationship to student experiences of Christianity in present-day Hong Kong; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided and collaborative learning, including sound research, writing and communication skills relevant to history as a discipline.



THL307 The Johannine Literature

This subject examines the Johannine literature within the New Testament (the Gospel and epistles of John; Revelation). It addresses literary and historical evidence that Johannine Christianity was a distinctive development within early Christianity with its own literature. Emphasis is given to the setting, genre, content and theology of the Gospel and letters of John, supplemented by a comparative introduction to the book of Revelation.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate a critical and informed understanding of issues relating to the interpretation of the Johannine literature;
- be able to demonstrate familiarity with evidence indicating the history, development and distinctiveness of Johannine Christianity;
- be able to demonstrate critical appreciation of the distinctiveness of the Gospel of John;
- be able to discuss similarities and differences between the Gospel of John, the Johannine epistles and Revelation, including their literary, historical and theological relationships;
- be able to discuss major theological and ethical themes in the Johannine literature and critically evaluate their contemporary relevance;
- be able to demonstrate advanced competence in the exegesis and interpretation of biblical texts through critical engagement with primary biblical materials and constructive engagement with secondary literature; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including advanced research, writing and communication skills.



THL315 Anglican Foundations

This subject explores the development of Anglican faith and life within the broad catholic tradition of the Church. It examines the distinctive features of method and content in Anglican theology through selected studies in ecclesiology, ethics, worship and spirituality. Special attention is given to the analysis of the writings of major Anglican theologians and influential commentaries on Anglican history and tradition. Anglicanism in the Australian context is also explored.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate a broad and coherent knowledge of major developments within the history of the Anglican communion from its early origins in England to its current global expressions;
- be able to analyse and critically review distinctive features of Anglican theology and theological method, particularly in relation to an understanding of the church and its ministry, ethics and spiritual disciplines;
- be able to contextualise and communicate a variety of recent interpretations of the significance of Anglican contributions to contemporary world Christianity;
- be able to articulate the relevance and implications of Anglicanism in the Australian context;
- be able to demonstrate a broad and coherent knowledge of the work of either a major Anglican theologian or a significant movement within Anglicanism; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including advanced research, writing and communication skills.



THL326 Theological Ethics

This subject explores the connections between Christian theology and practice, philosophical and theological ethics, and ethical discernment in contemporary society. It examines the biblical, theological, ecclesial, philosophical and scientific resources for Christian ethical reflection and action. Distinctive features of Christian ethical reflection, moral judgements and moral practices are surveyed from various theological and historical perspectives. The subject also considers a range of ethical issues from areas such as politics, economics, war, the environment, medicine and sexuality.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to give a critical account of the theoretical nature of theological ethics;
- be able to identify and reflect critically upon key biblical, theological, ecclesial, philosophical and scientific resources for Christian ethical discernment and action;
- be able to identify the main features of the Christian tradition of moral and ethical argument;
- be able to apply the resources of Christian theology and ethical thought to a range of contemporary issues, and to articulate a coherent response;
- be able to reflect critically on their own ethical judgements; and
- be able to demonstrate self-guided learning, including advanced research, writing and communication skills.



THL513 Church History Methodology

This subject aims to foster a self-critical religious historiography by exploring how and why history is written and re-written principally within Christian traditions in the modern era. It seeks to identify the dominant concerns and emphases of past and recent historiography to uncover widely recognised criteria for good history writing; to focus on perennial methodological issues in religious history writing; to survey critically recent Australian religious history writing; and to demonstrate the central part that history as a discipline plays within theological studies.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to show understanding of how emphases and perspectives of religious and wider historiography have changed during the past century;
- be able to demonstrate recognition of how perspectives of history writers are shaped by their culture and religious interests;
- be able to assess the competence of any history writing by formal historiographical standards;
- be able to evaluate critically the perspectives and preoccupations of contemporary works on Australian religious history;
- be able to discuss the problems posed by historical methodology in vindicating or corroborating religious faith;
- be able to evidence enhanced research and historiographical skills.



THL535 Seminar in Biblical and Theological Interpretation

This subject addresses, through focused seminars, in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Biblical interpretation and theology. It traces recent developments in Biblical Studies, with particular emphasis on the development of Scriptural themes and the methods of representative contemporary Biblical scholars.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a current issue in Biblical interpretation or theology
- be able to offer an informed account of the historical and theological relevance of a particular issue in Biblical interpretation or theology
- be able to articulate critically the contemporary significance of a relevant issue in Biblical interpretation or theology.
- be able to analyse and critique the selected topic and its impact upon particular exegetical or theological problems
- be able to evaluate critically the particular research principles and methodology appropriate for a specific issue in Biblical interpretation or theology
- be able to demonstrate appropriate academic engagement and discussion skills through interaction with the subject coordinator and fellow students
- be able to demonstrate independent research, writing, and communication skills through the preparation and presentation of a substantial research essay.



THL542 Political Theology

This subject assists students to survey, learn and deploy Christian perspectives on politics for engagement with contemporary secular political life. Through examination of biblical, historic and recent theological engagement with governance; by familiarization with the roles and structures of Australian polity; and in conversation with contemporary public discussion, students will be encouraged to reflect upon and deeply engage with the political process using the wisdom of theological reflection.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students should:

- be able to recognise the organising themes of right and left political orientations; explain the usage and meaning of this polarity in Australian political discourse (and critique its validity)
- be able to analyse provisionally political and policy discourse in terms of democratic socialist, conservative, liberal and communitarian political philosophies
- be able to describe some mechanisms of governance and some significant political forces in modern Australia
- be able to articulate themes in ancient and modern Christian political thought, including their accounts of the derivation, validity, purpose and limits of political authority
- be able to draw from these themes to account for and to evaluate Australian political institutions; be able to critique Australian political life, and some policy discourse, using the terms of Christian reflection on governance
- be able to offer persuasive, theologically-derived responses to some contemporary political issues