

2. THEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES

Co-ordinator: Dr Augustine Pagolu

2.1 THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

It may be said that a good deal of the present malaise in the church and in Christian thinking today is due to the failure to give the study of Christian doctrine or simply “theology” its proper place in the training of Christian leaders. Theology has undergone a tortuous development; with each theological worldview subjected to much debate within the history of the Christian Church. Such debates were fuelled by the highly individualistic and assertive positions taken by theologians. We hope to unravel the development of Christian thinking in the history of the Christian Church and eventually to convey to our students a clear understanding of the Christian Faith.

TS 101 THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

(3 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)

An introduction to the study of dogmatics, covering the entirety of Christian doctrine from the study of creeds (Old Roman Creed, Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, the Nicene-Constantinople), confessions (The Westminster Confession, Thirty-nine Articles and others); positions (Puritan, Armenian, Reformed and Dispensational); and disciplines in Theology (Historical, Systematic and Biblical).

Required for the Grad Dip CS. This is also an entry-level course.
Available for Private Study.

TS 155 CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

(1.5 credits, Rev Adrian van Leen)

There are thousands of cults, occult groups, dabblers and extreme Christian fringe groups. Their impact is often far more significant than most Christians realise. This course presents a basic introduction to modern cultic groups and Christian fringe groups.

TS 211 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS I

(3 credits, Dr Douglas Milne)

Nothing is more foundational in theology than a right understanding of God. "The doctrine of God one espouses largely controls countless other areas of life and thought" (Don Carson). But we can only know God in His revelation of Himself to us. And when we do this, we discover that He has revealed fundamental truth about ourselves. This course examines the great truths about God and Humankind that make up the background of the Gospel of Redemption in Jesus Christ.

This is required for the MCS and the M Div.
For credit students, it is recommended that they take TS101 before TS211.

TS 212 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS II

(3 credits, Dr Douglas Milne)

Theological Foundations II completes the survey of theological studies begun in Foundations I. In Foundations II we explore the topics of Jesus Christ (Christology), the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), Salvation (Soteriology), the Church (Ecclesiology) and the Last Things (Eschatology). At every point we will reflect on the personal and practical bearings of these truths on our lives and for the world today.

This is required for the M Div.

It is recommended that a student takes TS101 before TS212 but TS211 is a pre-requisite.

TS 214 THE HOLY SPIRIT – LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE

(3 credits, by Dr Johannes W. Maris)

This course examines the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, tracing the outline of this understanding from the Old Testament period to the New Testament, Pentecost and the its subsequent development in the history of dogma, with emphasis on the theological models of Tertullian, Athanasius, Augustine, John Scotus Eriugena, John Calvin and Reuben A. Torrey. It answers the question: when we affirm in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in the Holy Spirit", what exactly do we mean?

Prerequisite: TS 101.

Available for Private Study.

TS 215 MAN – CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

(1.5 credits, Dr Johannes W. Maris)

This course deals with theological anthropology. It surveys the Old Testament and New Testament data with regard to man created in the image of God, with special emphasis on why both before and after the Fall man is called the image of God. It examines the main approaches to theological thinking about man in both Roman Catholicism and Protestantism, with a look at some tendencies in modern theology. Prevalent today also is a great variety of biblical anthropological indications that regard man as being put together from different parts: this requires a fresh consideration of 'the oneness of man'. Finally, we explore the pastoral and counselling implications arising from a biblical understanding of biblical anthropology, and we will also highlight the dangers of humanistic theories in this field.

Prerequisite: TS 101.

Available for Private Study.

TS 230 APOLOGETICS

(3 credits, Dr Douglas Milne)

Apologetics is the public defence and communication of the Christian Faith. From the beginning of biblical times believers in God have been under criticism for their faith and had to make a public explanation of what they believed and how they lived. Times and cultures are changing rapidly in the 21st century world we live in. This affects all of us as Christians and makes apologetics all the more urgent. The course does not assume any prior technical knowledge. The aim of the course is to make students more confident in their faith and more able to communicate what they believe to people of no faith, some faith or other faiths. The course is a general introduction to the history of Christian and non-Christian thought.

This is required for the M Div.

TS 240 WESLEY THEN AND NOW: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY OF JOHN WESLEY

(1.5 or 3 credits, Prof Victor Shepherd)

This course examines major aspects of Wesley's theology as expounded chiefly in his *Sermons on Several Occasions*. Theological, ecclesiastical, social and intellectual environments will be probed, even as attention is given chiefly to Wesley's soteriology.

TS 251

THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT

(3 credits, Prof James Houston)

This course will explore the great historical traditions of Christian Spirituality in the light of contemporary uncertainties for the post-modern Christian. Focus will be given to a Christian critique of the contemporary interest in “Spirituality”, the historical traditions of Christian spirituality; and the expressions of Christian living. The central purpose of this course is guidance in the shaping of Christian life by the character of God, rather than by the cultural distortions of the world we live in.

Available for Private Study.

TS 252

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

(3 credits, Dr Douglas Milne)

This course will enable students to use the Bible to investigate a range of current ethical issues and attempt to resolve moral conflicts from a Christian perspective. It will also familiarize students with the arguments and methods of secular ethics. It will deal with the following issues: social concern, work, capital punishment, human rights, war, the secular state, ecology, animal rights, marriage, divorce, remarriage, homosexuality, abortion, and euthanasia.

Available for Private Study.

TS 255

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

(1.5 credits, Rev Adrian van Leen)

One of the most significant influences of our time is what has been called the “New Age Movement”. The impact of New Age thinking and practice far exceeds the number of people who might actually regard themselves as New Agers. This course presents a basic overview of New Age characteristics, concepts, practices and areas of influence. Attention is drawn to the conflict of New Age thinking with biblical and historically orthodox Christianity

Available for Private Study.

TS 256

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY

(1.5 credits, Rev Adrian van Leen)

The search for spiritual direction has opened up a multi-billion dollar industry surrounding the wide diversity and complexity of today's neo-gnostic beliefs, practices and programmes of what has been known as the New Age Movement. Throughout the developed and Westernized world the journey toward a new spirituality has drawn thousands of people - including nominal Christians. This course explores, from a Christian perspective, some of that 'New Age' journey: the characteristics, concepts, areas of influence, programmes, practices and people that have been part of that journey.

TS 257

RELIGIOUS CONFUSION IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET

(1.5 credits, Rev Adrian van Leen)

In the age of the Internet the supermarket of religious alternative groups has dramatically increased in availability and influence. The confusing and often conflicting concepts of today's numerous occultic, cultic and extreme religious groups continue to affect individuals, families, churches and other sections of the wider community. Their impact is often far more than most Christians realize. This course presents a basic introduction to such groups, their characteristics, conduct and spreading appeal.

TS 270**BIOETHICS**

(1.5 credits, Dr Douglas Milne)

This course begins with a historical survey of the world of bioethics. Using core Christian principles, we shall adopt an ethical model to gain a basic understanding of the scientific procedures, identify and open up the ethical issues, and resolve these on the basis of the Bible and Christian beliefs. The following issues will be dealt with: the status of the human embryo, reproductive techniques, IVF, surrogacy, organ donation, Genetics, patenting, screening; testing, therapy, eugenics, cloning, and stem-cell research.

Available for Private Study.

TS 370**NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY FIELD TRIPS**

(1.5 credits, Rev Adrian van Leen)

The study of contemporary religious movements requires a faithful representation of what is taught by these movements before one can proceed to assess each movement. This course brings together a visit to four such movements: Mormons, Soka Gakkai, Freemasons and Baha'is. There is a pre-trip briefing and a post-trip evaluation. These should prove to be a useful as an eye-opener to what is taking place in the arena of cults and isms.

TS 381**THEOLOGICAL STUDIES SEMINAR**

(1.5 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)

This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in theological studies. The Theological Studies Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar. Prerequisite: TS 101.

TS 391**THEOLOGICAL GUIDED STUDY**

(1.5 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of theological studies. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.

TS 392**CHRISTIAN ETHICS GUIDED STUDY**

(1.5 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of christian ethics. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.

2.2 HISTORICAL STUDIES

It is axiomatic to say God is the God of History; nothing ever happens fortuitously. The history of the Christian Church shows amply that while the overruling hand of God is needed to correct the blunders man often makes, God often uses the "foolish things of this world" to confound the wise. The hermeneutic approach to church history is an area of importance. Journalists are painfully aware that often one event may be viewed very differently by various observers. Events in the history of the church are similarly not spared.

- CH 101** **INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY**
(3 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)
This course involves a survey of the scope of church history, the principles of approaching the study of church history with reference to well-known church historians and the relative merits of selected events of the church today. Students are expected to prepare a paper on a historical worldview of church history.
- Required for the M Div. This is also an entry-level course.
Available for Private Study.
- CH 252** **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH – WAS LUTHER MISTAKEN?**
(1.5 credits, Dr Bernhard Kaiser)
The question whether the doctrine of justification presented by the reformers and the Roman Catholic view can be brought together is being answered in different ways. On the one hand, Protestant churchmen tend to minimize the differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the Reformers. This is seen in the signing of the Joint Declaration on October 31st, 1999, between the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, a serious examination of both the writings of the Reformers and of the Joint Declaration will show that the fundamental differences traditionally held have not really been overcome. The present course provides the guidelines for an answer to this issue by looking at the Joint Declaration, particularly in its relationship to Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and the Council of Trent and by comparing them with the position of the Reformers.
- CH 254** **WESLEY THEN AND NOW: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY OF JOHN WESLEY**
(1.5 or 3 credits, Prof Victor Shepherd)
This course examines major aspects of Wesley's theology as expounded chiefly in his *Sermons on Several Occasions*. Theological, ecclesiastical, social and intellectual environments will be probed, even as attention is given chiefly to Wesley's soteriology.
- CH 351** **REVIVALS AS A RECURRING PHENOMENON IN POST-REFORMATION HISTORY**
(1.5 credits, Dr Violet James)
In the history of Christianity, both pre- and post-reformation, renewal movements often lose momentum in the course of time. Yet they recur by God's providence through God-appointed persons like Jonathan Edwards, Philip Jacob Spener, and Howell Harris. We will study what brought about revivals in the Church and relate the insights gained to what is happening in the Church today.
- CH 361** **ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY**
(1.5 credits, Dr Violet James)
This course traces the history of the Church in Asia, political shifts, the challenge of nationalism and the struggle to make Christianity viable. The lectures will focus on how Christianity first entered Central Asia, South and East Asia. It includes the impact of colonialism together with the birth of Christianity in Southeast Asia. Students will read pertinent sections of the history of the Church in Asia, comment on some issues and focus on an individual Asian country of their interest, tracing the history of Christianity, its impact on the environment and the impact of society on the Christian faith.
- Available for Private Study.

CH 381 **CHURCH HISTORY SEMINAR**

(1.5 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)

This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in Church History. The Church History Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar.

Prerequisite: CH 101.

CH 391 **CHURCH HISTORY GUIDED STUDY**

(1.5 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Church History. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.