



London School
of Theology

MA in Theological Studies

Module Syllabus

MI7601

Module Title: Sources and Methods in Theology

40 credits

Syllabus:

Students will be introduced to the widely recognised sources of theology (Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience, Church in Community) so that they can develop their own understanding of theological method and the role these sources might play. More specifically, the module addresses issues in the task of theology such as the nature and authority of Scripture, the role of tradition, the function of reason including engagement with relevant aspects of philosophy for theology, the place of personal experience and the Church in community. Throughout the module and in assessments, students will be encouraged to recognise and account for their own assumptions and social location and how these impact the theological task.

MT7603

Module Title: Christology Ancient and Modern

20 credits

Syllabus:

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

- Introduction: Scope, Issues, Methods
- The Jesus of History and the Gospels
- The Christology of the Apostle Paul
- The Christologies of the Early Christian Centuries
- Jesus and the Spirit—Trinitarian Considerations
- Jesus and the Spirit—Spirit Christologies
- Contemporary Perspectives—Eschatological Christology
- Contemporary Perspectives—Feminist and African Christologies
- Contemporary Perspectives—Non-Christian Christologies
- Contemporary Perspectives—Christ and Creation

MI7005

Module Title: The Gospel of Mark

20 credits

Syllabus:

This module will provide students the opportunity to investigate and enter into dialogue with key issues in the study of the Gospel of Mark, such as the Gospel's literary techniques, Christology, the use of the Old Testament and Jewish traditions, discipleship, purity and defilement and Mark's *Theologia Crucis* (theology of the Cross). The module will examine the interpretation of specific texts, in dialogue with scholarship, with the aim of developing students' knowledge and skills of analysing and critically evaluating their own theories and those of others. Throughout the module students will be encouraged to reflect on how their own presuppositions and approach to theology (their theological method) have contributed to their interpretation of this Gospel.

MI7007

Module Title: The Holy Spirit in Luke–Acts and Paul

20 credits

Syllabus:

After setting the context, particularly in terms of the Spirit in the Old Testament and in inter-testamental Judaism, the module will consider the being of the Spirit before going on to discuss various roles of the Spirit as presented in Luke–Acts and in Paul’s letters (mainly Galatians, 1–2 Corinthians and Romans). These roles will include but not be limited to those relevant to encounter with God, suffering, mission, ethics, prophecy, worship, prayer, and so forth. Attention will be given to current New Testament interpretation and relevant ecclesial debates.

MI7201

Module Title: Trinitarian Personhood

20 credits

Syllabus:

Students will engage in Trinitarian personhood through the lens of Scripture, experience, reason, community and tradition. Students will also critically engage in topics such as the doctrine of the Trinity in both its western and eastern forms, its historical and theological development, imago Dei, human personhood in its historical and theological development, monism-dualism debates, contemporary challenges re human personhood, possible Trinitarian personhood theological solutions.

MI7301

Module Title: Social Justice: Biblical Themes

20 credits

Syllabus:

In keeping with the priority afforded Scripture in an evangelical construction of theology, this module will commence by orientating the student to the particular discipline of addressing issues of social justice with a particular focus upon the use of Scripture. A brief survey of evangelical social engagement will also be attempted.

Topics to be addressed may include: the hermeneutical issues involved in the interpretation of Scripture in its ancient context(s) and seeking relevance in contemporary contexts; retrieving the exodus as a theological resource, examining jubilee as developing biblical theme, determining the identity of 'the poor', biblical teaching on poverty and wealth, the accusation of biblical anti-semitism as an expression of Christian injustice, slavery in the Bible, reading the Bible with the educationally, socially or politically disadvantaged especially with reference to their rights and their loss of freedom, and experiences of inequality, injustice, oppression, and marginality, description, prescription and aspiration in Luke's account of church origins, and the Kingdom of God.

MI7303

Module Title: Social Justice: Current Issues

20 credits

Syllabus:

Topics to be addressed may include the Christian in politics, faith at the interface with political decision-making, a critical analysis of church and para-church agencies devoted to issues of social justice, including the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Christian Aid, Tear Fund, World Vision and The Jubilee Centre, and a critical engagement with policy statements and policy documents generated by such agencies. Current issues in social justice, such as liberty, egalitarianism, feminism, just war, racism, and justice, will be addressed.

MI7801

Module Title: Christian Worship

20 credits

Syllabus:

The module begins with a critical study of Christian worship, its essence and core elements. Students will engage in topics such as liturgical theology, Christian ritual and formation, cultural and theological influences of worship, role of congregational song in Christian formation, and the evolution of liturgy. Primary sources and case studies are examined in some detail enabling students to combine theological method and worship studies.

MI7803

Module Title: Issues in Contemporary Christian Worship

20 credits

Syllabus:

Topics may include:

- Participation in worship
- Technology and worship
- Worship industry and consumerism
- Worship, mission and social action
- Worship and contextualisation

These will be approached through the lenses of scripture, tradition, reason, experience and community, as appropriate. They will look at a variety of case studies as relevant to the topic, such as Mega church worship, Taizé, Liturgical worship, Pentecostal worship, Iona, Emerging worship etc.

MI7309

Module Title: Contemporary Ecclesiology

20 credits

Syllabus:

The teaching and learning will encompass issues such as Biblical models, ideal and concrete debate, ecclesiology and ethnography discussion, digital ecclesiology and non-western approaches.

MT7400

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 qualitative research but with some attention to quantitative research. The importance of recognising and accounting for one's own assumption and social location in theological research and writing will be addressed. 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.

MI7401

Module Title: Dissertation

60 credits

Syllabus

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