

School of Divinity

Head of School

Dr M I Aguilar (Acting Head of School)

Degree Programmes

Conversion Diploma:

Divinity

Graduate Diploma:

Divinity
Bible and Contemporary World (part-time and by distance learning)

M.Litt.:

Divinity
Bible and Contemporary World (part-time and by distance learning)

M.Phil.:

Divinity

Programme Requirements

Divinity

Graduate Diploma: 80 credits comprising DI5101 (Advanced Biblical Exegesis) and DI5402 (Great Theological Texts) and 40 credits from other modules in 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.: 80 credits comprising DI5101 (Advanced Biblical Exegesis) and DI5402 (Great Theological Texts) and 40 credits from other modules in 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, plus DI5099.

M.Phil.: . 80 credits comprising DI5101 (Advanced Biblical Exegesis) and DI5402 (Great Theological Texts) and 40 credits from other modules in 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 plus a Dissertation of no more than 40,000 words.

Bible and Contemporary World

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits from modules DI5901, DI5902, DI5903, DI5904 and DI5905

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for Graduate Diploma plus DI5099

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.

Divinity – 5000 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%

DI5101 Advanced Biblical Exegesis: Methods and Texts

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Divinity M.Litt. and the taught component of the M.Phil. Postgraduate Taught Programme

Description: This module is a core course for the M.Litt and the taught component of the M.Phil degree. This module provides advanced exploration of critical biblical interpretation in a systematic fashion and studies the application of critical methodologies to biblical texts. Building upon knowledge gained in undergraduate study of the Bible this module aims to provide a systematic analysis of critical methods. The course is, therefore, structured according to the historical development of the discipline and influential exegetical works by some of the best practitioners of different methods over the last one hundred and fifty years will be studied. This module will give students contemplating further study the opportunity to explore and critically consider the variety of exegetical techniques which they may encounter or utilize in further work. Classes comprise lectures and seminars. The course is examined by two substantial written assignments and a written examination.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Two hour seminar and one hour lecture.

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

DI5114 The Historical Jesus

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

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: 2

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: To be arranged.

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

DI5211 Old Testament Special Topic

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

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: To be arranged

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

DI5212 The Dead Sea Scrolls (Hebrew Texts)

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

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%

DI5305 Practical Theology Special Topic

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

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: 2

This module will study some of the most important developments within the history of Christian ethics. Topics will include: Augustine on "good" as the love of God; Abelard on vice and virtue; Aquinas's Christian re-reading of Aristotle's approach to the good; what Luther and Calvin say, respectively, about Christian social action and ethics as an attitude of gratitude towards God; John Wesley's social ethics and Kierkegaard on the teleological suspension of the ethics. Students will have 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 topic of their choice.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Two hour seminar and one hour lecture per week

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

Divinity – 5000 Level Modules

DI5402 Great Theological Texts

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1
Programme(s): Compulsory module for Divinity M.Litt.and the taught component of the M.Phil. Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module is a core course for the Mlitt and the taught component of the M.Phil. degree. It considers texts and thinkers that have shaped the Christian tradition in the past two millennia and the issues of belief and practice that they raise. This will serve as a detailed grounding in central theological issues in order to prepare candidates for advanced study in theology. Issues will be discussed in their historical context, but with a view to contemporary theological reflection. Classes comprise lectures and seminars. The course is examined by two substantial written assignments and a written examination.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar and one hour lecture

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

DI5415 Theology Special Topic

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

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.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminar and one hour lecture per week

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

DI5419 Salvation in Christian Reflection

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

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%

DI5904 Fictionalising the New Testament

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Bible and Contemporary World Postgraduate Taught Programme

[Not available to any student not registered for one of these programmes]

Description: This module will study modern fictional accounts of Jesus, those who met him and those who followed him. The narratives to be studied will include a selection of texts from the following: *The Shadow of the Galilean* (Theissen), *Rabbi Jesus* (Chilton), *The Memoirs of Pontius Pilate* (Mills), *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* (Longenecker), *Hidden Stories of the Childhood of Jesus* (Kimball), *Lamb: The Gospel according to Biff*, *Christ's Childhood Friend* (Moore), *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* (Saramago), *Testament* (Ricci), *The Jerusalem Scrolls*, *The Stones of Jerusalem*, and *Jerusalem's Hope* (Thoene and Thoene).

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Internet based; Lectures, seminars and a tutorial during residential period

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

DI5905 The Holy Spirit Today

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Bible and Contemporary World Postgraduate Taught Programme

[Not available to any student not registered for one of these programmes]

Description: This module will explore and evaluate a variety of theologies of the Holy Spirit expounded in the last hundred years. These will be examined from a variety of perspectives: a) from the perspective of Christian tradition (their relation to major currents of theological reflection in the past); b) from the perspective of contemporary Church life (their engagement with phenomena arising within the Church); c) from the perspective of socio-cultural movements (their links with particular cultural upheavals in society at large). Most of all, however – given the broad topic of this Distance Learning Programme ('The Bible in the Contemporary World') – these theologies of the Spirit will be examined with respect to their treatment of, and relation to, the biblical literature.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Internet based; Lectures, seminars and a tutorial during residential period

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Divinity – 5000 Level Modules