UNIT SUMMARIES: PILGRIM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE IN 2015

Please consult the timetable for more information about Level of Study and time of delivery.

Courses marked with an asterisk* are also available for online study. Full details will be available in the handbook or by enquiry.

AL: BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

AL1100P: Introduction to New Testament Greek: Part A
This unit introduces students to the original language of the New Testament. It provides sufficient knowledge of the vocabulary, grammar and syntax to enable them to begin to translate and interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. Several short passages from the New Testament will be translated.

AL2200P: Introduction to New Testament Greek: Part B
This unit continues on from AL1000P. It provides further instruction in Greek syntax, grammar and vocabulary, using the same textbook as in the previous semester. About a third of the unit will be devoted to the translation of extended portions of the Greek New Testament (e.g., chapters from 1 John), prepared in advance by the students. These selected passages will be studied for syntactical grammatical analysis and translation into English, but also to see how engaging with a biblical text in its original language can assist in its interpretation.

AP: PHILOSOPHY

AP100P: Philosophy for Understanding Theology
This unit explores the philosophical underpinnings of some key theological turns in Christian history. Variants of Platonism provide the background against which the Hellenistic elements in the New Testament can be interpreted; subsequent Platonist developments inform Augustine’s thought, and thereby, much later, Luther’s. Similarly, Aristotle sets the scene for Thomas Aquinas; Kant for Schleiermacher and the nineteenth century liberal theologians; Hegel, in a different way, for Kierkegaard and Barth; Heidegger for Bultmann and Rahner. The unit gives the student an engagement with the philosophers concerned, both in their own right and as they provide a background for scriptural and theological contemporaries and successors.

AP2750/3750/9750P: Belief after Philosophy: Postmodernism and Religious Faith
Is postmodernist suspicion an ally of religious faith, or its deadly enemy? How can anyone doubt the value of foundations and still speak meaningfully of God, or religious faith? Alternatively, does the notion of God as foundation amount to limitation of the divine, or even idolatry? This unit looks at how postmodern thinking bids to rework some traditional connections between faith and philosophy. Canvassing the questions above, it takes the student towards the deeper question of whether theology as such can be said to help, rather than hinder, philosophical approaches to the divine.
BA: OLD TESTAMENT

BA1010/2010/8010P: Life, History and the People of God in the Hebrew Scriptures*
This course will introduce the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and critically examine its contents for insight into the life, the history and faith of the people of God in ancient Israel. The unit will survey the contents of the Old Testament which formed and established a people’s identity; the historical contexts; the diversity of genres; theological positions and of the OT books. The unit will equip the student to assess the meaning of the texts in their ancient Near Eastern environment; to understand the development of Hebrew religion through the 2nd temple period; and the relation of the OT texts to issues of contemporary faith.

BA2030/3030/9020P: Prophets and their Writings*
This unit will engage in a critical study of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. It will examine the prophetic writings against their varied historical, social, political and religious contexts, and will also explore critical issues associated with their interpretation. The unit examines the major theological and ethical themes of the prophetic writings and critically evaluates their contemporary relevance. Special attention is given to a select collection of prophetic texts. The course aims to develop exegetical and interpretive confidence through the critical and creative application of varied methods of analysis to a range of prophetic texts.

BA3020/9020P: Psalms: Exegetical and Theological Study*
This unit will introduce the Book of Psalms, and study the formation and development of the Psalter. It will give attention to the various forms of the Psalms, their setting and their functions within the historical experience of Israel. The course also seeks to provide critical knowledge of the theology inherent in the Psalms and explore the relevance, use and functions of the Psalms in today’s context.

BN: NEW TESTAMENT

BN1010/2010/8010P: Earliest Christianity: Stories, Texts, Beliefs*
This unit provides an introduction to New Testament history, texts and theology. Beginning with the letters of Paul as the earliest extant Christian literature, and surveying the development of gospel literature as well as other forms of early Christian writing, it considers the rise of the early Christian movement and explores the range of developing theological beliefs that characterised the first two generations of early Christianity. In using the New Testament texts as the main source for investigation, the unit draws attention to the diversity of texts, genres, theologies and perspectives within the New Testament itself, and considers a number of critical historical, literary and theological issues that emerge from the study of New Testament texts.

BN2100/3100/9100P: Gospel, Church and World: Mission and Ministry in Philippians and 2 Corinthians*
This unit provides an in-depth study of Paul’s letters to the Philippians and the Second Letter to the Corinthians. The study of the letters will focus on the theological and rhetorical resources used by Paul for the purpose of nurturing churches that understand and take up their vocation in the world. Particular attention will therefore be paid to Paul’s key theological convictions (gospel), his construal of the social identity of his audiences (church), and his persuasive aims in each of the letters in relation to the church’s mission (world). The unit will also consider Paul’s self-portrayal with a view to exploring the understanding of Christian ministry offered within the letters.
BN3110/9110P: Gospel, Church and World: Mission and Ministry in Philippians and 2 Corinthians (Greek)
This unit provides an in-depth study of Paul's letters to the Philippians and the Second Letter to the Corinthians using the Greek text. The study of the letters will focus on the theological and rhetorical resources used by Paul for the purpose of nurturing churches that understand and take up their vocation in the world. Particular attention will therefore be paid to Paul's key theological convictions (gospel), his construal of the social identity of his audiences (church), and his persuasive aims in each of the letters in relation to the church's mission (world). The unit will also consider Paul's self-portrayal with a view to exploring the understanding of Christian ministry offered within the letters. The unit builds on introductory understanding of New Testament Greek by providing opportunity to translate and exegete the text with reference to the original language.

BN3020/9020P: The Historical Jesus*
This unit provides an introduction to the methodological, historical, theological and contextual issues at stake in scholarly reconstructions of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Students will consider the significance of recent scholarship relating to social memory as a way of engaging with the history of New Testament scholarship. The unit will then explore seven or eight key issues in historical Jesus studies including: Jesus and prophetic eschatology/apocalyptic; Jesus and the Torah; Jesus' self-understanding; the parables of Jesus; Jesus' healings/exorcisms; Jesus and the temple/ scribal elites; the reasons for Jesus' death. Throughout, students will be invited to consider the potential impact of early memories of Jesus of Nazareth on contemporary Christian faith and practice.

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BS1000/8000P: Introduction to Christian Scripture*
This unit provides an introduction to the Bible for students beginning critical biblical studies. It surveys the content of the Old and New Testaments, introduces important features of the biblical world relevant to interpretation, and considers the different kinds of literature contained within the Bible. Attention will be paid to the ways in which the Bible comes to us, through consideration of traditions, texts, versions and translations. In treating the biblical texts as Christian Scripture, the unit explores the history of the development of the biblical canon(s) and understandings of biblical inspiration and authority. Students are introduced to initial skills, resources, and tools for biblical interpretation.

BS1010/8010P: Reading and Interpreting the Bible in Contemporary Times*
How has the Bible been read and interpreted? How important is method in our study and interpretation of the Bible? What are the methods or hermeneutical principles one can employ? How can we effectively interpret the Bible so that it might speak to our contemporary times? This course will survey the many approaches, methods and hermeneutical principles employed by readers and practitioners of the Bible; explore the questions raised by them and assess both their strengths and weaknesses. The course will instruct how these methods may be applied to the books of Exodus and Matthew as test cases to encourage the students to appreciate not only the variety of methods but also the multiplicity of meaning inherent within the Biblical text.
CH: CHURCH HISTORY

CH1000/8000P: Memory, History, and the Historians*
This subject is focused on the historians and other writers who have told the story of Christianity at key times in the past. We draw on writings (and some other sources such as music, images, buildings, public addresses) to trace changes and continuities in Christian self-understanding, and set the men and women who wrote, and their approaches to history, in the context of their own times. We will also explore what it means to ‘think historically’. In the context of the Christian story we will consider the role that historical writing has played; we will explore how memories of people and events have been shaped, and how historians can draw on a range of sources to enrich and enliven understandings of the past, and to continue to relate understandings of the past to our experience today.

CT2100/8100P: The Cracking of Christendom: Theological issues of the Reformation
Also available as a CT Systematic Theology unit.
This unit examines the theological debates of the sixteenth century Reformation in Europe and their ongoing impact in western societies and churches, with particular attention to the implications for contemporary Australian experience. Students will explore the understandings of grace, salvation, creation, sacrament, scripture and church order using key texts and writers with a focus on the relationship between theological, historical and geographical contexts in shaping new forms of Christian identity and practice.

CH3300/9300P: Medieval Monastic Wisdom
Also available as a DS Spirituality unit
This unit explores the development of the monastic movement in the Medieval Church from 500 - 1500, with an emphasis on the examination of primary sources. The unit will present both an historical study and insights into the spirituality emanating from both male and female monastics during these centuries of Christian monasticism. It offers a method for the study of these texts in the light of present day formation for ministry and mission.

CH3405/8405P: Prayer and Hospitality: Benedictine Spirituality in Australia
Also available as a DS Spirituality unit
This unit locates Benedictinism in the wider history of monasticism. It covers monastic prayer with particular attention to the psalms, lectio divina, and liturgical life, the place of manual work and understandings of hospitality. Taking the monastic town of New Norcia as an example, it explores the Benedictine tradition in Australia especially in relation to the post-contact history of the former mission town. Students will spend a week living in the guest-house of the Benedictine monastery at New Norcia, Western Australia, participating in the community life of prayer. In addition they will attend lectures and participate in group discussions. There will be a number of structured activities based on the resources of the archives, museum, art gallery and cross-cultural Education Centre.

CH9410P: Living by the Rule: Benedictine Spirituality in Australia
This research–rich subject locates Benedictinism in the wider history of monasticism. It covers monastic prayer with particular attention to the psalms, lectio divina, and liturgical life, the place of manual work and understandings of hospitality. Students will spend a week living in the guest-house of the Benedictine monastery at New Norcia, Western Australia, participating in the community life of prayer. In addition they will attend lectures and participate in group discussions. We examine the history of the New Norcia township paying attention to the foundation narratives and key personalities, the role of women, the interaction with Aboriginal Australians, and the patterns of contact with the wider Australian and international communities. Students undertake research work with archival material in
English on a key theme relating to the monastery, farm, schools, library, and mission activities.

CH9500P: New Texts in Context*
This unit explores three book-length works in depth. It offers the opportunity for students to read whole texts in a structured and supportive learning community, and to reflect on the implications of the content. The books are selected for the quality of their historical scholarship and their engagement with contemporary questions of church or theology. Each year one of the texts will focus particularly on Australian experience, one on a classic work or author in the Christian tradition, and one on an innovative theme in historical work. In 2015 the book choices will include:

CT: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

CT1000/8000P: Faith, Theology and Doctrines*
This unit introduces the Church’s doctrinal tradition, both generally and specifically. It will offer a general overview of the relationships between faith, belief, theology, confessions, creeds, doctrine and the disciplines of systematic theology. Specifically, it will explore the doctrines of God, creation, humanity, Jesus Christ, salvation, church and hope. It will explore the role of scripture, tradition, reason and context in shaping these doctrines. Particular attention will be paid to the impact on specific doctrines of modern and post-modern thought in the West whilst also exploring the appropriation of the doctrinal tradition in contemporary non-Western Christianity. Against this background the roles of doctrine in shaping the imagination of the Church and of local churches will be noted.

CT1010/8010P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology*
This unit will introduce the content and tasks of Christian theology by engaging a range of representations of Christianity in contemporary intellectual and popular cultures, especially but not exclusively in Australia. These will include objections to Christianity, non-Christian explorations of Christianity, assessments of Christianity by other religions, and secular appropriations of the Christian legacy. Engagement with these different sources will provide an opportunity to assess the particular challenges currently posed to Christian belief and therefore to explore the role of theology in responding to those challenges. This will contextualise the introduction to the tasks and disciplines of Christian theology but it will also draw attention to historical links with the birth of Christian theology in the religiously and philosophically diverse world of antiquity.

CT2020/8020P: Jesus, Discipleship and Justice*
This unit will explore historical and contemporary discussions about Jesus Christ. It will begin with the New Testament witness to his life, death and resurrection, and the messianic interpretation of those events. The appropriation of that witness in ancient creeds, contemporary theological controversies and proposals, and the lives of his followers will be critically examined. The connections between the Church’s proclamation of Christ, patterns of discipleship, and practices of reconciliation and justice will be explored.

CT3000/9000P: Trinity, Society and Dialogue*
This unit will explore the controversial developments which led from the biblical witness to Jesus as Lord to the later trinitarian doctrine of God as one substance in three persons. The foundations of this development and the controversies which
accompanied it will be studied. Against this historical background, the re-emergence of the
doctrine of the Trinity in the twentieth century will be explored through reference to several contemporary texts. Attention will be paid to the role which this doctrine is playing in the church’s encounter with modern atheism, religious pluralism and theological politics.

**CT3010/9010P: Human Person, Culture, and World***

This unit is a study of Christian reflection on what it means to be human in relation to God, Grace, and who and what makes up our humanity. The role of different and pluralist cultures on what it means to be human will be examined and how these subjectivities are embodied in the world through human arrangements such as family, race, work, and the limitations of sickness and disability, ageing and death.

**DL: LITURGICAL STUDIES**

**DL3400/8400P: Lent and Easter: Forty Days and Fifty Days**  
Also available as a unit in Church History (CH) or Spirituality (DS)

This unit explores the liturgical theology, spirituality and practice underlying the liturgical seasons of Lent and Easter. Particular emphasis will be placed on the centrality of the Paschal mystery in these liturgical seasons and the pastoral implications and applications associated with these liturgical moments in the life and mission of the church.

Students can also enrol in Liturgy units through arrangements with other Colleges of the University.

**DM: MISSIOLOGY**

**DM1000/8000P: Developing a Mission Theology for Today***

In this unit, students will be introduced to the field of mission studies. It will be divided into three main sections: the biblical foundations of mission; the ground and practice of mission through Christian history; key themes shaping the theology and practice of mission today.

**DM2010/8010P: The Theology and Spirituality of Migrant Christian Churches in the Contemporary Australian Context***

This unit requires the student to read about, reflect upon, and engage with the general challenges of migration, and with a specific concern for migrant Christian communities and their experiences of social justice, cultural integration and identity formation within the Australian context. Special attention will be given to the theology and spirituality of these communities. The unit will involve exposure to and encounter with the migrant churches. It will include an exploration of recent political, social and religious trends in Australian society and the growing impact of globalism.

**DM2500/3500/9500P: Ferment and Renewal: The Missional Church Today***

This unit will explore the challenge facing the Christian churches in societies variously shaped by Christendom. It will examine trends within, and analysis of, the current context. Attention will be paid to the major cultural movements which have defined the Australian church: Christendom and its dying influence; the Enlightenment, its legacy of modernity; and, the challenges of post-modernity and globalization. Against this backdrop, the unit will explore and critique recent missionary models of the church, especially, missional and emergent church and fresh expressions. The course will include engagement with particular communities responding in particular ways to the missional challenges.
DP1000/8000P: Self and Other in Pastoral Relationships
In this unit the student will have the opportunity to explore the notion of ‘self’ as part of their identity in pastoral and other relationships. The development of notions of self will be examined theologically and theoretically, the impact on self-identity will be explored from social, familial, and cultural contexts, and a variety of human emotions will be considered as they impact on relationships with others. The implications of understandings of self and emotion will be explored and examined to deepen understanding and practice of healthy pastoral relationships.

DP2500/8500P: Theology of Pastoral Care
This unit explores the theological nature of pastoral care and the relationship between theology and pastoral skills. It aims to help students develop a reflective basis for pastoral practice that is grounded in Christian theology and Biblical studies. Consideration will be given to the uniqueness of ‘pastoral’ care, to some of the challenging questions raised in situations of crisis, and to the appropriate use of prayer and Scripture in pastoral situations. Scope will be given for students to explore a range of contextual issues and questions in pastoral ministry.

DP3005/9005P: Educating and Ministering through Life’s Passages
This unit presents a view of adult spiritual development which integrates psychological and theological understandings of Christian maturational processes. It offers insights on the masculine and feminine aspects of growth through early, middle and late adulthood. Changing spiritual emphases in each stage will be discussed. Students examine pastoral and educational styles and approaches that are appropriate for the different needs and capacities of people moving through the major life phases, and transitional periods. Through engagement with both classical and aesthetic sources, the unit invites participants to reflect on aspects of their own spiritual development and on ways of being more responsive to the changing needs and circumstances of those to whom they minister. Participants are encouraged to work with some of their own spiritual classics during the unit.

DP3605/9605P: Pastoral Counselling and Professional Ministry Practice
This unit introduces students to the basic skills for working in the context of a pastoral counselling relationship. It focuses on the development of the capacity for and the skills of attending questioning and disclosing in pastoral settings. The unit explores the theology and ethics of power relations integral to the pastoral psycho-therapeutic relationship.

DP3805/9805P: Effective Christian Leadership and Ministry
This unit explores the personal, spiritual, professional and ecclesial aspects of ordained and lay ecclesial ministry. Designed to strengthen participants ability to collaborate and communicate more effectively, the unit seeks to integrate the collective wisdom of the Christian tradition with personal praxis in contemporary ministry contexts. The diverse and constantly changing demands of life in our twenty-first century church and world call for a baptismal commitment that opens us to deeper and more inclusive understandings of ecclesial leadership. Students will examine the implications of understandings of baptism, vocation, and commitment for shaping Christian identity and community life, and in particular how such understandings shape effective leadership in the twenty-first century Church.

DT: Moral Theology

DT2000/3000/9000P: Contemporary Christian Ethics
This unit considers ethics in a pluralist society. It offers an introduction to the principal theories of ethics such as utilitarianism, divine command ethics, basic goods theory. It explores the themes of Christian faith and ethics, Christian anthropology, and the sources of moral knowledge. These themes in turn give rise to consideration of the role of human experience, scripture, narrative, emotions, and worship, within contemporary Christian ethics. Further themes include an introduction to moral conscience, virtue, character and discipleship in the context of Christian ethics. The implications of these theoretical issues are considered in relation to their application to specific ethical issues.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AND STUDY OPTIONS

Supervised Theological Field Education

Supervised Reading Units

12,000 word Research Essays

XX9900P: Capstone Research Essays and Research Seminar