

CT1010P/CT1019P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology

Semester 2: Intensive

Semester 2: Online

Description

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.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe various contemporary discussions of Christianity;
2. Identify key developments in the emergence of Christian theology
3. Summarise the strengths and weakness of one major, contemporary non-Christian representation of Christianity;
4. Explain the role of theology and its intellectual vision in responding to contemporary representations and/or appropriations of Christianity.

CT1010P/CT1019P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology

Assessment

Classroom-based:	...	...	...	...		Weighting
Essay (800 words)...	...	...	...	...	...	20%
Book Review (1200 words)...	...	...	...	...	...	30%
Essay (2000 words)	...	...	...	...	...	30%
Online:						
Engagement in online tutorial (800 words)	...	...	...	...	...	20%
Book Review (1200 words)...	...	...	...	...	...	30%
Essay (2000 words)	...	...	...	...	...	30%

Lecturer

Geoff Thompson

CT1010P/CT1019P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Blainey, Geoffrey. *A Short History of Christianity*. Melbourne: Penguin, 2011.

Carroll, John. *The Existential Jesus*. Melbourne: Scribe, 2007.

Carroll, John. *The Western Dreaming*. Pymble: Harper Collins, 2001.

De Botton, Alain. *Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion*. New York: Vintage, 2012.

Dawkins, Richard. *The God Delusion*. London: Bantam, 2006.

Ford, David. *The Future of Christian Theology*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Gonzalez, Justo L., and Zaida Maldonado Perez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

Higton, Mike. *Christian Doctrine*. London: SCM, 2006.

Jenson, Peter. *The Future of Jesus*. Sydney: ABC Books, 2005.

Maddox, Marion. *God Under Howard: The Rise of the Religious Right in Australian Politics*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2005.

McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*. 3rd edn. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Russell, Bertrand. *Why I am Not a Christian*. London: Routledge, 2004.

Tacey, David. *The Spirituality Revolution: The Emergence of Contemporary Spirituality*. Sydney: Harper Collins, 2003.

Woodhead, Linda. *Christianity: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

CT8010P/CT8019P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology

Semester 2: Intensive

Semester 2: Online

Description

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.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe the relationship between faith, belief and doctrine.
2. Outline the main doctrines of the Christian faith.
3. Evaluate the ways scripture, tradition, reason and context shape doctrinal development.
4. Analyse particular ways doctrine functions in the church.
5. Formulate proposals for doctrinal development in particular contexts.

CT8010P/CT8019P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology

Assessment

Classroom-based:	...	...	...	...	...	...	Weighting
Essay (1200 words)	...	...	...	...	...	...	20%
Book Review (1800 words)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30%
Essay (3000 words)	...	...	...	...	...	...	30%
Online:							
Engagement in online tutorial (1200 words)	...	...	...	...	...	...	20%
Book Review (1800 words)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30%
Essay (3000 words)	...	...	...	...	...	...	30%

Lecturer

Geoff Thompson

CT8010P/CT8019P: Culture, Beliefs and Theology

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Blainey, Geoffrey. *A Short History of Christianity*. Melbourne: Penguin, 2011.

Carroll, John. *The Existential Jesus*. Melbourne: Scribe, 2007.

Carroll, John. *The Western Dreaming*. Pymble: Harper Collins, 2001.

De Botton, Alain. *Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion*. New York: Vintage, 2012.

Dawkins, Richard. *The God Delusion*. London: Bantam, 2006.

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Gonzalez, Justo L., and Zaida Maldonado Perez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

Higton, Mike. *Christian Doctrine*. London: SCM, 2006.

Jenson, Peter. *The Future of Jesus*. Sydney: ABC Books, 2005.

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Tacey, David. *The Spirituality Revolution: The Emergence of Contemporary Spirituality*. Sydney: Harper Collins, 2003.

Woodhead, Linda. *Christianity: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.