

## MTG130.5 EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Name of Unit
Exploring the Christian Faith (MTG130.5)

### 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):

#### 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 introduces students to the key topics of systematic theology, and the prominent approaches to each of those topics. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. The unit aims to not only expose students to various theological positions on key topics, but to also show how to interact with those diverse positions authentically and ecumenically, as well as present them into the public sphere. Key topics include: the nature of God's existence; the nature of Biblical authority; the practical implications of doctrines like the Trinity and the *Imago Dei*; the tension around faith and works; various other key contemporary theological debates.

**Learning outcomes for the unit**

- 1) Outline the essential beliefs, and the main doctrines within the broad theology of the Church, and how these have been prioritised within the Christian consensual tradition
- 2) Discuss the significance of key Christian theological positions for the student's own life and faith
- 3) Explain the practical relevance of theology for diverse contexts and situations, in ways that are specific and constructive

**Assessment tasks**

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. <b>Textbook Quizzes</b> Assess students' knowledge of the main textbook's information for each weekly topic. (1500 words equivalent)	1	Weekly	25
2. <b>Textbook Self-Reflection</b> Describe how a theological work informs the student's own life and faith (1500 words)	2	Week 7	35
3. <b>Group Theological Advice Responses</b> Students work in teams to formulate a response to real-life case studies, utilising the content covered in the unit (1500 words equivalent)	1, 3	Week 13	40

## 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:

Olson, Roger E. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity Diversity*. 2nd Ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016.

Recommended reading:

Astley, Jeff, and Francis, Leslie J. eds. *Exploring Ordinary Theology: Everyday Christian Believing and the Church*. New Edition. Burlington, VT: Routledge, 2013.

Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2013.

Blackwell, Ben C., and R. L. Hatchett. *Engaging Theology: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019.

Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Boice, James M, and Ryken, Philip. *Foundations of the Christian Faith: A Comprehensive & Readable Theology*. Revised and Expanded Ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019.

Bourne, Richard, and Imogen Adkins. *A New Introduction to Theology: Embodiment, Experience and Encounter*. London, UK: Bloomsbury, 2020.

Hamilton, Adam. *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*. 1st Ed. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016.

Horton, Michael. *Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2013.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 6th Ed. Chichester, UK: Wiley Blackwell, 2017.

Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014.

Parratt, John. *A Guide to Doing Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2015.

Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Revised Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016.

Wright, N.T. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.