

## MTG130.8 EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Name of Unit
Exploring the Christian Faith (MTG130.8)

### 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 subject

Indicate if the unit is a

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

Core: Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies, Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies and Master of Divinity  
Elective: Graduate Diploma in 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 subject.

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 subject?

- Yes    No

## SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

## Brief description of the content of the subject

This unit introduces students to the key topics of systematic theology, and the prominent approaches to each of those topics, from across the Christian historical tradition. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. The unit also develops skills in interacting with those diverse perspectives deeply, authentically and ecumenically, as well as presenting theology into the public sphere. Students also begin to discuss these topics inter-contextually, examining a topic from a perspective alongside contemporary western evangelical scholarship. 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 subject

- 1) Explain the essential beliefs, and the main doctrines within the broad theology of the Church, classifying how these should be prioritised within the Christian consensual tradition
- 2) Identify the significance of key Christian theological positions for the student's own life and faith
- 3) Recommend theological themes for diverse contexts and situations, in ways that are specific and constructive
- 4) Examine a major theological theme from a historical, cultural and theological perspective outside contemporary western evangelical scholarship

## 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	15
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	30

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>4. <b>Inter-Contextual Book Review</b> Examine a theological topic from a perspective outside of contemporary western evangelical scholarship (1000 words)</p>	4	Week 10	30

## 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:

Barreto, Eric D. *Reading Theologically*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2014.

———. *Thinking Theologically*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2105.

———. *Writing Theologically*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2015.

Bevans, Stephen B, and Katalina Tahaafe-Williams. *Contextual Theology for the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge: James Clarke, 2012.

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

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

Boyd, Gregory. *Benefit of the Doubt: Breaking the Idol of Certainty*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013.

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

Greenman, Jeffrey P., and Gene L. Green. *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: Exploring the Contextual Nature of Theology and Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan Academic, 2011.

Kim, Sebastian C.H. *Theology in the Public Sphere*. London, UK: SCM Press, 2011.

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

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

Peters, Ted. *God - the World's Future: Systematic Theology for a New Era*. 3rd Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2015.

Stone, Howard W., and James O. Duke. *How to Think Theologically*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013.