

## MTG120.8 THE STORY OF THE CHURCH

<b>Name of Unit</b>
The Story of the Church (MTG120.8)

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Masters	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: Master of Divinity  
 Elective: Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies, Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies, Graduate Diploma 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	24 / 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

#### 1.6 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, and how that has been expressed by various historiographical approaches. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. It equips the student to compare and contrast various aspects of the Church's past successes and failures, as well as historical perspectives different from many of ours today. Students will also investigate prevailing historiographical approaches to the Church's story, and how this may impact popular views of the Church even now. In so doing, students will 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) Compare and contrast the key events, movements, and people within the broad history of the Church, around a theme relevant to the student's own context
- 2) Assess the themes, concepts and doctrines found in historical Christian literature from a variety of contexts, and how these inform the student's discipleship, both personally and in community
- 3) Critically analyse one or two key events, movements or people from the Church's history, with reference to relevant primary documents and historical scholarship
- 4) Investigate the cogency and consistency of historiographical approaches to the Christian heritage, and their consequences for broader social views of Christianity

**Assessment tasks**

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. <b>Church History Textbook Review</b> Compare and contrast how a selected theme has been approached in various periods of Christian history. (1000 words)	1	13	15
2. <b>Primary Document Analytical Reflections</b> Analyse an excerpt from a major Christian classic each week, and identifying its implications for the student's context. (2000 words equivalent)	1-2	Weekly	40

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
3. <b>Research Essay</b> Justify their position on a Church history topic, negotiated by the student and the lecturer. (1500 words)	3	Week 13	30
4. <b>Historiographical Analysis of Subsidiary Textbook</b> Investigate its veracity and how it might shape people's view of Christian history. (1000 words)	1, 4	12	15

## 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. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. 3rd Ed. Fortress Press, 2018.

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

Viola, Frank, and George Barna. *Pagan Christianity?: Exploring the Roots of Our Church Practices*. Revised. Carol Stream, IL: Barna, 2012.

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.

Green, Jay D. *Christian Historiography: Five Rival Versions*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2015.

Hannah, John D. *Invitation to Church History: American*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2019.

———. *Invitation to Church History: World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2019.

Kim, Sebastian C.H., and Kirsteen Kim. *Christianity as a World Religion: An Introduction*. Second 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. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

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.