

MTG120.5 THE STORY OF THE CHURCH

Name of Unit
The Story of the Church (MTG120.5)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Diploma Bachelor	One semester	Introductory	Dr. Matthew James Gray

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

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

Core: Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology
 Elective: Diploma in Ministry and Theology
 Core or Elective: Bachelor of Intercultural Studies

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	Total course credit points
6 credit points	48 / 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

Brief description of the content of the unit

This unit provides an introduction to the Church's history, including the most significant and influential people, movements and events of the last 1900 years. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. It draws from the Church's past successes and failures, as well as historical perspectives different from many of ours today, so that students can be better equipped in their own ministries. Key topics include: Greco-Roman Christianity, both before and after Constantine; core theological issues for the early Church; medieval Christianity's theology, spirituality, and political influences; the magisterial, radical and Catholic reformations of the early-modern period; Christianity's interactions with western modernity, including the Great Awakening, the missionary movement, and ecumenical endeavours; the history of non-western Christianity, such as in Asian or African contexts.

Learning outcomes for the unit

- 1) Explain the key events, movements, and people within the broad history of the Church, with regard to their significance to the student's own context
- 2) Discuss the themes, concepts and doctrines found in historical Christian literature from various contexts, and how these inform the student's discipleship, both personally and in community
- 3) Examine one or two key events, movements or people from the Church's history, with reference to relevant primary documents and historical scholarship

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. Textbook Quizzes Assess students' knowledge of the main textbook's information for each weekly topic. (1500 words equivalent)	1	Weekly	30
2. Primary Document Analytical Reflections: Discuss each excerpt from a major Christian classic each week, including its content and implications for the student in their context. (1500 words)	1-2	Weekly	35
3. Research Essay Examine a Church history topic, negotiated by the student and the lecturer. (1500 words)	3	Week 13	35

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

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

Prescribed reading:

Dowley, Timothy, ed. *A Short Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Fortress Press, 2018.

Roller, Julia L. *25 Books Every Christian Should Read: A Guide to the Essential Spiritual Classics*. New York: HarperOne, 2011.

Recommended reading:

Backhouse, Stephen. *The Essential Companion to Christian History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Blainey, Geoffrey. *A Short History of Christianity*. Camberwell, VIC: Penguin, 2011.

Chant, Barry. *The Spirit of Pentecost: The Origins and Development of the Pentecostal Movement in Australia, 1870-1939*. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2011.

Chute, Anthony L., Nathan A. Finn, and Michael A. G. Haykin. *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2021.

Holt, Bradley P. *Thirsty for God: A Brief History of Christian Spirituality*. 3rd ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017.

Kim, Sebastian C.H., and Kirsteen Kim. *Christianity as a World Religion: An Introduction*. 2nd Ed. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016.

Lewis, Donald M., and Richard V. Pierard. *Global Evangelicalism: Theology, History and Culture in Regional Perspective*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014.

MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*. London, UK: Penguin, 2010.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian History: An Introduction*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

---- *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Rea, Robert F. *Why Church History Matters: An Invitation to Love and Learn from Our Past*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2014.

Romero, Robert Chao. *Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity*. Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Woodbridge, John D., and Frank A. James. *Church History, Volume Two: The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.