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
Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey
KCF2, Kings College, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3UB
E: ksjeffrey@abdn.ac.uk
T: 01334 653196 [Monday and Friday]
T: 01224 274276 [Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday]

COURSE TEAM
Rev Prof Chris Brittain
Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey
Dr Leon van Ommen
Rev Prof John Swinton

Discipline Administration:
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE

Classes: Monday 16 to Friday 20 January 2017, 9.00am-12n; 1.00pm-4.00pm

VENUE

Seminar Room, Humanities Manse, College Bounds

CALENDAR

Week 1: 26 December: Reading
Week 2: 2 January: Reading
Week 3: 9 January: Reading

Week 4: 16 January: Course at Aberdeen University

Week 5: 23 January:
Week 6: 30 January:
Week 7: 6 February:
Week 8: 13 February: essay due on 17 February

Week 9: 20 February:
Week 10: 27 February:
Week 11: 6 March:
Week 12: 13 March: essay due on 17 March

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Christian practices are not activities as such, and neither are they religious duties. They are, rather, patterns of communal life within the Christian tradition that address fundamental human needs by revealing the presence and power of God. Practices point beyond the individualism of our present culture and disclose the social qualities of the Christian life. They are ultimately not our practices, but forms of participation in the practice of God.

This course will explore the role and the effect which a number of Christian practices have played in the lives of local congregations. Students will have the opportunity to reflect upon the potential role of these practices in their own areas of ministry.
INTENDED AIMS
This course will explore a number of the practices of the church and will examine their role in the life of the contemporary church, and their effect upon local congregations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course students should, at an appropriate level, be able to demonstrate the ability to:

To reflect critically and theologically upon Christian practices

To deepen understanding of the role Christian practices play within the life of the church

To develop analytical skills for assessing the issues that surround the renewal of Christian practices in the church today

PRE COURSE READING
Please read the texts for each seminar listed under Readings. (See below)
They can be found on MyAberdeen. Please bring a bible with you to the seminars.

A book we shall use throughout the module and which you may like to buy is

Preparatory work for Prayer Seminar
We shall work during the prayer seminar with the students’ own material. Therefore, you are asked to provide transcripts of all the prayers you have led in two worship services. If possible, an audio recording may be submitted together with the written transcripts.

In addition, please provide an overview of the structure/order of service of the particular worship services in which the transcribed prayers took place, and please mention the church denomination.

This will not only be material we will work with during the seminar, but with your permission it will be used in a research project the seminar leader (Léon van Ommen) is conducting.

Please send the transcript of the prayers, order of service and recordings, if possible, to leon.vanommen@abdn.ac.uk before 31 December 2016.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask! Thanks in advance for your cooperation. LvO
SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Monday 16 September:

9.00am-12n: Christian Practices: An Introduction  Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Readings:


1.00pm-4.00pm: Community  Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Readings:

Acts 2 v42-47; 4 v32-35


Tuesday 6 September:

9.00am-12n: Rest  Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Readings:

Genesis 1 v31 – 2 v3; Exodus 20 v8-11; Exodus 31 v12-18; Deuteronomy 5 v12-15; Mark 2 v23-3 v6


Eugene H. Peterson, Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1987) , p63-83.

1.00pm-4.00pm: Sacraments  Dr Leon van Ommen

Readings:


**Wednesday 7 September:**

9.00am-12n: Hospitality

Readings:

Genesis 18 v1-8; Matthew 25 v34-45


1.00pm-4.00pm: Reconciliation

Readings:


**Thursday 8 September:**

9.00am-12n: Suffering and Healing

Readings:

Walter Brueggemann, ‘The formfulness of Grief’

John Goldingay, ‘Theology and Healing’

Adam Welton. ‘How do we understand suffering through a theology of the cross?’
1.00pm-4.00pm: Prayer

Dr Leon van Ommen

Readings:


Friday 9 September:

9.00am-12n: Dying Well

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Readings:

Psalm 22; Lk 23 v34; Lk 23 v43; Jn 19 v26-27; Matt 27 v46; Jn 19 v28; Jn 10 v30; Lk 23 v46


1.00pm-4.00pm: Discernment

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

Readings:

1 Kings 3 v9, 11; 2 Cor 12 v7-10; Col 1 v9-10; 1 John 4 v1; Heb 5 v14


READING LIST

1. Practices

http://www.practicingourfaith.org/what-are-christian-practices


Diana Butler Bass, From Nomads to Pilgrims: Stories from Practicing Congregations (Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2006) , p1-6

Diana Butler Bass, The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church (Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2004) , p57-68

Diana Butler Bass, Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2006)

John Swinton and Harriet Mowat, Practical Theology and Qualitative Research (London: SCM, 2006) , p17-25

2. Community

Gilbert Bilezikian, Community 101: Reclaiming the Local church as Community of Oneness (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1997)


Jean Vanier, Community and Growth: Our Pilgrimage Together (Toronto: Griffin Press Limited, 1979)

Eberhard Arnold, We Live in Community (Farmington,PA: Plough Publishing House, 1995)

Charles E. Moore (ed), Called to Community: The Life Jesus Wants for His People (New York: Plough Publishing House, 2016)

3. Rest


4. Sacraments


World Council of Churches, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*. Faith and Order Paper no.111. Geneva, 1982. This report of the WCC is also known as the Lima report. It marks a watershed in the ecumenical dialogue on the sacraments and ministry.

5. Hospitality


Tim Chester, *A Meal with Jesus: discovering grace, community and mission around the table* (Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 2011)


Mike Dietrich, *Invited home: Hospitality and the Heart of God*


6. **Reconciliation**


Hunsinger, Deborah van Deusen, *Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Gospel and Pastoral Care* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015)

Mayo, Maria, *The Limits of Forgiveness* (Fortress, 2015).


7. **Suffering and Healing**

Tony Jones and Brian McClaren, *Cancer and Theology* (Elbow Books)


Greene-McCreight, Kathyrn, *Darkness is My Only Companion* (Brazos Press, 2006)

Margaret E. Mohrmann and Mark J. Hanson, *Pain Seeking Understanding: Suffering, medicine and faith* (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 1999)


### 8. Prayer

An already classic text on prayer in the New Testament, it points also to implications for the church today.

Again another perspective than a theological one comes from this collection of sociological essays.

Like Cullmann’s, this published series of three lectures is a classic text in biblical prayer studies, this time from the Old Testament.

An insightful text on prayer from a well-known and respected feminist theologian.

A helpful book about prayer practices in pastoral care, discussing both the practice of prayer of ordained ministers and of the congregation.

9. Dying Well


10. Discernment


**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: 100% continuous assessment consisting of:

A. Seminar participation / contribution (10%)
B. Literature Review (2000 words) (30%)
C. A Theological Essay (4000 words) (60%)

Essay lengths include quotations and footnotes.

Students should note that they will be penalised for work that is either too long or too short.

Resit: 100% continuous assessment consisting of a 6500 word essay on a topic to be set by the Course Coordinator

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

**SEMINAR PARTICIPATION**

Your participation in the seminars during the week will be assessed according to your attendance, evidence of your reading preparation and your overall engagement and contribution to class discussions, and will be graded accordingly.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Write a 2000 word Literature Review on the subject of any ONE of the Practices considered during the course.

**ESSAY**

Using the method of the Pastoral Cycle, (Experience; Analysis; Reflection; Action) write a 4000 word critical essay that examines the manifestation of any ONE of the Christian Practices, considered during the course, within your ministry context.
(You need to choose a Practice that is different from the one upon which you based your Literature Review)

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Seminar Participation worth 10%:
Throughout week of course, 16-20 January 2017

Literature Review worth 30%:
Friday 17 February 2017 at 3pm

Essay worth 60%:
Friday 17 March 2017 at 3pm

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:

**Hard Copy:**
One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an **Assessment cover sheet**, – this should have your ID number **CLEARLY** written on the cover sheet, with **NO** name and **NO** signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** filled in – and should be delivered to the **Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds**.

**Electronic Copy:**
One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (for instructions please see [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/) )

Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking 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 Viking Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

**Distance Learning Students Only** – Please note that to submit a hard copy is not necessary; an electronic submission will suffice.

*Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark.*

*N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.*