SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

DR1099/DR2067 & DR101A/DR2080 – THEOLOGY FROM JESUS TO CALVIN: THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

15 credits: 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.

COURSE CODES
DR1099: level 1 on campus;
DR2067: level 2 on campus;
DR101A: level 1 distance learning;
DR2080: level 2 distance learning.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Dr Petre Maican
Contact information TBC
Discipline Administration:
Mrs Lisa Evans
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 273986
divrs@abdn.ac.uk

Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key institutional policies which been made available within MyAberdeen ([https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies](https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies)). These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful to you throughout your studies. They contain important information and address issues such as what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint and how seriously the University takes your feedback.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with this course guide, in which School specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the University’s Infohub webpage or by visiting the Infohub.

TIMETABLE

**LECTURES – ATTEND ALL WEEKS 1-11 (7-17)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>ZB16, Zoology Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>MR304, MacRobert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TUTORIALS – CHOOSE ONE AND ATTEND FOR WEEKS 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 (8, 10, 12, 14, 16)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>MR315, MacRobert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>MR315, MacRobert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>C17, TAYLOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>19:30-20:30</td>
<td>via Blackboard Collaborate – Christian and Religious Studies Flexible Programme students only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students can view their university timetable
at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How did the Jesus movement turn into the church? At what point did the church decide Jesus was God? How can God be one and three? What is heresy and why did it matter? How did Christianity relate to surrounding philosophy? Did theology develop and change? What are the sources for Christian thought and doctrine? The course introduces students to these questions through the rich history of Christian thought by considering a number of representative theological thinkers, such as Origen, Athanasius, Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Luther and Calvin. Assessment is through two short essays and a final essay.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This 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. The intended learning outcomes of the course are:

A. Knowledge:
   a. to grasp the lineaments of the history of Christian thought as represented by the work of selected leading thinkers;
   b. to continue to reflect upon and to practice theological reflection and argument;
   c. to deepen appreciation of the distinctiveness of Christian belief and its relation to other philosophies and religious traditions; and
   d. 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:
   a. to reflect critically upon the doctrines of the Christian faith in their historical formulation;
b. to acquire the capacity to engage theological positions different from one’s own with sympathy and integrity;
c. to gain familiarity with different theological methodologies; and
d. to acquire a measure of precision in writing through evaluating a specific theological problem.

C. Transferable Skills:
   a. to explore intellectual problems through collaboration and interaction with other students;
b. to communicate effectively in writing through the completion of set assignments;
c. to gain skill in gathering and analysing data in both primary and secondary literature;
d. to be able to use IT for research and for keeping apprised of developments within the course;
e. to acquire a measure of discipline in the organisation of one’s time; and
f. to acquire a sense of the broad contours of a field of research.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week 1
Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course & The Nature of Historical Theology
Lecture 2: Contexts – Bible & 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, Scripture & Christology
Lecture 8: Origen (2): God, Trinity & Salvation
Tutorial: Origen, On First Principles (speculative and non-speculative theology) & discussion of gobbet exegesis of a historical text.
Week 5
Lecture 9: Athanasius (1): Introduction, Soteriology & Christology
Lecture 10: Athanasius (2): *Homoousios* & 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. The tutorial will be on essay 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: Ulrich Zwingli

Week 10
Lecture 19: John Calvin
Lecture 20: Any Necessary Catching Up
Tutorial: Arrive at tutorial with a question, bibliography and reading list, as well as a paragraph outline for the final course essay. The tutorial will be on essay support.

Week 11:
Lecture 21: Assessment Support & Response to Remaining Questions
Lecture 22: Course Conclusion & Assessment 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; Origen; Athanasius; The Cappadocians; 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 on Heavy Demand. Texts for tutorials are available for download on MyAberdeen.

SECONDARY READING
A reading list has been 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.

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.

Level 1 -DR1099 & DR101A:
  1. 1000 word -word gobbet exegesis of historical text (25%)
  2. 1000 word mid-term essay (25%)
  3. 2000 word final course essay (50%)

Level 2 – DR2067 & DR2080:
  1. 1250-word gobbet exegesis of historical text (25%)
  2. 1250-word mid-term essay (25%)
  3. 2500-word final course 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

Essays which are more than 10% too long or too short (including quotations and footnotes, but excluding bibliography) will be penalised.

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS

1. Set Historical 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; or
   c. Tertullian.

2. Mid-term essay

   Students should write an essay on one of the following, 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.

3. Final course essay
Students should write a final essay on one of the following, answering the question demonstrating they have done independent research and offering comment on the context of the theologians discussed. The answer should also contain evaluation. Students should not write on the theologian on whom they wrote their set historical 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. Gobbet exegesis of historical text (25%): Thursday 11th October.
2. Mid-term essay (25%): Thursday 1st November.
3. Final course essay (50%): Thursday 22nd November.

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

Level 1 Resit: One essay of 2500 words (100%)
Level 2 Resit: One 3000-word essay (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.