

## **MA Modules 2023-24 (all 20 credits)**

### **TMM42220 Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods** **Revd Dr Howard Worsley/Revd Dr Tim Welch**

This compulsory module is designed to equip students to write their dissertation by familiarising them with a range of research methods and approaches. The module is delivered in two halves. The first half focuses on skills for selecting a dissertation question and designing the process of research. It is assessed via a comparative book review of two key texts for the dissertation topic. The second half examines theological method in general, with a particular focus on practical theology, to analyse the place of experience and other academic disciplines within theology.

Assessment: a comparative book review (50%) and an essay (50%) of 3000 words.

### **Advanced New Testament Studies: 1 and 2 Thessalonians** **TMM40420 Dr Jamie Davies**

This course will be a combination of lectures and seminar-style discussions, working through the text of 1 and 2 Thessalonians in dialogue with a series of significant scholarly publications covering important texts and themes. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach, considering a range of issues brought up by these letters, including Paul's pastoral theology, eschatology, political theology, ethics, etc. Students will be expected to read the letters themselves as well as a series of published essays in preparation for discussion.

Assessment: an oral presentation (40%) and a written essay of 3000 words (60%).

### **Advanced Old Testament Studies: Joshua** **TMM40320 Revd Dr David Firth**

The book of Joshua sits at the heart of debates about the importance of the Old Testament for Christian faith, especially in popular discourse but also in some scholarly work. Does it present a picture of violent people claiming a land? A violent deity who enacts genocide? Or are such approaches a misreading of this text? Through a close reading of the whole of Joshua, attention is given to its narrative form and the ways in which its language is used. Through this, the ways in which the book actually works against the sort of popular readings emerges and Joshua can be seen as a work that is in the process of redefining the nature of Israel as the people of God so that they are no longer defined on the basis of ethnicity but rather faithfulness to Yahweh. This module therefore introduces students to aspects of narrative criticism and its theological implications for reading a text like this.

Assessment: two written essays of 3000 words.

**Old Testament Texts in Hebrew  
TMM40620 Revd Dr David Firth**

This module is offered in conjunction with Advanced Old Testament Studies. It requires an additional hour of class attendance to it and focuses on the translation and exegesis of the particular psalms considered in Hebrew rather than English. Students taking this module are registered for it rather than Advanced Old Testament Studies. It is assessed through one 6000 word translation and exegesis of a selected passage from Joshua.

Assessment: two written essays of 3000 words.

**Advanced Topic in Christian Doctrine  
TMM40920 Revd Dr Taido Chino**

This module provides an opportunity for in-depth study of a single doctrinal theme: theological anthropology. The first several sessions are concerned with classical themes related to the topic (e.g. *imago Dei*, sin, personhood) while the latter sessions take up more contemporary questions related to identity (e.g. gender, race, disability). The hope is that students will be able to integrate contemporary concerns with theological resources in a way that allows them to commend a robust understanding of what it means to be human from a Christian perspective. The format of the course is largely seminar-style and therefore it is incumbent on the students to have devoted time for completing the assigned readings.

Assessment: one written essay of 6000 words.

**Advanced Topic in Christian Ethics: Gender based Violence and the Christian Tradition  
(New module for 2023)  
TMM41520 Revd Dr Helen Paynter**

This module will take a multi and inter-disciplinary approach to consider the causes, manifestations, and responses to gender-based violence in various settings. We will study biblical texts of violence and other relevant biblical themes, and will interrogate critical research from a theological perspective. It is intended that students will leave the module with a good understanding of how to prevent and respond to gender based violence, and of the theological and pastoral issues it raises. *Please understand that this module will deal with emotionally difficult material throughout, which will sometimes be descriptively graphic.* Naturally every effort will be taken to safeguard the emotional welfare of participants. The module will employ seminar style teaching, and it is expected that students will come to class prepared from the pre-reading.

Assessment: one written essay of 6000 words.

**The Bible and Christian Faith (Hermeneutics of Biblical Violence)**  
**TMM40120 Revd Dr Helen Paynter**

In this module we will be learning about, and applying, a range of hermeneutical approaches to a range of biblical texts. We will mostly be focussing on biblical violence (which encompasses a broad selection of texts and genres, from narrative to psalm to apocalyptic). We will use a number of different hermeneutical tools such as narrative criticism, comparative study, reader-response, feminist criticism, and so on. At least half the classes will be seminar-style, which students will take turns to lead, but pre-reading will be essential for all.

Assessment: two written essays of 3000 words.

**Liturgy and Spirituality**  
**TMM45220 Revd Dr Paul Roberts**

This module uses the theme of Spirituality to understand the worship of the Church (its 'liturgy'). It looks at how worship engages with our experience of time, prayer and suffering. It also looks at how celebrating the sacraments of eucharist and initiation shape our understanding of our relationship with God and our understanding of our life in him. In the course of this study, there is a growing appreciation of the importance of worship and liturgy as a source for lived theology – the Christian spiritual life. Teaching is through means of class presentations and set reading.

Assessment: two written essays of 3000 words. In the case of CoE ordinands, the second will be an assessment of the current worshipping practice of the church that they attend.

**Reflective Practice: Mission and Evangelism**  
**TMM43520 Revd Dr Howard Worsley**

This module is foundational for students studying at Masters level because it weaves the various strands of biblical and theological insight into the context of mission. The core texts used are Bosch (2005), Bevans and Schroeder (2004) and Stroope M (2017).

Building on students' prior work in understanding the biblical basis for mission (Nussbaum (2005), Allen (1962) and Wright (2006)), the module will review the foundational legacy of Bosch's influential work 'Transforming Mission' and consider this in the light of Bevans and Schroeder's 'Constants in Contexts'. Consideration is given to how mission can be viewed since the apostolic era in the different ecclesiologies of the world church throughout history.

Particular attention is given to the current role of mission in this postcolonial era of the church in the west, noting the ambiguous role of mission in postmodernity. Other key areas of attention are given to 'reverse mission', business as mission, mission in a pluralist society and mission as public theology.

Assessment: one essay of 3000 words and one theological reflection of 3000 words.