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 Organisation 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

Dr. Brian Brock
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Discipline Administration:

Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
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TIMETABLE

Friday 2pm – 4pm  Taylor, A27

_Students can view their university timetable at_


COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows the account of creation in the biblical book of Genesis in order to explore the theological account of human moral action it offers. By examining the questions raised in the different movements of the creation story, the course lays out the basic structure of Christian moral theology. The aim is to develop a theological approach to the fundamentals of Christian ethics, clarifying its relevance for issues of sexuality and procreation, economics, work, governance, health, animals and the environment. The course offers a broad theoretical framework for thinking about the whole scope of ethical questions in contemporary society.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to enable students to gain an overview of Christian ethics, and to increase their ability to interpret scripture in the context of Christian ethics. It should:

- Enable students to understand the interconnections of theological, scientific, philosophical and literary discourses in relation to ethical questions.
- Learn how to interpret and work with complex biblical texts within a variety of ethical contexts.
- Facilitate student’s ability to recognize and deploy theological argumentation.
LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week 1 (Sept 18): Introduction and overview

Week 2 (Sept 25): Discovering our creatureliness
  Reading: Introduction, and chs. 1-2.

Week 3 (Oct 2): Image of God, dominion
  Reading: chs. 3-5.

Week 4 (Oct 9): Sabbath, vocation, worship
  Reading: chs. 6-8.

Week 5 (Oct 16): Work, Cities, building
  Reading: chs. 9 and 23. [St. Andrews cathedral visit, Hauerwas participating]

Week 6 (Oct 23): Death, violence, and political authority
  Reading: chs. 20 and 25 and Stanley Hauerwas, War and the American Difference ch. 5 [Hauerwas participating]

Week 7 (Oct 30): Economics, garbage
  Reading: chs. 10-11.

Week 8 (Nov 6): Naming, animals and persons
  Reading: chs. 12-14.

Week 9 (Nov 12): Sexual desire, marriage, children
Week 10 (Nov 20): The Fall, death and killing  
   Reading: chs. 17-19.

Week 11 (Nov 27): The public, political authority and violence  
   Reading: Wannenwetsch, “Representing the Absent in the City”, and Ellul, *The Theological Foundation of Law*, ch. 3.

Week 12 (Dec 4): Overview and exam review

**TEACHING ARRANGEMENTS**

This is a seminar course. We will discuss the readings for each week for the better part of the class, and end with a lecture outlining some of the essential points from the reading. Students should:

1. Complete all required reading before the beginning of each class.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the reading by regular attendance and bringing responses to each class.
3. Complete one research paper.

Regular attendance is expected, as is the attempt to engage in discussion of the set text.

**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.

1st Attempt: 1 three-hour written examination (60%); continuous assessment (40%). Continuous assessment will be by way of one 3,000-3,500 word essay.
Resit: 1 three-hour written examination (100%).

**Formative Assessment and Feedback Information**

Formative assessment occurs orally throughout the course based on students' participation in the seminars, their preparation and contribution to the discussions.

Students will obtain prompt and detailed feedback on their submitted essay, and if requested, on their class contribution and exam.

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

*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

**ESSAYS**

The course as a whole has displayed the various ways in which the doctrine of creation can be understood to be relevant for Christian ethics. In the essay each student will write an in-depth report on one theme in Christian ethics by engaging with at least one of the texts listed below. Other texts may be suitable for the paper, such as the books listed as optional readings in week six, but should be chosen in consultation with the course co-ordinator.

The aim of the paper will be to delve more deeply into one of the themes covered in the course reader. We will talk about themes that interest students in the first session, and students should be reading and thinking about their chosen theme for the whole term. The first task of the paper is to summarize and exposit the relevant passages in the chosen text. The student should then go on to explain whether the readings are correct or have said all that is needed about the topic, indicating what might needed to be added or criticized about the approaches to the topics as addressed in the text or texts which are being analysed in the paper.
The paper should be 3,000-3,500 word essay, using footnotes and a standard system of citation.

The student may choose any one of these topics, analysing the suggested reading or proposing an alternative.

**Theology and Translation**


**Creation and God’s Word**

Christoph Schwöbel, “God as Conversation: Reflections on a Theological Ontology of Communicative Relations,” in Jaques Haers and Peter de Mey eds, *Theology and Conversation: Towards a Relational Theology*, pp. 43-67

**Image of God**

Ian A. McFarland, *The Divine Image: Envisioning The Invisible God*

**Dominion/fertility**


**Sabbath**

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.1, pp. 212-234

Norman Wirzba, *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*

**Vocation**

Paul Ramsey, “Christian Vocation,” chapter 5, *Basic Christian Ethics*

**Genesis and the church**


G. K. Beale, *The Temple and the Church’s Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God*
Work

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.4, pp. 470-564

David H. Jensen, *Responsive Labor: A Theology of Work*

Property/economics

D. Stephen Long, *Divine Economy: Theology and the Market*

Albino Barerra, *Economic Compulsion and Christian Ethics*, Ch. 3, pp. 77-110

Debra Satz: *Why Some Things Should not be For Sale: The Moral Limits of Markets*

Ecology

Michael Banner “Why and How not to Value the Environment” from *Christian Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems*, pp. 163-203

Michael Northcott, *A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming*

Norman Wirzba: *The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age*

Animals

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.1 pp. 205-212

Anat Pick, *Creaturely Poetics: Animality and Vulnerability in Fiction and Film*

David Clough, *On Animals: Vol. 1, Systematic Theology*

Personhood

Berndt Wannenwetsch “Angels with Clipped Wings: The Disabled as Key for the Recognition of Personhood” Brock and Swinton eds., *Theology, Disability and the New Genetics: Why Science Needs the Church*

James Mumford, *Ethics at the Beginning of Life: A Phenomenological Critique*

Man and Woman

Karl Barth *Church Dogmatics* III.4, pp. 116-240
Christopher Roberts, *Creation and Covenant: The Significance of Sexual Difference in the Moral Theology of Marriage*

Jana Bennett, *Water is Thicker than Blood: An Augustinian Theology of Marriage and Singleness*

**The Fall and original sin**
- Martin Luther, *Luther’s Works, vol 1. Lectures on Genesis*, pp. 146-162
- Joseph Ratzinger, *In the Beginning: A Catholic Understanding of the Creation and the Fall*, Ch 4, pp. 59-77

**What does it mean to die?**
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.4 pp. 565-594
- Helmut Thelicke, *Death and Life*
- George Pattison, *Heidegger on Death: A Critical Theological Essay*

**On Murder**
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.4 pp. 324-333, 397-436
- Daniel M. Bell Jr., *Just War as Christian Discipleship: Recentering the Tradition in the Church rather than the State*

**Parents and children**
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.4 pp. 240-285
- David Matzko McCarthy, *Sex and Love in the Home*

**Cities, technology and politics**
- Jaques Ellul, *The Meaning of the City*, ch 1, pp. 1-43
- Brent Waters, *From Human to Posthuman*, and *Christian Moral Theology in the Emerging Technoculture*

**Political Authority, Judgment and Punishment**
- O’Donovan, *Ways of Judgement*, ch 4, pp. 52-66
- William Cavanaugh, *Torture and Eucharist*
- Wannenwetsch “Representing the Absent in the City” In *God, Truth and Witness: Engaging Stanley Hauerwas*, pp. 167-192

**War and peace**
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III.4 pp. 450-470

Alternative option: in their paper students may theologically analyse one of the following documentary films, explaining how the doctrine of creation sheds light on the ethical questions raised by the film. The paper must draw on either the course texts or relevant texts in theological ethics:

1) “Project NIM” (2012)
2) “Blackfish” (2013)
3) “Our Daily Bread” (2005)
5) “Wasteland” (2010)

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

The paper is due on **27 November 2015**.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet 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

The exam will be a three hour written examination. It will consist of at least ten questions on the main thinkers and themes covered in the class, of which the student will answer three.

RESIT INFORMATION

1 three-hour written examination (100%).

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/.