The new year brings fresh opportunities and there’s never been a better time to considering studying.

We invite you to embrace stimulating and challenging questions about theology and its place in today’s world. Join us in the light-filled lecture rooms on campus in Parkville or enjoy one of the best online study experiences in the comfort and convenience of your own surrounds. All our units contribute to your degree qualification or you can study for the pure joy of study, with the resources of our world-class library. Ask about auditing for a cost-effective option.

What is on the horizon for 2019?
Study symbol and sacraments, feminism, the Book of Revelation, Greek, postmodernism, philosophies of God’s existence, European and Australian art, Protestantism, Paul’s ideas about salvation, earliest Christianity, desert wisdom, Reformation arguments, theological justice, neglected and misunderstood parts of Scripture, public truth, climate change, children’s spiritual development, mission practice today, pastoral practice, ordained and lay leadership and more!

If you haven’t studied with Pilgrim before, don’t be put off if some of the terminology seems overwhelming. One of the strengths at Pilgrim is that our lecturers love interaction with students and explaining complex theory in accessible ways.

What sort of students study at Pilgrim?
A strength of Pilgrim is the diversity of students across a wide range of ages, professional and personal experiences. Some students want to explore theology as part of enhancing their understanding of literature, art and film or as a unit in a more general degree. Others, particularly in the health field, are keen to look at faith aspects of pastoral care. Many wish to deepen their personal experience of faith or have been called to lay or ordained ministry. In a world where social media and blogging has changed the meaning of truth, some students are keen to delve into the meaning of leadership and authenticity. Lots just love the opportunity to learn and debate complex issues. And of course, our units qualify you towards your degree.

What sort of people teach at Pilgrim?
Pilgrim’s academic staff are keen teachers who enjoy learning from the interaction of the classroom. They are a strong and vibrant team whose expertise is recognised internationally as well as locally. They publish scholarly books and articles on the material they are exploring, and speak regularly at conferences, professional workshops and community gatherings. Their focus is on making sure students feel comfortable in their learning environment and confident to ask for assistance about aspects of their study. Whether online or on campus, the emphasis is on interaction that advances each student’s successful outcome. Our staff are committed to making theology accessible to the world they live in, and are active on social media and their own blogs.

Join us on the following pages to find a unit that works for you, and for your degree.
God’s Existence: Defensible or Delusion?
John Maris
Field & Discipline: Field A – Philosophy (AP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Thursday evening
Available online and on campus

Does God exist? This unit asks the biggest theological question and explores the answers from thinkers like Aquinas and Descartes, Hume and Kant who defend the existence of God, as well as those like Richard Dawkins who think belief is deluded. Engage here for gentle and potentially life-changing enquiry about a God who can never be ‘enclosed’.

Modern Self as Subject
John Maris
Field & Discipline: Field A – Philosophy (AP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Wednesday afternoon
Available online and on campus

Can my experience of myself be trusted as what is finally real? Or is this experience just another obstacle to knowing things as they are? This unit explores the modern project, beginning with Descartes, and continuing through Hume and Kant, to place the knowing self at the centre of existence.

Philosophy for Understanding Theology
John Maris
Field & Discipline: Field A – Philosophy (AP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Tuesday morning

Behind every famous theologian there is a famous philosopher or philosophical system. Platonism is part of the context of the New Testament, and for Augustine and so for Luther; Aristotle sets the scene for Thomas Aquinas, Kant for Schleiermacher; Hegel for Kierkegaard and Barth; Heidegger for Bultmann and Rahner. See the theologians more clearly by appreciating the intellectual worlds that inform them.

Belief after Philosophy: Postmodernism and Religious Faith
John Maris
Field & Discipline: Field A – Philosophy (AP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Thursday Evening

How can we still speak meaningfully of God or religious faith in today’s world? This unit explores the relationship between postmodernism and religious faith. Does the notion of God as foundation amount to limitation of the divine, or even idolatry? Discover how postmodern thinking bids to rework some traditional connections between faith and philosophy.

The Art of Belief
Katharine Massam and Howard Wallace
Field A & C – Church History (CH) and Religious Studies (AR)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: throughout the year (May 2, 9, 16, 23; September 5, 12; October 17)

If you love art, or want to appreciate the interpretations of artists, this unit is a must. You will explore the symbolic world of European and Australian art (including work by Aboriginal artists) to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the representation of selected key aspects of Christian belief. Drawing specifically on the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria in dialogue with other images, we will consider how various artistic approaches illuminate changing perspectives on diverse themes. We learn how these approaches can resource theological conversation.

Reason and Revival
Kerrie Handasyde
Field & Discipline: Field A, B & C – Church History (CH), Religious Studies (AR)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Wednesday Afternoon
Available online and on campus

Religious literature and music provides a rich source of learning. This unit examines the history of Protestantism in the eighteenth to mid-twentieth centuries through the lens of religious literature and music. Using a wide variety of texts including poetry, novels, hymns and songs, drama and memoirs, we seek to explore trends in the development of Protestant belief and spirituality around the world, with a special emphasis on the Australian experience. Topics include the Enlightenment, conversion and revival, social activism, nature, writing for children, and the life of the church.
Introduction to New Testament Greek: Part A
Sunny Chen
Field & Discipline: Field A – Languages (AL)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Tuesday morning

One of our liveliest and most energetic classes! Learn a whole new alphabet, and start to read the original language of the New Testament. Translate and interpret short passages from Scripture as well as other writing from the first and second centuries.

Introduction to New Testament Greek: Part B
Sunny Chen
Field & Discipline: Field A – Languages (AL)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Tuesday morning

Can a better understanding of Greek language enhance your understanding of the New Testament? Even if you don’t know any Greek, this unit develops your understanding of New Testament Greek syntax, grammar and vocabulary. 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. By engaging with a biblical text in its original language you will see how studying Greek can assist in its interpretation.

Life, History, and the People of God
Monica Melanchthon
Field and Discipline: Field B – Old Testament (BA)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Tuesday afternoon
Available online and on campus

Come and increase your knowledge and understanding of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and gain new insights into the life, history and faith of the people of God in ancient Israel. You will survey the contents of the Old Testament and study the historical contexts, genres and theology of the OT books. As well as understanding the texts in their ancient context, you will explore their relation to issues of contemporary faith.

Psalms: Exegetical and Theological Study
Monica Melanchthon
Field and Discipline: Field B – Old Testament (BA)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1 Intensive March 15, 16, 17, 19 & 20

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.

Earliest Christianity: Stories, Text, Beliefs
Robyn Whitaker
Field & Discipline: Field B – New Testament (BN)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Thursday afternoon

Immerse yourself in 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, you will be introduced to the rise of the early Christian movement, and explore the range of developing theological beliefs that characterised the first two generations of early Christianity.

Robyn Whitaker
Field and Discipline: Field B – New Testament (BN)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1 Intensive: 8-9 November 2018; 14–15 February; 21–22 March 2019

The Book of Revelation: Evil, Empire, and Eschatology
Robyn Whitaker
Field and Discipline: Field B – New Testament (BN)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Wednesday afternoon

The Book of Revelation is a highly symbolic, political, and justice-oriented text that speaks to a range of ancient and contemporary issues. In this unit, you will undertake a detailed study of Revelation in its historical and political setting. The course pays special attention to the way that Revelation engages the ‘vision’ of the reader, in ways that expose evil and offer an alternate vision of God’s reign. If you have studied New Testament Greek then you will have the chance to use your language skills in studying the text.

“Working out Salvation”: Theology and Ethics in Paul
Sean Winter
Field and Discipline: Field B – New Testament (BN)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Tuesday evening

What is the relationship between what we believe and the way that we live? This unit explores the way that Paul answers this question in his letters. You will explore the important ideas that Paul develops in his theology and look at the ways in which these ideas relate to his advice and instruction to his readers. In particular, you will consider debates about identity, race, gender, and political engagement, looking at the ways that Paul’s thought can continue to help us think through these issues today.

Holiness, Hope, and Resistance:
Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period
Kylie Crabbe
Field and Discipline: Field B – Biblical Studies (BS)
Elective unit, suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Tuesday afternoon

The non-biblical texts of Second Temple Judaism explore themes of theological, cosmological, and political significance and offer fascinating insights into the ways that Old Testament ideas were developed within Judaism. Studying these texts also helps us understand the context of the New Testament. In this unit, you will get a chance to study the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Maccabean literature, apocalyptic texts, and the writings of Philo and Josephus in detail and gain an understanding of the issues, personalities and communities that belong to this important period in Jewish history.

Memory, History and the Historians
Katharine Massam
Field and Discipline: Field C – Church History (CH)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Tuesday afternoon

How has the Christian community remembered and told its story? Eusebius thought everything was solved by Constantine, Augustine thought he could not have been more wrong, Dorothy Day looked for Christ in the streets. Distinct approaches of the writers, as well as the music, architecture, and art across 2000 years open up discussion of connections between memory and history and the place of both in theological understanding.

The Cracking of Christendom: Theological Issues of the Reformation
Katharine Massam – Kerrie Handsaye – Geoff Thompson
Field and Discipline: Field C – Systematic Theology (CT) and Church History (CH)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Tuesday morning

They say the past is a foreign country. Join this tour of sixteenth-century Europe to discover the ongoing impact of Reformation debates. We 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.

Early Monastic Wisdom: The Desert and the City
Carmel Posa and Katharine Massam
Field and Discipline: Field C – Church History (CH) and Field D – Spirituality (DS)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2 Intensive: September 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and November 9

The ‘sayings’ of the desert fathers and mothers are pithy, sometimes quirky and full of practical insight for living the Christian life. The flourishing of desert spirituality in the 3rd and 4th centuries is a focus for this unit, setting it in the context of earlier communities of Christian monastics and exploring its resonances for today. We explore key primary texts in the light of the wider life of the church, offering an introduction to Christian traditions of theological reflection.

Mary: Feminist Theological Revisions
Stephen Burns and Katharine Massam
Field and Discipline: Field C – History (CH) and Field D – Liturgy (DL)
Suitable for those studying postgraduate awards
Semester 2 Intensive: Friday evenings 6.00-9.00, Saturdays 9.30-4.30 September 13 & 14, 20 & 21, October 4 & 5.

Moving across church traditions and drawing on feminist thinkers we will explore the theological dynamics surrounding Mary the mother of Jesus. How has Mary of Nazareth been understood in various Christian communities? What is the significance of devotion to Mary for feminist theologies? And how does feminism refresh or inform an understanding of Mary?

Culture, Beliefs and Theology
Geoff Thompson
Field and Discipline: Field C – Systematic Theology (CT)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1 Intensive: May 10 & 11, 13 & 14

Engage with a range of representations of Christianity in contemporary intellectual and popular cultures, in Australia and elsewhere to see how and in what ways Christian theology responds to its context. We explore objections to Christianity, non-Christian explorations, assessments and appropriations. Our contemporary exploration will also draw historical links with the birth of Christian theology in the religiously and philosophically diverse world of antiquity.
Jesus, Discipleship and Justice
Teacher: Sally Douglas and Geoff Thompson
Field & Discipline: Field C – Systematic Theology (CT)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Tuesday afternoon

Justice remains key to the way any society exists. This unit explores 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 Jesus’ 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.

A Changed Climate for Theology: Ecological challenges and opportunities for the Christian tradition
Deborah Guess
Field C – Systematic Theology (CT)
Suitable for those studying postgraduate awards
Semester 1 Intensive: 1 & 2, 4 & 5 February

A day rarely passes when the topic of climate change is not on the agenda. The ecological phenomenon of climate change relates to the essentially religious question of who we are and how we are to live. This unit examines the question of what an ecological context and approach means for Christian theology and praxis. It identifies some of the challenges this presents for questions of faith and understanding, and explores a number of significant ecological resources in the rich Christian tradition.

Readings in Christian Doctrine
Geoff Thompson
Field and Discipline: Field C – Theology (CT)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2 Intensive: October 18 & 19, 21 & 22

Take your theological reflection on the contemporary world to the next level and join us to explore an area of doctrine in depth through key readings. In 2019 a focus on ‘eschatology and universal reconciliation’ will spend time with major writers who have shaped and are shaping Christian understanding of the last things and the promises of a new creation.

Children and Families Ministry:
Core Issues and Contextualities for Excellence in Practice
Beth Barnett
Field and Discipline: Field D – Mission and Ministry (DA)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1 Intensive: February 13, 14, 15 and 18, 19, 20
Semester 2 Intensive: July 11, 12, 13 and 15, 16, 17

The needs of children and their families will focus our discussion of church and the Australian context. Addressing the theology, spirituality and sociology of the child in relation to family, church, faith, culture, technology, history and philosophical discourse, the unit develops critical skills for comprehensive approach to mission and leadership with children and their families today.
The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children
Beth Barnett and Andrew Menzies
Field & Discipline: Field D – Mission and Ministry (DA), Spirituality (DS)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2 Intensive: 27–29 November, 2–4 December

In this intensive unit, we seek to develop more informed ministries of protection and respect in pastoral care and religious education. We explore the historical and current interest in the spiritual life and the spiritual development of children. The unit examines links between Scripture, theological thought, spiritual and psychological development, neurobiology and ministry with children.

Cross-cultural Practice of Ministry
Stephen Burns
Field & Discipline: Field D – Mission and Ministry (DA)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Wednesday Evening

Cross-cultural Practice of Ministry approaches pastoral theology and practice through the lenses of postcolonial and intercultural theologies. You will be helped to (a) understand dynamics of cross-cultural ministry, (b) scrutinize the majority traditions of pastoral theology, and (c) propose practices of ministry that express postcolonial and intercultural conviction and relate these to the Australian context.

Liturgical Theology and Practice
Stephen Burns
Field and Discipline: Field D – Liturgy (DL)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Wednesday Afternoon

Liturgy involves several juxtapositions between scripture and sacrament, space and symbol, worship by and for the people. This unit explores the issues raised by these juxtapositions drawing on the resources of ecumenical liturgical theology.

Liturgical Lab
Stephen Burns
Field and Discipline: Field D – Liturgy (DL)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2 Intensive: July 19, 20, 21 & 22

In the Liturgy Laboratory you will explore kinaesthetic and other arts employed in liturgical assembly, and reflect on the pastoral, public and representative vocation of the one who presides. The unit will expose you to insights from ecumenical liturgical renewal and liturgical theology as these relate to the missional vocation of the church. Special attention will be given to Anglican and Uniting contexts of worship, and a significant proportion of the unit will be given to embodied and enacted liturgical practice.

Developing a Mission Theology for Today
John Flett
Field & Discipline: Field D – Missiology (DM)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Thursday Afternoon

In this unit, you 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.

Ferment and Renewal: The Missional Church Today
John Flett
Field and Discipline: Field D – Missiology (DM)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester I Intensive: February 11, 12, 13, 21, 22

How to bring renewal from the ferment that surrounds us? Deepen your understanding of the cultural movements that have defined the Australian church (Christendom and its dying influence, the Enlightenment, its legacy of modernity, and the challenges of post-modernity and globalization). Explore and critique recent ‘missional’ strategies and engage directly with communities responding to missional challenges.

Migrant Christianities
John Flett
Field and Discipline: Field D – Missiology (DM)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1: Thursday afternoon

This unit exposes you to the challenges of migration and the experiences of migrant Christian communities in relation to social justice, cultural integration and identity formation within the Australian context. Special attention will be given to the theology and spirituality of these communities. It will include an exploration of recent political, social and religious trends in Australian society and the growing impact of globalism.
What is ‘Context’?
John Flett
Field and Discipline: Field D – Missiology (DM)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Tuesday evening

What is a context? What does it mean to ‘have a context’? This course examines this concept, especially in terms of the relationship of Christian faith to culture(s). What might it mean for the Christian gospel to be “local” while also “continuous” with the tradition? You will gain a better understanding of concepts like indigenisation, acculturation, enculturation, inculturation and contextualisation.

Self and Other in Pastoral Relationships
Cathryn McKinney
Field and Discipline: Field D – Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 1 Intensive: March 1 & 2, April 5 & 6

Rigorous, participative and practical, students in this unit explore the ‘self’ as part of their identity in pastoral and other relationships. Theology and other theoretical material informs our work to examine self-identity in social, cultural and familial contexts, and provides resources for understanding and maintaining healthy relationships in ministry and other settings.

Theology of Pastoral Care
Randall Prior
Field & Discipline: Field D – Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Wednesday Afternoon

The pastoral care unit explores the theological nature of pastoral care and the relationship between theology and pastoral skills. We aim 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.

Pastoral Care with People with Disabilities
Andy Calder
Field and Discipline: Field D – Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)
Suitable for those studying undergraduate and postgraduate awards
Semester 2: Thursday morning

This unit will address theological, liturgical, ethical and pastoral care issues associated with ministry with people with disabilities. Scripture will be examined as a means of reflection on contemporary theological-pastoral issues. The relationship between faith and healing, from both a personal and social perspective, and theologies about disability will also be explored. A site visit will be part of the unit.

HOW TO SELECT APPLY

To enrol for one or more of these units contact the Registrar who will send you the relevant forms for admission.

Phone our Registrar Erlinda Loverseed on (03) 9340 8892 for your admission form and the next steps. The outcome of your application for admission will be notified to you in writing.

Confused about the right unit for your needs? Wondering if there is a cost-effective way to study with us? Trying to work out how your study fits with your current work commitments?

We understand that it is difficult to know which unit is best suited to you as a student. We invite you to talk to us about your needs. It may be the first time you have studied for a while, you may be concerned about your understanding of Australian course requirements or you may be wondering if you can study one of our units as part of a qualification at another university.

Our Registrar Erlinda Loverseed will help you with all your questions.

Call: (03) 9340 8892 or email registrar@pilgrim.edu.au

Join us today
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