

SUBJECT SUMMARIES

Detailed syllabi are available upon request.

DEGREE/GRADUATE AWARDS

Subject Codes

300/400 level subjects : BCS., BMin, BTh

500/600 level subjects: GDCS, GDD, MDiv

700 level subjects: M.A.C.S), MDiv, MATH, MAMIN

800/900 level subjects: DMIN

CORE SUBJECTS

Bible: Old Testament

OT301/501 FORMATIVE OLD TESTAMENT TRADITIONS

This subject forms the foundation for Old Testament studies. It seeks to give students an historical and theological perspective on topics that begin with Creation and traces the history of Israel up until Elijah in the 9th Century BC. Topics include the Patriarchal History; Exodus and Sinai; Conquest and Settlement; the beginning of the Monarchy; Solomon and the Division of the Kingdom and the beginning of the Prophetic movement.

OT302/502 FROM ISRAEL TO JUDEA

This subject continues from *Formative Old Testament Traditions* as a foundation for Old Testament studies. It seeks to give you an historical and theological perspective on topics that begin with the period of the classical eighth century (Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah) up until the post-exilic period of Malachi in 400 BC. Other main topics within this survey include Josiah and the final years of the Kingdoms, the Exile, the Post Exilic restoration and reconstruction, the Wisdom movement, and the book of Daniel and Apocalyptic literature.

Bible: New Testament

NT301/NT501 CONTENT & SETTING OF THE GOSPEL TRADITION

This subject (along with *Early New Testament Church*) forms the foundation for advanced studies in the New Testament. This subject introduces students to the life and ministry of Jesus against the cultural, religious and political background of first century Palestine, and to the nature of the four gospels, their characteristics and major themes. Special attention is given to distinctive features of each of the four gospels, and to the life, ministry and teaching of Jesus.

LA302/502 EARLY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

This subject (along with *Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition*) forms the foundation for advanced studies in the New Testament. This subject introduces you to the birth and expansion of the church according to the Acts of the Apostles against the cultural, religious and political background of first century Greco-Roman world, and to the letters of the New Testament and the Apocalypse, their characteristics and major themes. Special attention is given to the life and preaching of the Jerusalem church, and the mission of St Paul.

Bible: Language and Interpretation

OT303/503 PRINCIPLES OF HERMENEUTICS

This subject is designed to give the student competency in analysis of the biblical text. Following completion of the subject the student will be able to write a commentary (exegetical paper) on the text, will be able to critically examine the exegesis of others, and be able to prepare sermons and bible studies from detailed exegetical work.

LA004 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

NT Greek is a crucial basis for building a correct interpretation and informed understanding of the NT text. This is a rigorous subject that introduces you to the grammar of Koine Greek and builds a vocabulary range that enables competent translation to be undertaken in future study.

LA002 INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

This subject is designed to give you an overview of the structures of the Greek language without actually learning the language itself. The aim is to equip you to use the various Greek-English translational and exegetical tools that will enable them to make independent, critical, and interpretive judgments.

LA410/610 INTERMEDIATE GREEK

This subject builds on the skills learnt in NT Greek. Whereas the latter teaches translation skills, Intermediate Greek shows how a knowledge of Greek is used to (i) make key exegetical choices when faced with ambiguous meaning, and (ii) capture emphases in the text that are not apparent in English translations. By completing this subject students will also increase their vocabulary range and also lay a solid foundation upon which to proceed to post-graduate New Testament studies.

LA003 BIBLICAL HEBREW

This subject will involve the study of Weingreen's introductory grammar, introducing you to the basic forms of Hebrew grammar. You will be introduced to the various verbal forms of classical Hebrew, as well as aspects of Hebrew idioms and syntax as a preparation for the translation and reading of Old Testament Hebrew.

Church History

CH301/501 THE CHURCH TO 1550 (Distance only)

This subject gives students a survey of the major developments in the history of the Christian churches, in order to develop a fuller appreciation of major streams of Christian faith. It introduces the topics of the church in Imperial Rome, the church as Christendom and the continental churches and reform to that students will come to appreciate the problems, opportunities and attitudes of past Christians in their interaction with the societies in which they lived.

CH302/502 THE CHURCH FROM 1550 TO MODERN TIMES (Distance only)

This subject gives a survey of Christianity from apostolic times to the Reformation to the present. The course pays particular attention to key factors and themes that contributed to the advance or decline of Christianity at significant historical junctures, with particular reference to significant theological developments and missionary philosophy and method

CH 305 Early Church History 30-451

This period of church history is perhaps the most significant of all. It is the time when the early Christians developed their understanding of the person of Christ, the Trinity, the Scriptures, the nature of the church and ministry. They faced enormous trials of physical persecution, and the challenges of false teachings. During this time the creeds, the statements of what we believe, were hammered out and have been the standard of Christianity right through to today. In studying

Early Church History the student will have a grounding in where all the key beliefs of Christianity came from, and how these apply today. (It is particularly helpful to have this historical understanding prior to studying theology.)

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Theology

TH401/601 THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

This subject covers the knowledge of God and God and the World. The Knowledge of God includes the concepts of revelation and inspiration, the place and nature of Scripture and issues raised by reason, authority and experience. God and the World includes a discussion of creation and providence, humanity as created and sin and evil.

TH402/602 THE DOCTRINE OF GOD & THE WORK OF CHRIST

The first section of the course introduces the Christian doctrine of God including the being and attributes of God, the person of Christ, his humanity and deity, the Holy Spirit and the Holy Trinity. The second section covers the work of Christ including his incarnation and ministry, his death and resurrection and his ascension and session.

TH403/603 THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE AND ESCHATOLOGY

This subject is divided into two parts. Firstly, it asks us to think about how we think about the doctrines of grace including the Gospel of God, the concepts of repentance, faith, forgiveness, justification, election and grace, and the work of the Spirit. Secondly, it presents the Christian Hope including the kingdom present and future, judgement, consummation of all things in Christ, death intermediate state and resurrection and heaven and hell.

TH404/604 CHURCH, SACRAMENTS AND MINISTRY

The first section of this subject covers the people of God including the kingdom, the church (its nature, authority and mission), the marks of the people of God, the nature and norms of ministry and denominations. The second section introduces the concepts of word and sacrament, Christian initiation, The Lord's Supper, Christian Worship and prayer.

Pastoral and Church Focussed Ministry

PC441/641 PRINCIPLES OF HOMILETICS

An introduction to foundational principles of preaching.

PC402/602 FOUNDATIONS OF PASTORAL CARE

This subject examines the theological, psycho-social and developmental foundations that underlie the ministry of pastoral care, and explores some of the implications of these perspectives.

Students learn and practise some basic pastoral skills and begin to minister to individuals and families in various life stages. There are opportunities to reflect personally and theologically on such ministry as students work towards an integrated understanding of themselves and pastoral ministry.

PC435/635 PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

This subject is designed to facilitate the candidate's understanding of the processes of leadership development, and to equip them for significant leadership roles. It also investigates human personality and management principles and procedures in order to equip candidates to perform with excellence in leadership and management roles in Christian organizations.

PC440/640 COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLES

This subject introduces the student to major principles related to interpersonal communication in Christian ministry.

Developmental Ministry

DM414/614 CHAPLAINCY IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

This subject offers current and prospective practitioners the opportunity to explore the practice and theology of chaplaincy in a range of educational settings: primary, secondary and tertiary, state and private systems. Topics include the role of the chaplain and a theology of chaplaincy, issues among children, adolescents and young adults as well as chaplaincy in practice.

Evangelism & Mission

EM324/524 PRINCIPLES OF EVANGELISM

This subject is a theoretical and practical orientation to the biblical, theological and socio-cultural dimensions of living and communicating the meaning of the Christian gospel in both Australia and overseas. The subject investigates personal and church-based methods of evangelism in contemporary society. You will be introduced to the various sub-topics of the course through class-based input of biblical, methodological and socio-cultural material and associated weekly readings from the set text and other relevant articles. Timetabled alongside this are a number of practical tasks that help identify and categorise evangelistic methods that students will compare and contrast, and determine and evaluate what is best for them and your church and cultural context. You will apply and integrate class learning with experience of at least twenty hours of field work in the form of supervised involvement in evangelistic activity in a team placement with other students.

EM301/501 MISSION PERSPECTIVES (Distance only)

Perspectives is an exciting mission awareness subject, surveying the background and impact of Christianity as an international movement. Moving from the Biblical perspective of God's global plan, through the historical, cultural and strategic perspectives you will be enabled to make informed decisions about your strategic, personal participation in mission today whether as "sender" or "goer". This is a subject specially designed for those not taking a major in intercultural studies. Ministers and mission agency staff will find this subject valuable.

EM403/603 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MISSION

An overview of the biblical foundations for mission that develops the students' understanding of God as a missionary God whose great purpose is the redemption of humanity and the restoration of creation in the coming of his Kingdom through Christ. Particular attention is given to the divine intention and enablement for human co-operation in God's missionary purpose, and to give opportunity for students to integrate their study of the Scriptures, theology and personal understanding of vocation in mission.

EM404/604 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY OF MISSION

An overview of the changing theological perspectives on world mission across the Church of Jesus Christ since 1945, and the major contemporary issues in mission today. Particular attention

is given to the biblical evaluation of these perspectives and issues, and equipping students to be able to think from a biblical perspective about their involvement in mission today.

EM415/615 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN ISLAMIC CONTEXTS

This subject provides tools for ministry among Muslims in Australia and overseas. Topics covered will include: varieties of Islam, Christianity in Muslim majority countries, mission strategies among Muslims, the gospel for Muslims, contextualisation, discipling Muslims, Islam in Australia. The course will include a visit to a mosque and interaction with Muslims.”

EM421/621 LIVING FAITHS

This subject looks at the historical roots, beliefs, practices, cultural influences and contemporary reforms in 3 of the following living faiths: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Australian Aboriginal religions, primal religions.

Discipleship, Spirituality and Ministry Formation

PC449 SUPERVISED EXPERIENCED BASED LEARNING (SEBL)

This subject introduces students to practical and biblical issues related to discipleship. To study what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to develop a personal strategy for the ministry of discipling/mentoring others. In addition, you will be involved in four hours of supervised ministry and personal development following an action-reflection. You will focus on an endorsed field of practical ministry in churches or approved organizations and be mentored by experienced practitioners. SEBL should be completed alongside your other studies and therefore must be completed for the duration of your studies.

PC440/640 – PC449/649 FIELD EDUCATION

This is an internship opportunity designed to enable the student to begin to develop a theology of ministry and to reflect on theological and biblical issues in ministry, integrating course work studies with actual ministry in different situations. It exposes the student to the ways ministry is conducted and modelled and gives students the opportunity to experience various ministerial tasks under supervision. It can be done in evangelism, congregational ministry, pastoral care, practical ministry, lay ministry, youth ministry or cross-cultural field experience.

Bible Exegesis

OT410/610, OT420/620 PENTATEUCH

This subject is one of the most important areas of study in the Old Testament. This includes an understanding and overview of the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. What makes these books so important? Interest will be focused on the overall structure and themes that hold these books together. Different scholars' approaches will be examined, including an in-depth analysis of select theological and exegetical issues associated with these books.

OT411/611 OT421/621 FORMER PROPHETS

This subject includes the study of the books Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings. These books are important for understanding the beginning of Israel's life within the Promised Land, the Monarchy, and finally exile. The study of these books will focus on overall structure and themes that hold them together. Also the subject will include an in-depth analysis of select theological and exegetical issues associated with these books.

OT422/622, OT432/632 EIGHTH CENTURY PROPHETS

The theology of the Eighth Century Prophets, including such motifs as prophets and covenant, prophetic eschatology, law and cult, social justice, election, the remnant, foreign nations. This subject includes two of the following – Joel, Hosea, Micah, Amos and Isaiah 1:1 – 2:4, 5:1 – 10:4.

OT424/624, OT434/634 WISDOM LITERATURE

This subject discusses the wisdom literature and traditions in the Old Testament and the Ancient Near East in its social settings. Special reference is made to the book of Job and the doctrines of God and humanity, creation, the fear of God, retribution and moral order.

OT426/626, OT416/616 PSALTER

This subject involves an appreciation of the way in which they have come together, an understanding of their various 'types' that would help us to interpret them more fully. Also a number of themes from the Psalms will be explored, as well as recognising the main features of Hebrew poetry and its importance for Psalm interpretation.

OT413/613 OT423/623 EXILIC PROPHECY

Addressed to the Jewish exiles in Babylon this majestic piece of literature asks some fundamental questions regarding true belief and trust in God, and what it means for God to be sovereign. It also introduces us to the suffering Servant figure, a designation that plays a key role in NT Christology. Because of its general themes, these chapters of perhaps the greatest Israelite prophet are of timeless relevance for believers today. Students will be introduced to the historical situation that gave rise to the book, and will study these chapters in considerable depth, looking for points of contact to contemporary Christian ministry.

NT420/620 SYNOPTIC GOSPELS: LUKE

This subject introduces the student to critical issues associated with the study of the synoptic gospels, with special reference to the Gospel of Luke, before moving on to examine the historical Jesus debate.

NT425/625, NT435/635 PAULINE THEOLOGY AND ROMANS

This subject student allows students to undertake an in depth study of the theology of the apostle Paul, whose writings form a major part of the New Testament. The subject includes and introduction to the history of the interpretation of Pauline theology especially during the past 150 years, explores factors that influenced the apostle's theological development, and covers a number of the major themes in Pauline theology.

NT422/622, NT432/632 HEBREWS

Hebrews is a unique book in that it moves from beautiful images of Jesus and His work to powerful and serious warnings for those who would suppose to follow Him. This subject examines the historical situation that gave rise to this epistle as well as studying the major themes that emerge from it.

NT424/624, NT434/634 FOURTH GOSPEL

This subject allows students to undertake an in depth study of the Fourth Gospel. The subject includes an introduction to the history of the interpretation of this gospel during the past 150 years, allows students to develop their exegetical skills by detailed work on the text of the gospel, and explores in depth a number of its major theological themes, including eternal life, witness, the Holy Spirit, sacramentalism, and metaphors of the church.

NT426/626, NT436/636 GENERAL EPISTLES

This subject is designed to give an appreciation of the historical and cultural situations that gave rise to these interesting letters. The major issues and theological themes in both of the letters will be examined, and students will be asked to evaluate the points of contact between the situations addressed by these epistles and their own contemporary setting.

Christian Thought

PE301/501 INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS

This subject introduces the framework and major themes of biblical ethics raising the key questions, theories and tools of philosophical ethics in order to increase skills in ethical reasoning and decision making. By looking at various traditions of theological ethics it discusses the integration of biblical and philosophical approaches. Finally, two contemporary ethical issues are studied in light of the Bible.

PE420/620 CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

The subject explores ways of understanding and defending Christian truth claims in an increasingly secular, pluralistic age. It covers a range of apologetic issues, including science and faith, historical roots of Christianity, philosophical objections to Christianity, and alternatives to Christian belief, while seeking to wed them to a person-centered approach to evangelism.