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.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

Professor Tom Greggs
Office hours: by appointment
Telephone: 01224-272388
E-mail: t.greggs@abdn.ac.uk

Discipline Administration:

Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE

Lectures – Attend All for Weeks 1-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1pm – 2pm</td>
<td>Zoology, ZB16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11am – 12pm</td>
<td>MacRobert, MR304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tutorials – Students MUST be registered and attend the SAME tutorial in Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12pm – 1pm</td>
<td>MacRobert, MR315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1pm – 2pm</td>
<td>King’s College, KCS15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 rich history of Christian thought by considering several representative theological thinkers from the time of the earliest church up to the era of the European Reformation. Students will be introduced to important developments in pre-modern Christian thought and formative theological controversies by close consideration of the work of leading theological figures including, for example, Athanasius, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, Luther and Calvin.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course invites students to explore the rich history of Christian thought through study of a range of important thinkers from the time of the early church up to the era of the Reformation. The development of theological ideas and the unfolding of doctrinal controversies are examined through close consideration of these representative thinkers in their historical contexts.

Intended Learning Outcomes are:
A. Knowledge
1. to grasp the lineaments of the history of Christian thought as represented by the work of selected leading thinkers;
2. to continue to reflect upon and to practice theological reflection and argument;
3. to deepen appreciation of the distinctiveness of Christian belief and its relation to other philosophies and religious traditions;
4. to continue to reflect upon the nature and stakes of contemporary debates regarding central Christian teaching in view of the longer history of the tradition.

B. Discipline-specific Skills
1. to reflect critically upon the doctrines of the Christian faith in their historical formulation;
2. to acquire the capacity to engage theological positions different from one's own with sympathy and integrity;
3. to gain familiarity with different theological methodologies;
4. to acquire a measure of precision in writing through evaluating a specific theological problem.

C. Transferable Skills
1. to explore intellectual problems through collaboration and interaction with other students;
2. to communicate effectively in writing through the completion of set Assignments;
3. to gain skill in gathering and analysing data in both primary and secondary literature;
4. to be able to use IT for research and for keeping apprised of developments within the course;
5. to acquire a measure of discipline in the organisation of one's time;
6. to acquire a sense of the broad contours of a field of research.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Week 1
Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course; Nature of Historical Theology
Lecture 2: Contexts - Bible and Philosophy

Week 2
Lecture 3: Ignatius of Antioch
Lecture 4: Justin Martyr
Tutorial: Justin Martyr on Christians as atheists

Week 3
Lecture 5: Irenaeus of Lyons
Lecture 6: Tertullian
Week 4
Lecture 7: Origen (1): Introduction, biblical exegesis and hermeneutics
Lecture 8: Origen (2): God and trinity
Tutorial: Origen De Principiis on speculative and non-speculative theology & discussion of first assessment

Week 5
Lecture 9: Athanasius (1): Introduction, anthropology and soteriology
Lecture 10: Athanasius (2): Homoousios and the pro-Nicene party

Week 6
Lecture 11: The Cappadocians (1)
Lecture 12: The Cappadocians (2)
Tutorial: Arrive at tutorial with a question, bibliography and reading list, as well as a paragraph outline for the mid-term essay. Tutorial will be on assessment support.

Week 7
Lecture 13: Cyril & Nestorius
Lecture 14: Augustine of Hippo

Week 8
Lecture 15: Anselm of Canterbury
Lecture 16: Thomas Aquinas
Tutorial: The Nicene Creed & Chalcedonian Symbol

Week 9
Lecture 17: Martin Luther
Lecture 18: John Calvin (1)

Week 10
Lecture 19: John Calvin (2)
Lecture 20: Ulrich Zwingli
Tutorial: Arrive at tutorial with a question, bibliography and reading list, as well as a paragraph outline for the mid-term essay. Tutorial will be on assessment support.

Week 11
Lecture 21: Revision & Essay Support
Lecture 22: Course Conclusion & Essay Support
READING LIST
In preparation for each figure studied, students should read the relevant chapter for each of the figures to be discussed from:

- G. R. Evans (ed.), *The First Christian Theologians* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004). There are chapters on: Justin Martyr; Irenaeus; Tertullian; Clement; Origen; Athanasius; The Cappadocians; and Nestorius and Chalcedon.
- G. R. Evans (ed.), *The Medieval Theologians* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001). There are chapters on: Augustine; Anselm; and Aquinas
- Carter Lindberg (ed.), *The Reformation Theologians* (Oxford: Blackwell 2002). There are chapters on: Luther, Calvin and Zwingli

It may be worth purchasing these books. I have also asked for additional copies to be ordered for the library, and for one copy of each to be kept as heavy demand.

Texts for tutorial will be available for download on MyAberdeen.

SECONDARY READING:
A reading list will be uploaded onto MyAberdeen.

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.

1. 1,250 word gobbet exegesis of historical text (25%);
2. 1,250 word mid-term essay (25%);
3. 2,500 word final course essay (50%)

Resit is 1 2hr examination (100%)

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*

*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*
ESSAYS
1) The comment on the set historical text / gobbet will be 1,250 words long.
2) The mid-term essay will be 1,250 words long.
3) The final course essay will be 2,500 words long
Essays which are more than 10% too long or short will be penalised.

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS
1) SET TEXT / GOBBET
Comment historically, theologically and critically on a set gobbet from one of the following (available on MyAberdeen):
a) Justin Martyr
b) Irenaeus of Lyons
c) Tertullian

2) MID-TERM ESSAY
Students should write a 1,250 word essay on one of the following texts, using lecture materials and independent reading from the bibliography on MyAberdeen and through independent research:
a) Critically assess the way in which one early church father engages with the philosophy contemporary to him.
b) Consider critically the extent to which the three-fold order of ministry (deacon, priest and bishop) is present in the letters of Ignatius of Antioch.
c) ‘Origen is a Biblical Theologian.’ Critically assess the extent to which you agree with this statement giving reasons for your answer.
d) Outline the Trinitarian theology of the Cappadocians, and consider critically the extent to which modern appropriations of their theology reflect their original concerns.
e) Explain Athanasius’ use of the term *homoousios*, and evaluate the extent to which this term points to the central concern of Athanasius’ theology.

2) FINAL COURSE ESSAY
Select one essay. Answer the question demonstrating you have done independent research and offering comment on the context of the theologians discussed. Your answer should also contain evaluation. You should not write on the theologian on whom you wrote your set text / gobbet answer. The essay choices are:
a) Compare and contrast the theological method of two theologians studied, taking their contextual settings into consideration.
b) Compare and contrast the Christology of two theologians studied, assessing the impact of their historical context on their theologies.
c) Compare and contrast the approaches to the trinity in two theologians studied, assessing the extent to which they reflect or depart from their contextual settings.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

1. 1,250 word gobbet exegesis of historical text (25%): Thursday 15th October
2. 1,250 word mid-term essay (25%): Thursday 5th November
3. 2,500 word final course essay (50%): Thursday 26th November

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit one paper copy to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

**EXAMINATION**

This course is entirely comprised of continuous assessment.

**RESIT INFORMATION**

100% examination: 2 hrs

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CAS 6 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/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).*