

CT1000P/ CT1009P  
Christianity's Big Ideas

Semester 1: Classroom-based (CT1000P);

Online – (CT1009P)

**Description**

This unit introduces Christianity'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 particular and local Churches will be noted.

**Learning Outcomes**

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. Identify the main doctrines of the Christian faith.
3. Articulate the ways scripture, tradition, reason and context shape doctrinal development.
4. Communicate the ways doctrine forms a Christian imagination through retrieval, polemic and construction.

**Assessment**

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Face to face</b>	
Essay of 800 words on the relationship between faith, belief and doctrine	20%
Learning resource of 1200 words introducing one Christian doctrine to a designated contemporary Christian or non-Christian audience.	30%
Essay of 2000 words on either the roles of scripture, tradition reason and context in a particular doctrine or the roles of doctrine in the church.	50%
<b>Online</b>	
Essay of 800 words on the relationship between faith, belief and doctrine	20%
Learning resource of 1000 words introducing one Christian doctrine to a designated contemporary Christian or non-Christian audience.	25%
Essay of 1500 words on either the roles of scripture, tradition reason and context in a particular doctrine or the roles of doctrine in the church.	45%
Online Participation (700 words)	10%

**Prerequisites:** None

**Lecturer:** Geoff Thompson

**Recommended Reading**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Anon. *Creeds and Catechisms*: Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, The Heidelberg Catechism, The Canons of Dort, The Belgic Confession, and the Theological Declaration of Barmen. Unknown place of publication: Benediction Classics, 2011.

Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Chan, Simon. *Grassroots Asian Theology: Thinking the Faith from the Ground Up*. Leicester: IVP, 2014.

Coakley, Sarah. "Is there a future for gender and theology? On gender, contemplation and the systematic task". *Criterion* 47, no. 1 (2009): 2-11.

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

Gunton, Colin E., and Stephen R. Holmes and Murray A. Rae. *The Practice of Theology: A Reader*. London: SCM, 2001.

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

Holmes, Stephen R. and Shawn Bawulski. *Christian Theology: The Classics*. London: Routledge, 2014.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti, *Christ and Reconciliation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013.

LaCugna, Catherina Mowry. (ed). *Freeing Theology: The Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective*. San Francisco: HarperSan Francisco, 1993.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Fifth Edition. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Third Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Parratt, John (ed). *An Introduction to Third World Theologies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

\*Towey, Anthony. *An Introduction to Christian Theology: Biblical, Classical, Contemporary*. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2013.

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### Learning Outcomes

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 some of the ways doctrine functions in the church.
5. Formulate proposals for doctrinal development in particular contexts.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Face to face</b>	
Essay of 1200 words on the relationship between faith, belief and doctrine	20%
Learning resource of 1800 words introducing one Christian doctrine to a designated contemporary Christian or non-Christian audience.	30%
Essay of 3000 words on either the roles of scripture, tradition reason and context in a particular doctrine or the roles of doctrine in the church.	50%
<b>Online</b>	
Essay of 1200 words on the relationship between faith, belief and doctrine	20%
Learning resource of 1500 words introducing one Christian doctrine to a designated contemporary Christian or non-Christian audience.	25%
Essay of 2500 words on either the roles of scripture, tradition reason and context in a particular doctrine or the roles of doctrine in the church.	45%
Online Participation (800 words)	10%

**Prerequisites:** None

**Lecturer:** Geoff Thompson

### Recommended Reading

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Anon. *Creeds and Catechisms*: Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, The Heidelberg Catechism, The Canons of Dort, The Belgic Confession, and the Theological Declaration of Barmen. Unknown place of publication: Benediction Classics, 2011.

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