INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
DR 1547

15 Credits / Second Half-Session (11 weeks)

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.
TEACHING TEAM

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
Professor Philip G. Ziegler
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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE TUTOR
Dr Amber Shadle
50/52 College Bounds
Room CB403
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DISCIPLINE ADMINISTRATION
Mrs Lisa Evans
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
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TIMETABLE

- Tuesdays 10h00—11h00 New Kings, NK11
- Thursdays 13h00—14h00 MacRobert, MR303

TUTORIALS (provisional – students select one to attend)

- Thursdays 10h00—11h00 Taylor A19
  11h00—12h00 Weeks 3-4 in MR303 MacRobert,
  Week 5 in MR304 MacRobert,
  Week 6 in MR303 MacRobert,
  Weeks 7-10 in MR314 MacRobert
  15h00—16h00 50-52 College Bounds, CB009

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will introduce students to the essential elements of historic Christian belief as summarised in the ancient creeds of the church. It will introduce students to the nature and practice of theological reflection by examining the central tenets of Christian doctrine in their historical context and contemporary iterations. Critical reflection upon the doctrines of God, creation, the person and work of Christ, the Spirit, and the nature and mission of the church will be central concerns.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course aims to present an opportunity for students to understand and analyse the central tenets of Christian faith as these are set forth in the teaching of the ancient creeds of the church. Critical reflection upon the origin, substance, form and interrelation of these claims will introduce students to the nature of theological reflection and argument, and given opportunity to explore questions related to the historical and contemporary significance of Christian doctrines.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week 1—What is Christian Theology?

❖ Methods, Sources, Tasks, and Norms

Tuesday 16th January Lecture
Thursday 18th January Lecture
Reading: Placher, Essentials of Christian Theology, chapter 1
WCC, Confessing the One Faith, xix-xxxiv

Week 2—‘I Believe in God . . .’

❖ Thinking and Speaking of the God of the Christian Gospel

Tuesday 23rd January Lecture
Thursday 25th January Lecture
Reading: Placher, Essentials of Christian Theology, chapter 2
WCC, Confessing the One Faith, 1-19

Week 3—‘Maker of Heaven and Earth . . .’

❖ The Doctrines of Creation and Providence

Tuesday 30th January Lecture
Thursday 1st February Lecture
Reading: Placher, Essentials of Christian Theology, chapter 3
Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} February First Tutorials

**Week 4—’And in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. . .’**

\textit{Christology I: The Identity of Jesus Christ}

Tuesday 6\textsuperscript{th} February Lecture
Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} February Lecture
Reading: Placher, *Essentials of Christian Theology*, chapter 5, 183-205
WCC, *Confessing the One Faith*, 29-60

Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} February Tutorials

**Week 5—’He Came Down from Heaven. . .’**

\textit{Christology II: The Doctrine of the Incarnation}

Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} February Lecture
Thursday 15\textsuperscript{th} February Lecture
Reading: Placher, *Essentials of Christian Theology*, chapter 5, 183-205
WCC, *Confessing the One Faith*, 29-60

Thursday 15\textsuperscript{th} February Tutorials

**Week 6—’For Us and For Our Salvation . . .’**

\textit{Salvation I: The Doctrine of Sin}

Tuesday 20\textsuperscript{th} February Lecture
Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February Lecture
Reading: Placher, *Essentials of Christian Theology*, chapter 4
WCC, *Confessing the One Faith*, 29-60

Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February Tutorials

**Week 7—’He was Crucified for us Under Pontius Pilate. . .’**

\textit{Salvation II: The Work of Christ}

Tuesday 27\textsuperscript{th} February Lecture
Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} March Lecture
Reading: Placher, Essentials of Christian Theology, chapter 5, 205-220
WCC, Confessing the One Faith, 29-60

Thursday 1st March Tutorials

Week 8—‘And We Believe in the Holy Spirit . . .’
* Pneumatology: The Church’s Doctrine of the Spirit
Tuesday 6th March Lecture
Thursday 8th March Lecture
Reading: * W. Härle, Outline of Christian Doctrine, chapter 10
[provided via MyAberdeen]
WCC, Confessing the One Faith, 61-68

Thursday 8th March Tutorials

Week 9—‘One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church . . .’
* Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church
Tuesday 13th March Lecture
Thursday 15th March Lecture
Reading: Placher, Essentials of Christian Theology, chapter 6
WCC, Confessing the One Faith, 69-78

Thursday 15th March Tutorials

Week 10—‘We affirm One Baptism . . .’
* The Doctrine of the Sacraments and Christian Life
Tuesday 20th March Lecture
Thursday 22nd March Lecture
Reading: Placher, Essentials of Christian Theology, chapter 7
WCC, Confessing the One Faith, 79-84

Thursday 22nd March Last Tutorials

Week 11 —‘We Look for the Resurrection of the Dead. . .’
* Eschatology: The Substance of Christian Hope
Tuesday 27th March Lecture
Thursday 29th March Lecture
Reading: Placher, *Essentials of Christian Theology*, chapter 9
WCC, *Confessing the One Faith*, 85-92

**COURSE READING**

**Require Texts—**


These three texts can be purchased from Blackwell’s bookstore on the High Street for a discounted price. Copies are also reserved in the heavy demand sections of the Sir Duncan Rice University Library (on the first floor) and the Divinity Library in King’s College. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own working copies of these texts as they are integral to the work of the course throughout.

**Recommended Supplemental Reading—**


For concise authoritative treatments of major theological themes and terms, together with helpful bibliographies, consult the following reference texts to be found on the seventh floor of the University Library:

- *Religion Past and Present* Ref 200 Rel
- *The Encyclopaedia of Christianity* Ref 200.3 Chr
- *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* Ref 230 Cro
In preparing for class and in researching essays, students also are encouraged to make use of standard reference material, monographs and journals available in the University Library, the Divinity Library, and online. Detailed suggestions for further reading will be provided as the course proceeds. Please note that Wikipedia is not considered an appropriate independent source of information on the topics treated in this class, and unsupported reference to Wikipedia will not be accepted in any assessed work.

ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will normally be provided within three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

The assessment regime for this course comprises four elements:
- Assessment tutorial presentation (10%)
- 2 x 500 word text analysis papers (2 x 20%=40%)
- 1500-word research essay (50%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen- Organisations-Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

ESSAYS

Detailed instructions for the research essays are set forth on the course website. Essay word lengths are inclusive of footnotes but not of bibliography. Citations should conform to the Chicago Manual of Style:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

- Text analysis paper #1 is due before 15h00 on Friday, February 9th, 2018
- Text analysis paper #2 is due before 15h00 on Friday, March 2nd, 2018
- Final research essay is due before 15h00 on Friday, March 30th, 2018

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

- Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word count.
- Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the course coordinator through MyAberdeen.
- In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student id number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 DRXXXX Essay 1.
- When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 DRXXXX Essay 1.
- Please note: failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.
- Please note: Safeassign text matching software will be used, however the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right to also submit material to TurnitinUK when deemed necessary.

RESIT INFORMATION

- 100% examination (open book and administered via MyAberdeen)

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CGS E3 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.

Please Note: Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.