



MODULE HANDBOOK

TMM42120 Theology in Dialogue

MA in Theology, Ministry & Mission

Autumn Term 2015

Tutors: Ray Gaston & Richard Sudworth

Module sessions 9.15 – 5pm

Thursday & Friday

1st & 2nd October 2015

10th & 11th December 2015

Aims:

- ³⁵₁₇ To enable students to integrate theological exploration and engagement with other faith traditions.
- ³⁵₁₇ To enable students to examine fundamental questions about Christian theological engagement with the understandings of other faith traditions and the implications of such an exploration for understandings of Christian faith?
- ³⁵₁₇ To enable students to study different theological approaches to other faith traditions e.g. Pluralist Hypothesis, Comparative Theology, Particularist, Liberationist, Trinitarian, Pentecostal and Feminist approaches.
- ³⁵₁₇ To engage students in critical readings of official church documents (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant and ecumenical) relating to engagement with other faith traditions.

Content:

The central question that will be explored in the module is - how should we engage with the understandings of other faith traditions in a way that moves beyond simplistic theological refutation whilst maintaining Christian integrity? This will involve:

- ³⁵₁₇ A nuanced understanding of contexts incorporating both place and consciousness.
- ³⁵₁₇ A study of texts from major theologians of religion and dialogue, comparative theology and with official documents from Church traditions.
- ³⁵₁₇ An investigation of the implications of Christian theological exploration in a consciously religiously plural world. An encounter with another faith tradition upon which students will reflect theologically.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able to

Subject Knowledge [SSK 1, 2]

- ³⁵₁₇ Give a thorough and detailed account of Christian theological approaches to dialogue with other faith traditions, drawing on the methodologies and findings of historical and contemporary research and scholarship in the field.

Subject Skills [SSS 1, 2, 3]

- ³⁵₁₇ Compare and critique the perspectives and processes of inquiry of the academy and the church on theological dialogue in multi faith contexts.

- ³⁵₁₇ Contribute sensitively and intelligently to debates relating to inter faith dialogue, exploring and expanding their own perspectives on the theological issues raised.
- ³⁵₁₇ Critically reflect on, and give further shape to, their own understanding of Christian theology in dialogue with other faith traditions, exercising sound judgments when engaging with the complex and ambiguous realities of the church and world today.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

- ³⁵₁₇ Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- ³⁵₁₇ Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.
- ³⁵₁₇ Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

Module Programme

Thursday 1st October

Introductions

9.15 – 9.45

Mapping the Context led by Richard Sudworth

Session One 9.45 – 11.00

The twentieth century post-war context of ecumenical and interfaith relations will be examined as an historical moment for an impetus towards constructive theologies of Interreligious encounter. By reflecting upon the strands that influenced a broadening of the vision of western churches, key components, such as post-colonialism and the Holocaust/Shoah, that continue to impact upon theologies of dialogue will be highlighted and provide important on-going elements of the debate.

11.00 – 11.15am Coffee Break

Vatican II, Generous Love and Ecclesial Documents led by Richard Sudworth

Session Two 11am – 12.30

The seminal significance of Vatican II and *Nostra Aetate* in particular, will be analysed for the progress of interfaith relations. Its context, evolution and legacy will be reflected upon in the light of subsequent efforts at Interreligious dialogue and in the opening up of wider theologies of dialogue. *Generous Love* will be offered as a contemporary counterpoint to *Nostra Aetate* as part

of a suggested shift in both theologies and context. At the end of this session, some of the benefits, limitations and problems associated with ecclesial documents will be discussed and a range of formal, published documents briefly presented from which students will be invited to choose to do further study.

12.45 – 2pm Lunch

Article Reviews and Presentations Part 1

Session Three 9.15 – 10.30

This will be the first of two sessions in which participants will present to one another their article reviews for discussion and debate.

3.30 – 4pm Coffee break

Course Outline and Library Induction

Session Four 4pm – 5pm

Friday 2nd October

Mapping Theologies Part One led by Ray Gaston

Session One 9.15 -10.30

In the first of two sessions the development of theologies of religion and dialogue that arise out the context outlined in session one will be explored. In this first session the development separately of, on the one hand a 'universal' Theology of Religions and on the other, theological questioning arising out of the particularity of Christian – Jewish Dialogue following the Holocaust/Shoah will be examined.

10.30 – 11am Coffee Break

Mapping Theologies Part Two led by Ray Gaston

Session Two 11am – 12.30

In this second of two sessions, contemporary debates questioning a 'Theology of Religions' as the most appropriate theological engagement with the reality of other faith traditions will be explored. Comparativist and Particularist perspectives will be examined and alternative ways of framing engagement with other religions will be suggested alongside an examination of the reassertion of the theology of religions paradigm by the 'New Pluralists'. Finally theologians for further study and possible presentations will be suggested.

12.30 – 2pm Lunch

Article Reviews and Presentations Part 2
Session Three 2pm – 3.15

See above.

3.15 – 3.45pm Coffee break

Exploring Further Study
Session Four 4pm – 5pm

A session for discussing and exploring options for further study before the next meeting and planning for assessed exercise on either Ecclesial Documents or Theologians for next session

Thursday 10th December

Seminar Presentations
Session One 9.15 – 10.45

Each participant will make a thirty minute presentation on a chosen ecclesial document and there will be a guided discussion on these assessing how do we are to situate ourselves in relation to these documents.

10.45 – 11am Coffee Break

Seminar Presentations
Session Two 11am – 12.30

Each participant will make a thirty minute presentation on a chosen ecclesial document and there will be a guided discussion on these assessing how do we are to situate ourselves in relation to these documents and theologians.

12.30 – 2pm Lunch

Seminar Presentations
Session Two 2pm – 3.30pm

Each participant will make a thirty minute presentation on a chosen ecclesial document and there will be a guided discussion on these assessing how do we are to situate ourselves in relation to these documents and theologians

3.30 – 4pm Coffee break

Seminar Presentations Session Two 4pm – 5pm

Each participant will make a thirty minute presentation on a chosen ecclesial document and there will be a guided discussion on these assessing how do we are to situate ourselves in relation to these documents and theologians

Friday 11th December

Tutorials and Library Study Session One 9.15 – 10.30

This is an opportunity for a tutorial with one of the tutors exploring your seminar presentation, your experience of the module and the essay assignment.

10.30 – 11am Coffee Break

Exploring examples of theological dialogue led by Ray Gaston and Richard Sudworth

Session Two 11am – 12.30

Case studies of theological dialogue – “Building Bridges” (RJS) and “A Common Word between Us” (RJS). Dabru Emet and the Christian Scholars (RG), The Snowmass Conferences (RG): some of these case studies will be described, put into context and evaluated in relation to some of the constant themes of the module to date.

12.30 – 2pm Lunch

Engaging the dialogue – Church, Academy, Society – a discussion facilitated & initiated by Ray Gaston & Richard Sudworth

Session Three 2pm – 3.30

After completion of all the presentations and discussion groups, there will be an exploration of the nature of theological engagement with ‘other religions’ how do ecclesiastical documents on interfaith engagement and theologians of interfaith engagement relate? What responsibility do theologians of the academy have towards the church? How does what the church says relate to reflections on the nature of religions in wider society?

3.30 – 3.45pm Coffee break

Next Steps

Session Four 3.45pm – 5pm

A chance to look at the essay assignment, with an opportunity to reflect on the experience of the module as a group.

Assessment

1. **50% 2,000 word Seminar presentation** – normally a critical examination of a church document on engagement with other faith traditions with a **1,000 word reflection** on the presentation and classroom discussion.

Structure & expectations for Presentation:

Seminar presentation (30mins)

- Introduce the document, giving relevant biographical details, noting key works and setting them in their wider theological context (5 minutes)
- Summarize and evaluate the document, identifying and assessing key arguments. Establish a dialogue between this text and other texts addressing similar issues. Make connections between the contextual issue and the theological theme. How does this text relate to the underlying focus of the module, that inter faith engagement and Christian theological self-understanding? (15 minutes)
- Offer one or two questions to lead the group into discussion. (10 minutes)

Written reflection (1000 words)

- Draw out your learning from the presentation and discussion.
- You might want to make explicit links here between the two (or more) texts discussed in the session in which you presented

THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR THIS PIECE OF WORK IS 11/12/15

2. **50% 3,000 word essay**

One of either;

“The Church is, absurdly, both necessary and unnecessary.” (Rowan Williams). Discuss in the light of interfaith relations (*see the “Afterword” in Fear & Friendship: Anglicans engaging with Islam, eds. Ward & Coakley*)

Or

“The God of Israel is the firm foundation and inescapable predicament of Christian theology” (R Kendall Soulen) Discuss with particular reference to theologies arising out of Christian – Jewish dialogue.

Or

“Interreligious empathy may indeed at times offer a glimpse or a taste of a different way of being religious that simply opens one's religious horizon, without necessarily changing one's religious tradition.” (Catherine Cornille) Discuss with reference to different approaches to theological engagement with other faith traditions

THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR THIS PIECE OF WORK IS 22/1/16

Assessment Criteria for both 1 & 2:

The essay/seminar presentation will need to demonstrate your handling of a significant corpus of knowledge on the subject with which you have chosen to engage. Your knowledge will be sound and that knowledge will be critically evaluated. For Level 7 modules, it is vitally important that the balance between presentation and evaluation is tipped towards evaluation. Thus, whenever you describe ideas, always endeavour to bring them into conversation with alternative positions and underlying assumptions, drawing out your own personal perspective from the evidence you have presented. In the classroom, a broad range of material will be signposted and while you may have to discern a specific thinker or theme with which to offer a deeper account, always be attentive to some of the broader context of academic study. The bibliographies provided in the Module and for each classroom session are important sources for feeding your evaluative studies. At this level, too, it is key that you are able to handle primary sources as well as secondary sources. The Library and EBSCO are sources for numerous articles around the Module themes beyond the limited bibliographies and higher grade essays will demonstrate research into such material.

A Basic Reading List

This is a basic reading list further suggestion for reading will be made in hand-outs, sessions and tutorials by tutors throughout the course

Theology of Religions and Dialogue

John Hick, *An Interpretation of Religion – Human Responses to the Transcendent* (2nd edition Palgrave Macmillan 2004)

Gavin D'Costa, *Christianity and World Religions – Disputed Questions in the Theology of Religions* (Wiley – Blackwell 2009)

Catherine Cornille, *The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue* (Crossroad 2008)

Paul Hedges, *Controversies in Interreligious Dialogue and the Theology of Religions* (SCM 2010)

Raimon Panikkar, *The Rhythm of Being* (Orbis 2010)

Dupuis, Jacques. *Christianity and the Religions: From Confrontation to Dialogue* (Orbis Books, 2002)

Jeanine Hill Fletcher, *Monopoly on Salvation? A Feminist Approach to Religious Pluralism* (Continuum 2005)

Francis Clooney, *Comparative Theology: Deep Learning Across Religious Borders* (Wiley-Blackwell 2010)

Michael Barnes, *Interreligious Learning - Dialogue, Spirituality and the Christian Imagination* (CUP 2014)

Catherine Cornille, (ed.); Christopher R. Conway, (ed.) *Interreligious Hermeneutics*
(Cascade 2010)

Veli-Matti Karkkainen, *Trinity and Religious Pluralism: the Doctrine of the Trinity in Christian theology of religions* (Ashgate 2004)

Amos Yong, *Beyond the Impasse: toward a Pneumatological Theology of Religions* (Paternoster 2003)

Harold Netland and Gerald McDermott, *A Trinitarian Theology of Religions – An Evangelical Proposal* (OUP 2014)

George R Sumner, *The First and the Last – The Claim of Jesus Christ and the claims of Other religious Traditions* (Eerdmans 2004)

Gavin D'Costa, Paul Knitter & Dan Strange, *Only One Way? Three Christian Responses to the Uniqueness of Christ in a Religiously Pluralist World* (SCM 2011)

Marianne Moyaert, *Fragile Identities- Towards a Theology of Interreligious Hospitality* (Rodopi 2011)

Raimon Panikkar, *Mysticism and Spirituality Vol 1 Part 1 &2* (Orbis 2014)

Marianne Moyaert & Joris Geldhof – *Ritual Participation & Interreligious Dialogue – Boundaries, Transgressions and Innovations* (Bloomsbury 2015)

Ecclesiological Focus

A Common Word Between Us and You, October 2007,
<http://www.acommonword.com/index.php?lang=en&page=option1>

Abbott S.J., Walter M. (ed.) *The Documents of Vatican II: With Notes and Comments by Catholic Protestant and Orthodox Authorities* (London: Geoffrey Chapman Publishers, 1966)

Building Bridges Publications: variously edited by Michael Ipgrave, David Marshall and Lucinda Mosher

D'Costa, Gavin. "Catholicism and the World Religions: A Theological and Phenomenological Account". In, *The Catholic Church and the World Religions*, edited by Gavin D'Costa, (London/New York: T & T Clark, 2011)

Dupuis, Jacques. *Christianity and the Religions: From Confrontation to Dialogue* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002)

Generous Love: the truth of the Gospel and the call to dialogue. A report from the Anglican Communion Network for Inter Faith Concerns, February 2008, downloaded from:
<http://nifcon.anglicancommunion.org/resources/documents/index.cfm> on 1st October 2008

Guidelines for Inter Faith Encounter in the Churches of the Porvoo Communion, Porvoo Communion Consultation on Inter Faith Relations, Oslo, 30th November to 3rd December 2003,
<http://nifcon.anglicancommunion.org/resources/documents/index.cfm>
downloaded 1st October 2008

Meeting God in Friend and Stranger: Fostering respect and mutual understanding between religions (London: The Catholic Truth Society, 2010), downloadable from: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/document.doc?id=49>

Nostra Aetate,
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html

"Jews, Christians and Muslims: The Way of Dialogue", Appendix 6, *The Truth Shall Make You Free: The Lambeth Conference 1988: The Reports, Resolutions and Pastoral Letters from the Bishops* (London: Anglican Consultative Council, 1988), pp. 299-308

Church and Israel – A Contribution from the Reformation Churches in Europe to the Relationship between Christians and Jews
http://www.jcrelations.net/Church_and_Israel_A_Contribution_from_the_Reformation_Churches_in_Europe_to_the.2392.0.html

Ambrose Ih-Ren Mong, *Dialogue derailed – Joseph Ratzinger’s War against Pluralist Theology* (Pickwick 2015)

William R Burrows *Jacques Dupuis Faces the Inquisition* (Pickwick 2012)

Anglican Theological Review, Winter 2014, Vol. 96, No. 1 – Special Edition available in the library catalogue, including articles on Judaism and Anglicanism, Christian-Muslim relations and Anglican theologies of religion

Richard J. Sudworth. “Anglicanism and Islam: the Ecclesial-Turn in Interfaith Relations”, *Living Stones Yearbook 2012* (London: Melisende, 2012)

Frances Ward & Sarah Coakley (eds.), *Fear & Friendship: Anglicans engaging with Islam* (London: Continuum, 2012)

Theology and Jewish – Christian Dialogue

Christian Scholars Group *A SACRED OBLIGATION - Rethinking Christian Faith in Relation to Judaism and the Jewish People* 2002
<http://www.jcrelations.net/en/?id=986>

Mary C Boys (Editor) *Seeing Judaism Anew – Christianity’s Sacred Obligation* (Sheed & Ward 2005)

Edward Kessler *An Introduction to Jewish-Christian Relations* (CUP 2010)

Mary C Boys *Has God Only One Blessing? Judaism as a Source of Christian Self-Understanding* (Paulist 2000)

Mary C Boys *Redeeming Our Sacred Story: The Death of Jesus and Relations Between Jews and Christians* (Paulist 2014)

Paul Van Buren *A Theology of the Jewish – Christian Reality* (3 Volumes) (Harper & Row 1990)

Clark Williamson, *A Guest in the House of Israel – Post Holocaust Church Theology* (WJK 1993)

Peter Ochs, *Another Reformation – Post liberal Christianity and the Jews* (Baker 2011)

Darrell Jodock (Ed) *Covenantal Conversations – Christians in Dialogue with Jews & Judaism* (Fortress 2008)

Terence L Donaldson *Jews and Anti-Judaism in the New Testament – Decision Points and Divergent Interpretations* (SPCK 2010)

R. Kendall Soulen, *The God of Israel and Christian Theology* (Fortress 1996)

James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword – The Church and the Jews* (First Mariner 2002)

Steven T. Katz, Shlomo Biderman and Gershon Greenberg (eds) *Wrestling with God: Jewish theological responses during and after the Holocaust* (OUP 2007)

Michael L Morgan *Beyond Auschwitz – Post Holocaust Jewish Thought in America* (OUP 2001)

Phillip Cunningham (Ed) *Christ Jesus and the Jewish people Today: new explorations of theological interrelationships* (Eerdmans 2012)

Michael S. Kogan, *Opening the Covenant: A Jewish Theology of Christianity*. (OUP 2007)

National Jewish Scholars Project, DABRU EMET - A Jewish Statement on Christians And Christianity 2000 <http://www.jcrelations.net/en/?item=1014>

International Council of Christians & Jews, *A Time for Recommitment Jewish Christian Dialogue 70 Years after War and Shoah*
http://www.iccj.org/redaktion/upload_pdf/201011271429260.BThesen_engl_kompl.pdf