

## MTG230.9 Theology in Context: Trinity and Creation

<b>Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)</b>
Theology in Context: Trinity and Creation (MTG230.9)

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Diploma Masters	One semester	Advanced	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 Diploma of Christian 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

If YES, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Pre-requisite: MTG120.8 The Story of the Church, MTG130.8 Exploring the Christian Faith, MTR190.8 Developing Cultural Intelligence

## SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

### Brief description of the content of the unit

This unit develops the students' appreciation of the complexities surrounding the doctrines of God, the Trinity, divine revelation, creation, humanity, and questions of providence. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. The unit aims to help students analyse these topics inter-contextually: that is, alongside contemporary western evangelical scholarship, students will learn to effectively engage with theologians from various historical contexts (e.g., Patristics, Medieval Scholastics, Reformers), cultural contexts (e.g., indigenous, African, South American), ecclesiastical contexts (e.g., Orthodox, Catholic, Baptist), as well as other often-marginalised voices (e.g., women, African Americans). In so doing, students will learn to synthesise key theological issues coherently. Key topics include: the attributes of God; sources for theology; Biblical authority; the *Imago Dei*; the creation of the universe; Trinitarian debates, such as Arianism; issues of divine providence, including theodicy, evil and suffering.

### Learning outcomes for the unit

- 1) Analyse the historical and cultural developments within the doctrines of God, the Trinity, divine revelation, creation, humanity, and providence
- 2) Evaluate various approaches to these doctrines cogently, with a view to effectively recommending them in various contexts the students may encounter
- 3) Justify their own position on key issues within one of the relevant theological topics, with reference to relevant scholarship
- 4) Synthesise various approaches to a relevant theological topic from across the historical trajectory of the Christian tradition, in order to create a coherent framework for the given topic

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. <b>Class Discussion Papers on Assigned Readings:</b> Describe various theological positions and contexts for each week’s topic, based on the readings under discussion each week. (2000 words equivalent)	1, 2, 4	Weekly	35%
2. <b>Historical Trajectory Textbook Analysis:</b> Synthesise the various historical approaches to a relevant theological topic, so as to appreciate it more coherently. (1000 words)	2, 3, 4	Week 8	15%
3. <b>Research Essay:</b> Justify their position on one or two major issues within the unit’s various topics, with reference to relevant scholarship. (3000 words)	3, 4	Week 13	50%

## 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:

At least one of:

Burns, Charlene P.E. *Christian Understandings of Evil: The Historical Trajectory*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2016.

Edwards, Denis. *Christian Understandings of Creation: The Historical Trajectory*. Baltimore, Maryland: Fortress Press, 2017.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Christian Understanding of the Trinity: The Historical Trajectory*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017.

### Recommended reading:

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

Dembski, William A., Wayne J. Downs, and Fr Justin B. A. Frederick. *The Patristic Understanding of Creation: An Anthology of Writings from the Church Fathers on Creation and Design*. Influence Press, 2019.

Edwards, Denis. *Deep Incarnation: God's Redemptive Suffering with Creatures*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2019.

Fiorenza, Francis Schussler, and John P. Galvin, eds. *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*. 2nd Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011.

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.

———. *The Trinity: Global Perspectives*. Louisville, KN: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

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

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

McIntosh, Mark A. *The Divine Ideas Tradition in Christian Mystical Theology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2021.

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

Swain, Scott. *The Trinity: An Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Woodley, Randy. *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012.

