

## **School of Divinity**

**Head of School** Professor K M Brown

### **Degree Programmes**

Graduate Diploma: Divinity

M.Litt.: Divinity

M.Phil.: Divinity

### **Programme Requirements**

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits from modules DI5001 - DI5499, save that in exceptional circumstances the Head of School may permit a student to take up to 40 of these credits in a 5000-level module offered by another School.

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for Graduate Diploma plus a Dissertation of not more than 15,000 words.

M.Phil.: 120 credits as for Graduate Diploma and a Dissertation of not more than 40,000 words.

### **Modules**

#### **DI5102 The Bible and Contemporary Issues**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module will deal with the interpretation of the Bible (both testaments, but with emphasis on the New Testament) in a variety of contexts in the contemporary world, and will require students to reflect on the relationship between historical-critical study of the Bible and contemporary contextual interpretation of the Bible. The focus will be on the study of specific biblical texts and themes, studied with reference to both standard historical-critical work on them and examples of contemporary contextual interpretation. The methodological problems of contextual interpretation for critical biblical research will be encountered.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar, plus individual supervision sessions.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

#### **DI5103 History of New Testament Interpretation**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module seeks to develop understanding of different methods of interpretation used by selected major exegetes during the Christian era, with special attention to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The relationship between changing methods of interpretation and changing intellectual and philosophical currents will be of particular interest. After some analysis of exegetical methods in the patristic, mediaeval and Reformation periods, the rise of modern historical criticism will be considered in detail. Modern alternatives to the historical-critical approach (structuralism, rhetorical criticism, feminist interpretations, liberation hermeneutics) will also be studied, with particular attention to their influence on current New Testament research.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar and fortnightly tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

## **Divinity - 5000 Level modules**

### **DI5105 Johannine Literature and Theology : Greek Text**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module will focus on current research on the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters. Selected texts will be translated from Greek and studied in detail with a view towards developing a more comprehensive understanding of the socio-historical situation of the Johannine 'community' and the main theological themes reflected in the writings. Issues to be considered will typically include (i) the parting of the Johannine church from Judaism; (ii) the relationship of Johannine Christianity to the rest of early Christianity; (iii) the significance of the ascent/descent motif in Johannine Christology; (iv) the distinctive characteristics of Johannine ideas about salvation, sacraments, ethics and the nature of the Spirit/Paraclete. A shift in Johannine thought from the Gospel to the Letters will also be explored, and methodological questions regarding critical study of 'the Johannine community' will be raised.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One tutorial, one two hour seminar and occasional lectures.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5111 Social-Scientific Approaches to New Testament**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module seeks to explore a range of social-scientific perspectives and traditions (ranging from sociology to anthropology) that have been used as resources for New Testament interpretation. Students will also acquire experience of applying social-scientific insights in exegesis of selected New Testament texts, and appraise social-scientific illumination of social aspects of early Christianity. Issues addressed include the illumination of social aspects of early Christianity. Issues addressed include the sociology of knowledge and its impact on our understanding of the early Christian movement and investigation of the Mediterranean social script revealed by anthropologists, which consists of honour and shame, dyadic personality, patronage, evil eye and limited good.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5113 Studies in Pauline Corpus : Greek Text**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module aims to develop skills in critical exegesis of Pauline letters in both English and Greek. It will investigate central features of Pauline theology, aspects of current controversy in Pauline study, and current methodological interests in the study of Paul. Selections of Pauline texts will be studied in detail.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar and occasional lectures. Also an individual reading programme.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5115 New Testament Special Topic**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Either

Availability: As announced.

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The special topic in New Testament would be chosen from one of the areas of specialisation of the teaching staff or of a visiting scholar. A written statement of teaching and assessment will be agreed with the student and lodged with the Dean of the Faculty.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5121 Moral Identity in New Testament Texts**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2002-03

Anti-requisite: DI5107

Programme(s) Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module is not interested in particular ethical prescriptions of New Testament texts. Instead, it assesses the way that New Testament texts promote the formation of moral identity in relation of the values and life of the wider Christian community. The module incorporates a wide range of New Testament texts, and focuses on the following topics in particular: eschatology, cruciform existence, pneumatology, corporate solidarity, moral distinctiveness, interaction with society. The module will provide tools for the theological assessment of textual data, with the expectation that students will emerge from the module better prepared to offer their own critique of contemporary social and religious influences on moral formation.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 2 hour seminar and occasional lectures, individual tutorials.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5122 The Parables of Jesus**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module will consider methodological issues pertinent to parable research, and will focus on selected gospel parables as case studies in parable interpretation. In particular, the module will address the following issues: the definition of 'parable'; the function of Jesus' parables; historical trends in parable interpretation; changes in 'Sitz im Leben' and parable multivalence. In particular, recent advances in understanding the socio-economic context of Jesus' day allow Jesus' parables to be heard in fresh ways, and the module will capitalise on those advances. Students will also gain familiarity with recent scholarship on gospel parables.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Occasional lectures, one 2 hour seminar, individual tutorials.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

## **Divinity - 5000 Level modules**

### **DI5205 Biblical Aramaic**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module is an introduction to the basic elements of the Aramaic language and study of selected texts from the biblical books of *Daniel* (court tales describing life in the Babylonian capital during the exile) and *Ezra* (diplomatic texts from the post-exilic period dealing with the return of the exiles to Palestine and the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem). Proficiency in this language is an important complement to Biblical Hebrew for scholarship in the post-exilic period.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5211 Old Testament Special Topic**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Either

Availability: As announced.

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The special topic in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament would be chosen from one of the areas of specialisation of the teaching staff or of a visiting scholar. A written statement of teaching and assessment will be agreed with the student and lodged with the Dean of the Faculty.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5212 The Dead Sea Scrolls (Hebrew Texts)**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2002-03

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module selects several texts for analysis from the Dead Sea Scrolls and related manuscript finds from the Judean Desert. Students will read and discuss the major sectarian texts from Qumran with a view toward deepening understanding of their place in Second Temple Judaism. Attention will also be given to the archaeological context of the Qumran discoveries, as well as to the revolutionary importance of the scrolls for research into the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Related manuscript discoveries will also be considered, including the Samaria Papyri, the scrolls from Masada, and the letters of Bar Kochba. Key texts will be analysed in Hebrew, others will be in English translation.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5213 Advanced Hebrew Translation**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module builds on the skills obtained from DI1004 and DI2002 and at least one other Hebrew based 3000 module (or their equivalents). It aims to enable students to become proficient in Hebrew and to equip them for independent research in the Hebrew Bible.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5214 The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module examines the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, a loose collection of ancient Bible-like writings that were excluded from the canons of both normative Judaism and Christianity. The emphasis will be textual (unlike the thematic approach of DI5106), and we shall explore the reasons for the rejection of these documents by the major canons, the problem of the mixed Jewish and Christian strata in the texts, their intertextual connections with biblical literature, and their influence after antiquity. All texts will be read in English translation. A public discussion group for this module will be created on the Internet, and the students and instructor will use electronic mail as part of the course. Training sessions on the use of the Internet will be provided. The topic for 2001-02 will be pseudepigraphal texts alleged to have been composed in Hebrew or Aramaic.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5218 Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-66) : Hebrew Exegesis**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2002-03

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: Students will read selected portions of the Hebrew Text of Isaiah 40-66, illustrating important matters of exegesis and interpretation in respect of the given passages. Detailed attention shall be paid to (a) the place of these chapters within the larger book of Isaiah; (b) the phenomenon of intertextuality and inner-biblical exegesis; (c) the emergence of prophecy as a written phenomenon; (d) the social and historical implications of such a thesis, and its relationship to the question of prophecy's end; (e) reviewing basic exegetical methods (form and redaction criticism); and (f) theological appropriation and reflection on Isaiah as divine speech today. A research-orientated project will be produced.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 2 hour seminar per week, plus fortnightly tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5300 Theology, Spirituality and Pastoral Care**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module is designed to provide advanced study of the area of pastoral care from the perspective of theology. Students will analyse current models in pastoral care; responses to crises; death, dying and grief; bereavement, mourning and suicide; and mental illness. Students will select a particular topic of pastoral care and write a research paper on the theological and psychological issues which are crucial to understanding the dynamics involved. There will also be visits to mental health and hospice/palliative care agencies.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar and one lecture.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

## **Divinity - 5000 Level modules**

### **DI5305 Practical Theology Special Topic**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Either

Availability: As announced.

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The special topic in Practical Theology and Christian Ethics would be chosen from one of the areas of specialisation of the teaching staff or of a visiting scholar. A written statement of teaching and assessment will be agreed with the student and lodged with the Dean of the Faculty.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5309 Christian Ethics: An Historical Approach**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2002-03

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module will study some of the most important and exciting developments within the history of Christian ethics. Topics will include: confession and penance in the writings of the early fathers; Augustine on "good" as the love of God; the importance of monasteries as centres of moral guidance; Abelard and Heloise on virtue and vice; Aquinas's Christian re-reading of Aristotle's approach to the good; Luther on the "two realms" of creation and redemption; Calvin's ethic of grateful obedience to God; John Wesley's social ethics; and Kierkegaard on the teleological suspension of the ethical. Students will have the opportunity to consider at an advanced level the nature of authority in Christian ethical discourse, and to write a 10,000 word dissertation on a project of their choice.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 2 hour seminar and one lecture.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5310 Health Care Issues in Christian Perspective**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module offers students the opportunity to study contemporary health-care issues from varying Christian perspectives. There will be opportunity to study and assess secular, biblical and traditional Christian attitudes to health, as well as current statements by the churches. Topics will include: genetic engineering, resource allocation, mental health, AIDS and HIV, commerce and Christian critique of contemporary ideologies of ideal health, the continuing healing ministry of the Church. Students can use the module to advance their knowledge of traditional Christian teaching about health and disease, and to construct informed responses to contemporary problems, perhaps as preparation for further research work. The required 10,000 word dissertation may be on a subject of the student's choice.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 2 hour seminar and one lecture.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5313 Self, Ethics and Spirituality**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: In recent years the understanding of religion and spirituality has for many undergone a fundamental shift. It seems limiting and mistaken to think in terms, on the one hand, of a transcendent God and, on the other, of the sinfulness of 'man'. People seek self-realisation and pursue spiritual practices which may allow them to live with integrity. 'God' may well be understood as present in relationships between people and in the wonder of the natural world. There are of course strands within the Western tradition, both Jewish and Christian, on which it seems natural to draw. But, equally, there has arisen an intense interest in 'green' spirituality, feminists have had much to say, and many follow what might be named a 'secular' spirituality. The impact of Buddhism has been considerable and meditative practices are widespread. This course seeks to marshal some of the resources for a consideration of spirituality today. It considers questions to do with the nature of the self, religious experience, and what it is that we may mean by 'God'.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 2 hour seminar and one lecture.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5414 Theology and Recent Continental Philosophy**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module will allow students to consider the implications, both positive and negative, of recent Continental philosophy for theology. The course will grapple with late Heidegger, Derrida and Irigaray, and also give attention to Levinas. Basic themes will be Heidegger's discernment of Being; the Heideggerian and Derridean critique of 'metaphysics' with its implications for classical theism; Heidegger's relationship to Christian theology; Derrida's Jewish background and its impact on his thought; the implications of Derrida's prohibition on pre-linguistic experience for religious consciousness; Irigaray's wish to create a female 'transcendental' and her critique of Levinasian ethics.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two one-and-a-half hour sessions.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5415 Theology Special Topic**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Either

Availability: As announced.

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The special topic in Theology would be chosen from one of the areas of specialisation of the teaching staff or of a visiting scholar. A written statement of teaching and assessment will be agreed with the student and lodged with the Dean of the Faculty. A special topic for Semester 1 of 2001-02 will be 'The Holy Spirit: An Exploration through the Arts'. –

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

## **Divinity - 5000 Level modules**

### **DI5421 The Body and Society**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module explores current concern with 'the body' in light of the complex Christian metaphor of the body. Topics include pornography, eating disorders and the impact of consumer capitalism on attitudes to the body. Students will have opportunity to consider the relationship between ethics, aesthetics and theology at an advanced level. The required 10,000 word dissertation may be on a subject of the student's choice.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One lecture and one 2 hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5424 Theology and Imagination**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2002-03

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module will explore the nature of the human capacity for 'imagination' and its significance within common human, religious, and Christian theological contexts. This will be achieved both through theoretical and applied approaches to the theme. Weekly lectures will consider the ways and places in which 'imagination' functions in these contexts. Seminars will focus on specific works of art (literary, visual and musical) and inquire after their theological significance. Topics covered may include the following: Imagination in the structure of human knowing; analogy and metaphor in theology; symbolism and sacrament; imagination and revelation; the imaginative structure of hope; creation and creativity. A selection of different novels, plays, and examples of visual art will be studied during the module with a view to exploring the theological questions raised by and expressed in them.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One-and-a-half hour lecture and one-and-a-half hour seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

### **DI5425 Theology, Art, Politics**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module will explore the relation between politics/ethics (as the sphere of human action), aesthetics, and theology. Western art over the centuries has been profoundly influenced by and exercised a reciprocal influence upon Christian religious practice and theology in particular. At the same time, both the Church and artistic creativity are inexorably mixed up with the political and ethical climates of particular times and places. The module will attend to the complexity of some of these relationships, and in doing so invite reconsideration of the ancient question of whether, and if so how, truth, goodness and beauty might be related to one another. In addition to seminars, students will meet for a regular further tutorial on prescribed reading and writing, and will produce a project of 10,000 words on a topic to be agreed with the module coordinator.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar, and fortnightly tutorials.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%



**DI5427 Modern Christology**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2001-02

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: In this module, consideration will be given to christological claims which have long been considered definitive of the Christian faith. This will take place in a context of dialogue with a number of wider theological, philosophical, ethical and contextual challenges and concerns raised by modern and contemporary writers. The module will begin by re-examining the *homoousion* debate articulating the question as to how far Christians are justified in continuing to reiterate the central christological affirmations of the Nicene creed. This will lead to a distillation of the key challenges to christological orthodoxy facilitating examination of these in greater depth together with other doctrinal issues integral to christological affirmation - most notably those associated with the 'three days' (Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday) and the ascension. Integral to the course will be analysis of key methodological and hermeneutical issues on the one hand together with consideration of the social ramifications of christological affirmations on the other.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour lecture, seminar and individual tutorials.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

**DI5428 Theological Anthropology**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2002-03

Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module seeks to integrate philosophical and theological considerations as to what it is to be a self and a person. The key issues here are introduced through critical engagement with Descartes' interpretation of the self, assessing the profound impact of Cartesian dualism on the theological debate. In dialogue with recent debates in philosophy and philosophical theology it will consider how we conceive of the self and most specifically the self-relation (self-awareness, self-understanding, self-knowledge, self-governance) together with associated issues relating to moral autonomy and agency. The second half of the module will progress, in the light of these considerations, to an engagement with the main schools of anthropological thinking characteristic of the modern/contemporary theological debate considering the contribution which Christian theology's own resources offer to the business of interpreting what it is to be a self.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour lecture, seminar and individual tutorials.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

