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
Tuesday 2-4pm, King’s College, KCS13

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course allows a student to do in-depth study in a specific area in Divinity or Religious Studies. The specific content of the course may vary, but the focus will include work on enhancing research skills and the completion of an academic research paper. Students interested in pursuing such a course of study need to obtain the permission of a supervisor and of the Head of School. In this half-session, the course will be run as a series of readings on the theme of Ecclesiology, led by Professor Greggs.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The general aims of the course include:
  • To provide an opportunity for students to contribute to the design of a course of study, and to give some shape to the content of the course material.
  • To enable members of staff to offer a course of instruction that responds to immediate student interest
  • To assist students to develop independent research skills (bibliographic work, analytical skill)
  • To foster the capacity to write a longer research paper (constructing an argument, developing a structured thesis)

Students participating in the course will achieve the following:
  • Acquire substantial knowledge in a specific area of knowledge
  • Develop enhanced independent research skills
  • Develop a greater capacity to write an extended academic essay
  • Foster greater confidence to function as an independent researcher

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Themes and subjects of study will be negotiated within the class. The following is an indicative arc of the figures and subjects covered. All texts will be uploaded at least a week in advance of the class. Discussion in class will revolve around the set text for the week.
Week 1: Introduction to Course, Assessment and Topic
Week 2: Cyprian on Ecclesial Hierarchy & Augustine and the Donatist Controversy
Week 3: Thomas on the Sacraments
Week 4: Luther on The Freedom of the Christian
Week 5: Zwingli on Holy Communion
Week 6: Wesley on the Catholic Spirit
Week 7: Schleiermacher on the Church
Week 8: Bonhoeffer on the Church
Week 9: Gunton on the Ecclesiology & Hardy on Socio-poiesis
Week 10: Greggs on the Topography of Ecclesiology
Week 11: Revision & Discussion of Essays

READING LIST
In preparation for class, students should read carefully the texts set for discussion.

SECONDARY READING:
A reading list will be uploaded onto MyAberdeen. To foster independent learning and encourage research, students will be asked to produce negotiated bibliographies for their topic.

ASSESSMENT

1. One 1000 word essay (30%)
2. One 2500 word essay (70%)

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.
ESSAYS
Word counts for the two essays are given above. Essays which are more than 10% too long or short will be penalised.

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS
1) 1000 word essay
Write on one of the following:

a) Critically assess the extent to which the cultural setting of any one theologian affects and determines their ecclesiology.
b) Offer a critical appraisal of one theologian’s approach to EITHER the Eucharist OR baptism.

c) ‘The essence of the church is its hierarchy.’ Critically interrogate this claim with reference to one theologian.

2) 2,500 word essay.
Students should negotiate the title of this essay in dialogue with the course co-ordinator, producing a critical bibliography and an outline of the argument. The title and bibliography must be approved with the tutor by week 9’s class.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
1. 1,000 word essay: Thursday 29th October
2. 2,500 word essay: 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 C7s 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/.