



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

JA205

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND ITS PRACTICE

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 code	JA205	
Unit name	History of Christian Thought and its Practice	
Associated higher education awards	Bachelor of Ministry	
Duration	One semester	
Level	Intermediate	
Unit coordinator	Dr Sam Hey	
Core/elective	Core	
Weighting	Unit credit points: 10cp	Total course credit points: Bachelor of Ministry 240cp
Student workload	Face-to-face on-site	External
	Timetabled hours: 39	Directed study hours: 39
	Readings and study hours: 51	Readings and study hours: 51
	Assignment preparation hours: 60	Assignment preparation hours: 60
	Total hours per unit: 150	Total hours per unit: 150
Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week		
Delivery mode	Face to Face on site External	
Pre-requisites/ co-requisites/ restrictions	Prerequisites: Nil Co-requisites: Nil Restrictions: Nil	
Rationale	<p>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 assess this plethora of information. Such skills may be developed by a study into the development of "thought" through history.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Prescribed text(s)	Gonzalez, JL 2014, <i>A History of Christian Thought</i> , Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. Noll, MA 2012, <i>Turning Points. Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity</i> , 3rd ed, Baker, Grand Rapids, MI.	

<p>Recommended readings</p>	<p>Allison, G 2011, <i>Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine</i>, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> <p>Bettenson, H & Maunder C (eds.) 2011, <i>Documents of the Christian Church</i>, 4th ed, Oxford University Press, New York, NY.</p> <p>Daugherty, DB 2012, <i>Church History: Five Approaches to a Global Discipline</i>, Peter Lang, New York, NY.</p> <p>Dowley, T (ed.) 2013, <i>Introduction to the History of Christianity</i>, 2nd edn, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, MN.</p> <p>Hill, J 2011, <i>Christianity: How a Tiny Sect from a Despised Religion Came to Dominate the Roman Empire</i>, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, MI.</p> <p>Hillerbrand, HJ 2012, <i>A New History of Christianity</i>, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.</p> <p>Kennedy, P 2010, <i>Twentieth Century Theologians: A New Introduction to Modern Christian Thought</i>, IB Tauris, London, UK.</p> <p>Kristiansen, SJ & Rise, S (eds.) 2013, <i>Key Theological Thinkers from Modern to Postmodern</i>, Ashgate, Surrey, UK.</p> <p>McGrath, AE, 2013, <i>Christian History: An introduction</i>, John Wiley & Sons, Malden, MA.</p> <p>Meister, CV, & Beilby, JK (eds.) 2013, <i>The Routledge Companion to Modern Christian Thought</i>, Routledge, New York, NY.</p> <p>Naugle, DK 2012, <i>Philosophy: A Student's Guide</i>, Crossway, Wheaton, IL.</p> <p>Noll, MA 2014, <i>From Every Tribe and Nation: A Historian's Discovery of the Global Christian Story</i>, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as <i>The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV)</i>.</p> <p>This translation and many others may be accessed free on-line at http://www.biblegateway.com. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p>
<p>Specialist resources requirements</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Content</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to history of Christian thought and its practice 2. Developing sound skills, processes and approaches to thinking and engaging with knowledge 3. Establishing a biblical and theological framework to engage with knowledge and thinking 4. Hebrew thought – Old Testament understandings of the revelation of God and His ways 5. Greek thought –Plato, Aristotle, advances and limitations in Greek philosophy and knowledge 6. New Testament – understandings of the ethical, moral and transformational revelation of God 7. Early Church thinking within community and traditions – councils, creeds, and statements of faith 8. Thinking within the middle ages – Augustine, Aquinas and scholasticism 9. The Protestant Reformation – rethinking theologically 10. The Enlightenment – rationalism, theological liberalism; Scientific revolutions - empirical evidence, hypothesis, validity and testing 11. Thinking in a postmodern world – intuition, revelation, experience and pluralism 12. Application of the framework to contemporary ministry and social contexts 13. Contemporary Christian thinking in local and global contexts

Learning outcomes	<p>On completion of this unit, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine Church history and its relationship to approaches to thinking and engaging with knowledge; 2. Identify and critique approaches to thinking used through history; 3. Evaluate specific methods and skills engaged in the practice of Christian thought; 4. Establish a framework for their own thinking and reflect on its application to a contemporary ministry context; and 5. Communicate at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation.
Assessment tasks	<p>Task 1: Essay</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 2,500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 40%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 5</p> <p>Assessed: Week 6</p> <p>Task 2: Personal Framework</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 3,000 words</p> <p>Weighting: 60%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-5</p> <p>Assessed: Week 13</p>
Unit summary	<p>This core unit examines selected developments in the history of Christian thought and its practice and provides a well-founded base for thinking and lifelong engagement with information, revelation and knowledge.</p>