This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name: History of Christian Thought and its Practice

Unit Code: JA405

Awards: Graduate Diploma in Ministry Studies

Core/Elective: Elective

Pre/co-requisites: Nil

Modes: Internal and External

Delivery/Contact hrs: Nominal 10 hours per week x 14 weeks = 140 hours (10 credit points)

Contact - 42 hours; Engagement with unit materials readings - 50 hours; Assignment preparation - 48 hours

Unit Coordinator: Ps Sam Hey

Teaching Staff: Ps Sam Hey

Unit Rationale: In a world where the plurality of biblical interpretations and theological stances continues to expand, the ability to assess these conflicting differences is imperative for the Evangelical/Charismatic minister of today. Contemporary ministers require the skills to interact with, and critically assess this plethora of information. Such skills may be developed by a study into the development of “thought” and critical thinking through history.

A study of the knowledge and understanding of the history of Christian thought and its practice provides beneficial historical perspectives on Christian epistemologies. It also provides useful insights into the development of knowledge in community and to tools associated with an introduction to critical thinking toward the evaluation of knowledge.

This unit surveys the major developments in Christian thinking through history and the ways they have contributed to contemporary practice. It brings an appreciation of the rich heritage of Christian thought and introduces a critical awareness of changing processes of engagement with knowledge.

Contributions to Course Outcomes:

By examining selected developments in the history of Christian thought and its practice this unit provides a well founded base for critically thinking and lifelong engagement with information, revelation and knowledge. This unit contributes to establishing foundational knowledge and skills in order to provide a framework for the student’s theological, personal and ministry formation and practice.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. Demonstrated an understanding of Church history and its relationship to approaches to thinking and engaging with knowledge;
2. Identified and discussed approaches to thinking used through history;
3. Examined and critically evaluated specific methods and skills engaged in the practice of Christian thought;
4. Established a framework for their own thinking and critically reflected on its application to a contemporary ministry context;
5. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
### Set Text Requirements:

- **Lane, T 2006,** *A Concise History of Christian Thought,* Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI.
- **Marsh, C 2007,** *Theology Goes to the Movies: An Introduction to Critical Christian Thinking,* Taylor & Francis, Florence, KY.

### Recommended readings:

- **Boorstin, D 2001,** *The Seekers: The Story of Man’s Continuing Quest to Understand His World,* Phoenix, London, UK.
- **Brown, C 1990,** *Christianity and Western Thought: A History of Philosophers, Ideas and Movements from the Ancient World to the Age of Enlightenment, Vol. 1,* Apollos/Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL.
- **Ess, C 2004,** *Critical Thinking and the Bible in the Age of New Media,* University Press of America, Lanham, MD.
- **Fasko, D 2003,** *Critical Thinking and Reasoning: Current Research, Theory, and Practice,* Hampton Press, Cresskill, NJ.
- **Harrison, P 2001,** *The Bible, Protestantism, and the Rise of Natural Science,* Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.
- **Kling, DW 2004,** *The Bible in History: How the Texts have Shaped the Times,* Oxford, New York, NJ.
- **Livingston, JC 2006,** *Modern Christian Thought: The Enlightenment and the Nineteenth Century,* Ausburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MA.
- **Livingston, JC & Fiorenza, FS 2006,** *Modern Christian Thought: The Twentieth Century,* Ausburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MA.
Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reflection Paper (1500 words)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluative Paper (2000 words)</td>
<td>3-12</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Framework (1500 words)</td>
<td>1-14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Students must complete all assessment tasks and parts thereof successfully to achieve a passing grade for this unit.