

HSS201.8 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
Graduate Certificate in Divinity Graduate Diploma of Divinity Master of Divinity Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Direction	One semester	Advanced	Dr Phil Daughtry

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

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

Elective: Graduate Certificate in Divinity, Graduate Diploma in Divinity, Master of Divinity, Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Direction

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:**

The objective of this unit is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to understand and engage with interpretations and expressions of contemporary spirituality in the wider public discourse. The broad content of this unit includes an exploration and understanding of one's own spiritual story, how contemporary spirituality is understood and expressed, and approaches to facilitating the exploration of contemporary spiritual experience utilising language, symbols and norms that allow for inclusive conversation in a pluralist and secular cultural context.

Learning outcomes for unit:

1. Demonstrate capacity for critical self-awareness in dialogue with diverse spiritual themes and perspectives
2. Analyse and interpret spiritual themes in diverse literature and media sources
3. Design and implement an investigation in relation to a question of contemporary spiritual relevance
4. Disseminate the findings of spiritual investigation in publicly accessible format and language

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)	2	Weeks 1-8	Non-graded pass (prerequisite to further assessment)
Oral Summary Students will present a 30-minute oral summary and analysis of one significant spiritual theme from the required readings and media covered in weeks 1-8 and critically reflect on the relationship between the analysis of this theme and their existing spiritual assumptions (Equivalent 2000 words)	1, 2	Week 8 or 9	30%

Assessment tasks			
Type *	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>Research Project</p> <p>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 public presentation format of their choice. Options for presentation may include a podcast, a blog article, an article suitable for submission to a relevant practical or academic journal, or a public lecture or workshop. A reference list must be included. 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)</p>	3 and 4	<p>Meet with lecturer or tutor to discuss and refine plan of investigation and chosen communication format: Week 9 or 10</p> <p>Present findings and conclusions of the investigative process: Week 14</p>	70%

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

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

Prescribed readings: 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. In addition they will also be required to read and reflect on the following text: Corbett, L. 2020. *Psyche and the sacred*. Routledge.

Recommended readings:

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.

Valters Painter, C. 2021. *Sacred time*. Sorin Books.

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.

Journals

Spiritus (Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality)

Journal for the Study of Spirituality (International Network for the Study of Spirituality)

Sojourners magazine

Zadok perspectives

Eresmos – exploring spirituality in Australia

Pointers: Bulletin of the Christian Research Association