

School of Divinity

Head of School Professor T A Hart

Degree Programmes

Conversion Diploma:	Divinity
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 DI5099

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

Students whose first degree is not in Divinity may prepare themselves for graduate work in Divinity by taking the:

Conversion Diploma in Divinity

120 credits from the list of 4000 level Divinity modules, selected with the permission of the Head of School. One 3000 level module may be taken in place of a 4000 level module with the permission of the Head of School. In some cases (e.g. when a biblical language is required) a semester or year of language study at the 1000-2000 levels may be substituted for one of the 4000 level modules.

Modules

DI5099 Dissertation for M.Litt. Programme/s

Credits:	60.0
Prerequisite:	An average grade of at least 14 in course work.
Programme(s):	Compulsory module for M.Litt. Postgraduate Programmes within the School
Description:	Student dissertations will be supervised by members of the teaching staff who will advise on the choice of subject and provide guidance throughout the research process. The completed dissertation of not more than 15,000 (excluding bibliography) words must be submitted by the end of August.
Class Hour:	At times to be arranged with the supervisor
Teaching:	Individual Supervision
Assessment:	Dissertation = 100%

Divinity – 5000 Level Modules

DI5102 The Bible and Contemporary Issues

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2002-03

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%

DI5107 New Testament Ethos and Ethics

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2003-04

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

Description: This module seeks to enable students to relate the ethical traditions of the New Testament to their context and critically to assess them. The module will explore the ethical teachings of the New Testament from the new approach which has developed from renewed interest in Aristotelian virtue ethics and from Clifford Geertz's analysis of 'ethos' as the moral and aesthetic style, tone and quality of a community's life. Accordingly, students will examine the distinctive ethical orientations of particular New Testament texts, especially those of Matthew and Paul, less from the point of view of identifying 'moral rules' than from a concern with how the ideas and values relate to the meaning of individual and social identity. The importance of issues such as eschatology and pneumatology in New Testament ethics will also be considered.

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: 2

Availability: 2003-04

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 thought, aspects of current controversy in Pauline study, and current methodological interests in the study of Paul, especially the use of social-scientific approaches. 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%

DI5114 The Historical Jesus

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2002-03

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

Description: In view of recent debate over the historical Jesus, this module seeks to encourage students to determine a viable methodology for historical Jesus research and to develop a defensible, comprehensive hypothesis of the aims and life of this figure. The course will begin with an analysis of the state of the quest(s) for the historical Jesus, including the Cynic hypothesis. It will then examine critically the trial narratives, the Temple incident, the reasons for Jesus' execution, Jesus' attitude to the Jewish law and the preaching of the kingdom of God in an effort to determine the main features of his message. The major roles attributed to Jesus – prophet, teacher, charismatic healer, Messiah, Son of Man, Son of God – will also be considered critically, as well as selected events of Jesus' life.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar.

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%

DI5205 Biblical Aramaic

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Either

Availability: 2003-04

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%

Divinity – 5000 Level Modules

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 hour seminar and a one hour Hebrew reading session.

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

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

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

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%

DI5221 Theological Interpretation of Scripture

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2002-03

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

Description: Students will be working with a range of Jewish and Christian approaches to theological reading of Scripture, largely but not exclusively from the twentieth century. The module seeks to give students exposure to the individual contributions, ongoing disputes, and emerging horizons of theological exegesis, and the more recent history of ideas within which this discourse functions. Specific examples of exegesis will be surveyed, as well as the relationship of exegetical practice and method to constructive theological appropriation, alive to the concerns of the church and the world.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 2 hour seminar per week, plus individual supervisions.

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

DI5225 Abraham in History and Interpretation

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Availability: 2002-03

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

Description: This module examines the Hebrew text of Genesis 12-25 and the various approaches that have been taken to this significant narrative text. Not only will a thorough understanding of the biblical text be developed, but also the ways in which it has been interpreted. Through the text of Genesis 12-25 students will be expected to assess the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches to the Old Testament. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of and engagement with early Jewish and Christian interpretations of the Abraham cycle. Emphasis will be placed upon reflection of the theological role and significance of the narrative in its present canonical position and in the present day.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One 1 hour lecture, one 2 hour seminar, plus fortnightly lecture.

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

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%

Divinity – 5000 Level Modules

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: Augustine on “good” as the love of God; 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: 2003-04

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

Description: This module offers 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%

DI5414 Theology and Recent Continental Philosophy

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2003-04

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: 1
Availability: As announced.
Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.
Description: The special topic in Theology for semester 1 of 2002-03 will be 'Beyond the Image: Theological Encounters with Literature and the Arts'.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Two hour seminar.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

DI5419 Salvation in Christian Reflection

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2
Availability: 2003-04
Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.
Description: This module will explore the understandings of salvation which have shaped the Christian tradition. Consideration will be given to the extent to which western interpretations of the nature of God, law and sin have led to distortive soteriological interpretations of the Biblical material – interpretations whose impact has not always been constructive either at the individual or social levels. In the light of extensive recent Biblical and theological research, we shall reconsider what theologians are warranted in affirming with respect to this fundamental doctrine which lies at the heart of the Christian faith.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: One-and-a-half hour seminar and one lecture.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%

DI5421 The Body and Society

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1
Availability: 2003-04
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%

Divinity – 5000 Level Modules

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%

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%

DI5499 Feminist Theory

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2
Availability: 2003-04
Anti-requisite: DI4423
Programme(s): Optional module for Divinity Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This is an interdisciplinary module, relevant to students wishing to embark on research which has a feminist emphasis in the Faculties of Arts and Divinity. We shall commence by reading Carol Gilligan and Nancy Chodorow, who have translated British object relations (psychoanalytic) theory into a feminist context and who consider questions of interpersonal relations, self-identity and ethics. Taking this material, we shall consider how it has been utilised by women working in political theory: Seyla Benhabib, Jane Flax and Iris Young. We shall look at philosophical questions to do with the nature of the self in relation to others in Caroline Whitebeck’s and Eleanor Haney’s work and ask after the import of the discussion of human ‘attending’ in Iris Murdoch and Martha Nussbaum. Finally we shall move to a consideration of the work of women coming out of a French Lacanian and post-structuralist context, looking at some shorter texts of Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva and Hélène Cixous.

Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: One-and-a-half hour lecture plus one-and-a-quarter hour seminar.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 60%, 3 Hour Examination = 40%