



London School
of Theology

MA in Practical Theology & Ministry Module Syllabus

MM7001

Module Title: Practical Theology and Reflective Practice

40 credits

Syllabus:

The module includes the following topics:

- The nature of practical theology as an academic discipline
- The intersection of theology and ministry
- The nature of intra-, inter- or multi-disciplinary enquiry
- The use of Scripture and tradition in practical theology
- The nature of reflective practice and theological reflection on ministry

MM7002

Module Title: Dissertation Research and Design

20 credits

Syllabus:

Students will engage with elements of academic research and writing, such as discovering a topic, developing a research question, a hypothesis and a thesis. The module explores various research methods with an emphasis on the practice of ministry and/or professional practice. Furthermore, students will develop knowledge and skills for selecting appropriate literature and employing the proper conventions of academic writing. The module will enable students to conceive and design a research proposal.

MM7003

Module Title: Dissertation

60 credits

Syllabus:

Independent study, research, and writing supervised by an allocated supervisor with expertise in the relevant field(s).

MM7004

Module Title: **Spirituality in Ministry**

20 credits

Syllabus:

This module will deal with authors, texts and topics such as: the nature and practice of prayer with particular reference to key texts from Teresa of Avila; the experience of the dark night of the soul in John of the Cross and its relationship to acedia and desolation; practices of personal and ministry discernment in conversation with the Ignatian tradition and especially Ignatius' *Rules for Discernment*; the apophatic tradition as crystallised in *The Cloud of Unknowing*; contemporary approaches to centring prayer and its possible relationship with practices of Christian mindfulness; the practice of spiritual direction; implications of these authors, texts and topics for contemporary ministerial and ecclesial formation.

MM7005

Module Title: Pastoral Psychology

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module engages with the following topics:

- The nature of the unconscious and core areas in mental well-being such as worthiness, attachment, sexuality and loss.
- Living with guilt and shame vis a vis the nature of betrayal and the meaning of forgiveness.
- The drama of adolescence, mid-life or ageing.
- The roots of sorrow and meaning of loss.
- Bearing the unbearable (trauma).
- The capacity to love (the way a person is formed as an individual in community etc.).
- The meaning of disability.
- Approaches to pastoral psychology
- A theological understanding of pastoral contexts.

MM7006

Module Title: Education in Context

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module engages with topics including, but not necessarily limited to, such examples as:

- An overview of educational philosophy
- Developing a theology of education
- The foci of education (including: academic, competencies, spiritual formation, character education)
- Understanding educational ministry contexts, including:
 - Religious education in schools
 - Education in faith-based communities
 - Discipleship as education
 - Formal theological education
 - Non-formal theological education
 - Educating children and youth
 - Adult education
- Trends and debates in educational practice
- Lifelong learning and reflective practice in education
- Culture(s) and education
- Character and virtue education in ministry contexts
- Understanding learning cycles
- Educational research

MM7007

Module Title: Ministry in Context

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module includes the following topics:

- Contextual analysis of ministry
- Review of the theological reflection and reflective practice
- Identification of a theme, practice or issue for reflection
- Presentation of a theme, practice or issue to peers and the leadership of a learning experience

MM7008

Module Title: Practicum

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module includes the following topics

- Contextual analysis of ministry
- Review of the theological reflection and reflective practice

Identification of a theme, practice or issue for reflection

- Presentation of a theme, practice or issue to peers and the leadership of a learning experience

MM7009

Module Title: Leadership and the Public Square

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module will include the following topics:

- An exploration and evaluation of leadership theories and models.
- An analysis of how practical theology might inform models of Christian public leadership.
- A discussion of the discourse of public theology and its relationship to practical theology for ministry
- An exploration of a number of contemporary leadership issues (for example, such as power, gender and ethics) and how a Christian public leadership model/theory informed by public theology might respond.

MM7010

Module Title: Empirical Research Methods

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module includes the following topics

- An overview of empirical research in practical theology
- Research ethics
- Qualitative research design and methods, including digital ethnography / netnography
- Quantitative research design and methods, especially survey design
- Examples of data analysis
- Examples of the presentation of research in academic publications
- The impact of empirical research on ministry practices