

HSS201.7 Exploring Contemporary Spirituality

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

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SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinators
Diploma, Bachelor	One semester	2 nd or 3 rd year	Dr Phil Daughtry

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core: Diploma of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

Elective: Diploma of Applied Social Sciences, Diploma of Ministry and Theology, Bachelor of Youth Work, Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Counselling, Bachelor of Education

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points <i>Example: 10 credit points</i>	Total course credit points <i>Example: 320 credit points</i>
6 credit points	144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week*	No. personal study hours per week**	Total workload hours per week***
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

- Yes No

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Unit objective/s and broad content:

This unit will assist students to become more aware of the meaning, role and place of spirituality as a critical and universal factor in human consciousness and thriving. It will provide students with the vocabulary and rational basis from which to assertively prioritise their own spiritual growth at the same time as enabling spiritual awareness and intelligence in individuals, groups and organisations as a natural outworking of their chosen profession. We enter the exploration of spirituality in this unit from a Christian perspective that is by nature respectful towards, and curious about, the variety of spiritual expressions at play within a secular and pluralist society such as ours.

Learning outcomes for unit:

1. Demonstrate capacity for dialogue in the exploration of diverse spiritual themes and perspectives
2. Critically reflect on personal assumptions about spirituality and on new areas of inquiry
3. Construct and complete an investigation of a contemporary spiritual theme
4. Communicate the findings and conclusion of spiritual investigation in a publicly accessible format

Assessment tasks

Type *	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
Weekly Responses Students will write and post and/or discuss in tutorial, responses to questions relating to a series of required readings and media. (Equivalent 500 words)	1	Weeks 1-8	Non-graded pass (prerequisite to further assessment)
Oral Summary Students will present a 15-minute oral summary of their learning experience through the process of completing the series of required readings and media and their participation in peer conversations. (Equivalent 1500 words)	2	Week 8 or 9	30%
Research Project Students will formulate a research question and construct a plan to progress a related investigation. The student will meet with the lecturer and/or tutor to discuss and refine their plan. They will then conduct the investigation and present their findings and conclusions in a presentation format of their choice. This choice may include a traditional essay format or an alternative media form such as an oral presentation, interpreted artistic piece, online communication format or participatory workshop. Students will discuss their preferred presentation form with the lecturer/tutor at their earlier planning meeting and must receive approval before proceeding. (Equivalent 3000 words)	3 & 4	Meet with lecturer or tutor to discuss and refine plan of investigation and chosen communication format: Week 9 or 10 Present findings and conclusions of the investigative process: Week 14	70%

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Required Texts (to purchase)

Students will be directed to work through a series of online texts and media relevant to a variety of topics in the field of contemporary spirituality.

Recommended Text(s)

- Ammerman, N.T. (2014). *Sacred stories, spiritual tribes - finding religion in everyday life*. New York: Oxford University press.
- Asma, S.T. (2018). *Why we need religion*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Benefiel, M., & Lee, B. (2019). *The soul of higher education: contemplative pedagogy, research and institutional life for the twenty-first century*. Information Age Publishing Inc.
- Bouma, G. (2006). *Australian Soul: religion and spirituality in the Twenty-first Century*. Port Melbourne, Victoria: Cambridge University Press.
- Bouma, G. (2011). *Being faithful in diversity: religions and social policy in multifaith societies*. Hindmarsh, South Australia: ATF Press.
- Boyce, J. (2014). *Born bad - original sin and the making of the western world*. Collinwood, Vic: Black Inc.
- Brooks, D. (2015). *The road to character*. New York: Random House.
- Butler-Bass, D. (2012). *Christianity after religion - the end of church and the birth of a new spiritual awakening*. New York: Harper-Collins.
- Daughtry, P. & Devenish, S. (Eds.). (2016). *Spirituality for youth work: New vocabulary, concepts, and practices*. New Castle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Daughtry, P. & Green, M. (2020). *The Art of Accompanying*. Immortalise.
- Devenish, S. (2017). *Ordinary saints - lessons in the art of giving your life away*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books.
- Evans, P. (2015). *No longer children - faith in a postmodern world*. Create Space Independent Publishing.
- Kagge, E. (2017). *Silence in the age of noise*. London: Viking
- Lane, B. (2019). *The Great Conversation: Nature and the Care of the Soul*. Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190842673.001.0001>
- Lin, J., Oxford, R. & T. Culham (Eds.). (2016). *Toward a spiritual research paradigm*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Miller, L. (2015). *The spiritual child*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Newell, J.P. (2016). *The re-birthing of God - Christianity's struggle for new beginnings*. Woodstock, Vermont: Christian Journeys.
- Rowson, J. (2014). *Spiritualise - Revitalising spirituality to address 21st century challenges*. RSA.
<https://www.thersa.org/>
- Sheridan, G. (2018). *God is good for you - a defence of Christianity in troubled times*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Volf, M. (2015). *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Woolley, A. (2019). *Women Choosing Silence: Relationality and Transformation in Spiritual Practice*. Routledge.
- Zsolnai, L. & Flanagan, B. (Eds.). (2019). *The Routledge International Handbook of Spirituality in Society and the Professions*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Journals

Spiritus – Journal of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Journal for the Study of Spirituality – International Network for the Study of Spirituality