THEO3004 - Advanced Study in Theology 1

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Prof. John McDowell
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Ph: 492 18759
Fax: 492 16933
Email: john.mcdowell@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: TBA through email

Semester: Semester 2 - 2009
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Individual Supervision

Brief Course Description
The aim of this course is to provide the opportunity for students to use the skills and knowledge which they have developed in other courses within the programme and apply them to a particular area of study and/or to a practical vocational experience in greater depth. With the assistance of a supervising tutor students will be required to define an area of study, prepare a learning contract and timetable for their studies, and develop an appropriate bibliography and mode of assessment. The special study will be completed during one semester and the field of study will therefore need to be approved before that semester begins. Students may choose from one of the following broad areas of study:

- Sacred texts, culture and context
- Development of doctrine and practice

For example, within the Sacred texts, culture and context area a student may, in consultation with a supervising tutor, develop a focused study in one of the following illustrative areas: The Prophets, The Pentateuch, New Testament Epistles, Apocalyptic, Eschatological & Wisdom literature.

Students may also propose a vocational experience as the context for their study and reflection, for example in a place of worship, welfare agency, pastoral context or institution.

Contact Hours
Individual Supervision for 3 Hours per Week for the Full Term
Consists of the equivalent minimum 3 hours per week consultation with the supervisor, and additional related activities,

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2009

CTS Download Date: 17.7.09
studies or experience as negotiated between student and supervisor, in line with desired outcomes stated in the Learning Contract.

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Objectives
This course aims to:
- Meet the requirements of the Bachelor of Theology degree of The University of Newcastle, by helping students achieve and self-assess their growth in selected Theology Graduate Attributes, under appropriate extramural supervision;
- Provide opportunities for transition to practice by enabling students to enhance their theological insights and knowledge effectively across a range of secular and/or ministry workplace settings; (private, public and ecclesial);
- Enable students to communicate effectively with people of different Faiths, and colleagues practising in related disciplines, vocations or professions (eg. sociology, psychology, health sciences, teaching, social services, religious ministry);
- Enable students to communicate theological understandings and awareness of others spiritual health beliefs and behaviours in a number of appropriate ways (oral presentations or dialogue, reflective journals or critical reviews) and levels of discourse;
- Make available attractive, extramural learning opportunities which will enhance student satisfaction, professional development, vocational choice and quality of life.

Course Content
Supervised Reading and/or Practical Experience
Once the details of the Learning Contract have been approved by a Supervisor, the student and supervisor will meet to agree on details of supervision and contact, relevant learning experiences and work-related activities expected of the student. During the semester, students will normally be expected to meet fortnightly with their supervisor to discuss their progress on the learning outcomes and feedback on their professionalism (re theology graduate attributes). Before the end of the agreed project duration, the student will again meet with the supervisor to review the achievements and discuss the student’s professionalism.

Assessment Items

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Other: (please specify)</th>
<th>Final report. This may include reflective journals, case studies or summary report. (3500 words)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worth 75% of final course mark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>Written learning contract approved by Supervisor.(1000 words)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Worth 25% of final course mark.</td>
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Assumed Knowledge
20 units THEO courses at 1000/2000 level

Callaghan Campus Timetable
THEO3004
ADVANCED STUDY IN THEOLOGY 1
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2009
Consultation Wednesday 7:00 - 10:00
Lecturer will advise

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest
practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

**Academic fraud** is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

- falsification of data;
- using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;
- reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);
- making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;
- bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and
- making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.
- contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

**Turnitin** is an electronic text matching system. During assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS**

Students can access the University's policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM**

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy.

Requests for *Extensions of Time* must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

- applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
- whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be
affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**Note:** different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

**Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:**

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

*Late applications may not be accepted.* Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au . As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability).

**CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT**

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.


Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

**Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term,** except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: [https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au](https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au)

**STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit: [www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/)

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

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<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>contact your program officer or&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td>Phone 4921 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Precinct</td>
<td>Singapore students</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td>contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
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OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>General enquiries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/</a></td>
<td>Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/</a></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4921 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/</a></td>
<td>Ourimbah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/</a></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4348 4030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000311.html">www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000311.html</a></td>
<td>The Dean of Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards</td>
<td>Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000306.html">www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000306.html</a></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4921 5806;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards</td>
<td>Fax: 02 4921 7151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000580.html">www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000580.html</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au">resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.
Semester 2

Although he was only thirty-six years of age when he was executed by the Nazis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer is nonetheless acknowledged as being one of the seminal figures of 20th European theology, and his influence has been considerable. In fact he is possibly better known outside the confines of the church than any other modern Christian theologian. This guided reading course aims to uncover and explore the theology of grace that drives Bonhoeffer’s theology and eventually leads him into conflict with Germany’s National Socialist government.

**Week -1 Meeting for Orientation**
**Week 3 Submission of paper 1**
**Week 6 Submission of paper 2**
**Week 9 Submission of paper 3**
**Week 10 Student presentation**
**Week 12 Submission of second draft thesis paper**
**Week 13 Submission of final thesis paper**

**Paper Topics**

- Grace and the nature of the Gift
- German religion and *Volkisch* politics in the C19th and early C20th
  - The birth of German nationalism and the ideology of the *Volk*
  - Denmark: Søren Kierkegaard against Hegelian religion
  - Ernst Troeltsch on religion
  - Karl Barth’s *krisis* of religion 1919-22
- Religionlessness and the hiddenness of God in Bonhoeffer
  - Luther on the hiddenness of God and the theology of the cross
  - Barmen and the Politics of grace
  - Bonhoeffer’s theology of religionless Christianity
  - A Christology of the existential question
Assessments
There are several forms of assessment comprising the final assessment grade for the course:

A) Supervisor’s Report (based on the semester’s essays and supervisions) 15%
B) 1x Essay of 5000 words 75%
C) 1x Presentation 10%

Important Essay Writing Guidance Notes
1) Not all of the books may be available at any one time – search for others on the issues being discussed in the essay.
   • The library online catalogue can be helpful in searching for other books;
   • The Bonus catalogue can get you some of the books not in our library (but order these well in time);
   • The ATLA Religion Database can aid in identifying articles, especially articles in e-journals;
   • Use the internet sparingly and critically (good for some primary e-texts – for instance, Wikipedia is not a reputable and quotable research tool).
2) Carefully read the question – the essays may not be asking what one might expect from a quick glance.
3) The essay has to reflect an appropriate knowledge of the issue(s) and the key figures involved, an ability to critically engage with the main conversation partners, and carefully lucid and evidenced reasoning.
4) At level 1 an essay should use no less than 5 major resources; level 2 a minimum of 7 major pieces of resource; and level 3 a minimum of 10 major pieces of resource. For a major piece of writing in a ‘guided reading course’ at level 3 it would be expected that a minimum of 20 major pieces of resource be utilised.
5) Avoid using ‘I’ in the essay – e.g., ‘I think that…’; ‘it appears to me…’ and so on.
6) When writing use gender inclusive language – e.g., ‘humanity’, or the like, rather than ‘mankind’ or ‘man’.
7) All references must be clearly provided, with the first reference to each text being in full. E.g.,
   5. de Gruchy, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 99.

Student Presentation
The presentation is the first opportunity for the student to present the thesis of the final paper to the supervisor. The presentation itself should not last any more than 10 minutes. Handouts are to be provided for assessment purposes, and audio-visual technologies can be used if they aid the presentation.

   • The student should clearly present the thesis, and offer a brief description of the anticipated results
   • The reasons why this thesis is assumed to be important should be explained
   • The student should outline the readings that he/she is disagreeing with in expounding this thesis

Select Secondary Reading


Todd Kappelman, ‘Dietrich Bonhoeffer’, Probe Ministries *LeadershipU* (1999),


Kenneth Surin, *The Turnings of the Darkness and Light*