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# MASTER OF THEOLOGY (MTh)

The Master of Theology provides a unique opportunity to train professionally competent scholars, leaders and managers in a wide range of careers. You will engage in cutting edge research and critical exploration of contemporary issues, build advanced knowledge of theological studies including recent developments and approaches in the area of your discipline specialisation, while developing skills in your specialised field of study, either Theology or Biblical Studies. You will be equipped to communicate complex ideas and propose solutions to a wide audience, as well as design and implement an advanced research thesis.

Hillsong College exists to raise, equip, empower and release the next generation of Christian leaders and ministers to significantly impact communities and churches across the globe. With this in mind we aim to design our courses to ensure that you will be equipped for Christian thought and action in today's world. Our postgraduate courses will equip you in critical thinking and spiritual formation with a view to leading and influencing not only in the 21st Century church context, but in every sphere of life.

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## DURATION

Full Time: 1.5 years / Part Time: 3-7 years

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry into our Master of Theology, completion of a ministry or theology undergraduate or postgraduate degree, or equivalent.

Please see Entry Requirements for full details on admission into this award.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

Our Master of Theology consists of 120 credit points, comprising core research methods units, units taken within your area of specialisation, elective subjects, and a research project in your area of discipline.

The MTh can be completed in 1.5 years of full-time study or 3 years of part-time study (maximum candidacy 7 years).

## LENGTH OF PROGRAM

Full Time: 1.5 Years (4 subjects (40 credit points) per semester)

Part Time: Up to 3-7 Years (1-2 subjects (10-20 credit points) per semester)

## CAMPUSES

Hills Campus – Face to Face delivery

City Campus – Face to Face delivery

## DELIVERY MODES

- Weekly – Face to Face delivery – typically weekly 2 hour lecture, plus a weekly 1 hour tutorial
- Intensive – Face to Face delivery – between 4-6 days of lectures over 1-2 weeks, plus a weekly 1 hour tutorial
- Extensive – Face to Face delivery – typically 4 days of lectures across the semester, plus a weekly 1 hour tutorial

## FEES

**Domestic Student Fees 2018:** AU\$2200.00 per 10cp Theology/Ministry subjects

**International Student Fees 2018:** AU\$2400.00 per 10cp Theology/Ministry subjects

## FEE HELP LOAN

The Master of Theology qualifies for FEE Help Loan Funding. Please consult <http://studyassist.gov.au/> for eligibility details.

## AUSTUDY / ABSTUDY / YOUTH ALLOWANCE

Austudy, Abstudy and Youth Allowance are available for this course. To check your eligibility and to find out more information, please visit the Study Assist website.

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## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

The course consists of 120 credit points, comprising core research methods units, units taken within your area of specialisation, elective subjects, and a research project in your area of discipline.

### **CORE UNITS**

RES601 Research Methods – 20 credit points

Units taken within your area of specialisation  
2x 20 credit point subjects, at 600 level, to be taken from your area of specialisation

### **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

BIB601 Methods in Biblical Studies – 20 credit points  
BIB602 Seminar Presentation of Research in Biblical Studies – 20 credit points

### **THEOLOGY**

THE601 Theologians: Method and Meaning – 20 credit points  
THE602 Seminar Presentation of Theological Research – 20 credit points

### **ELECTIVE UNITS**

20 credit points, at 500 level or above, to be taken from a discipline outside your specialisation

### **RESEARCH PROJECT**

Core research project (20,000 words) in your area of discipline  
RES602 Research Project – 40 credit points

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## UNITS OF STUDY

The following list includes all subjects (units) of study currently available across our postgraduate awards. For further information on subjects or programs of study within individual awards, please see our Awards section.

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### ANL502 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II

New Testament Greek 2 builds on from Greek 1 to give you a solid foundation for your knowledge of Biblical Greek. This unit rounds out a full year of Greek study and will equip you with a good working knowledge of Greek grammar, and it is from this basis that you can launch into more advanced syntactical and exegetical study of the New Testament texts. Greek 2, in a way, puts 'wheels' on your study of Greek, as we come to see more fully the beauty of the Greek verbal system and its significance for understanding the original texts.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 2
- Course code: ANL502
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- ANL402—New Testament Greek I

### BIB502 INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE TODAY

Many people think that the way they understand the Bible is the way anyone would: its meaning is always unambiguous to us all, isn't it? But in reality we cannot avoid interpreting the bible as we read it. So how can we effectively read and interpret the Bible? This is the key question of this unit. To explore this question we will consider a whole range of interpretive issues, including the different genres of biblical literature and the process(es) by which we come to apply the biblical message to our current context. This subject will therefore provide you with the necessary foundation and tools with which to interpret and apply the message of the Bible more thoughtfully.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB502
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### BIB520 THE PENTATEUCH

At the beginning of the bible, we find the Pentateuch or Torah. Genesis to Deuteronomy are essential for understanding our faith today. For ancient Israel it described their origins, creation stories, ancestors, exodus from Egypt, covenant with Yahweh, the journey to the Promised Land and their worship of Yahweh. Similarly for us as Christians, our salvation-story is framed by the people, images and stories found in the Pentateuch. In this unit we will explore these foundational themes of creation, faith, salvation, covenant, worship, land and journeying present in the Pentateuch. We will particularly discover the wonder of the Pentateuch's literary structure and techniques as well as the world it constructs. It will also survey how the Pentateuch sets the stage for what follows in the rest of the biblical canon.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB520
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### BIB522 MINOR PROPHETS

Towards the end of the Old Testament are a collection of twelve usually overlooked prophetic books, known as the Minor Prophets. This unit will blow the dust from the Minor Prophets, to get a glimpse into the ancient history of Israel, the prophets and their God-given message. We will specifically study the Minor Prophets as a collage, to highlight the collections' literary nature, themes, settings and rhetoric, as well as its portrayal of Yahweh. Further, you will be encouraged to harness your own 'prophetic imagination' so that you can be a messenger of God to your own generation.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB522
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### BIB550 READING THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

The unit examines the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and their (inter)relationship. Whilst their portrayal of Jesus is an obvious outcome, this subject will also explore some unique facets of each of the synoptics, such as the Messianic 'secret' of Mark,

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Matthew's particular theology, as well as key Lukan passages. A key outcome will be the significance of the synoptics for Christian discipleship and ministry.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB550
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### **BIB553 JOHANNINES**

The Gospel and Letters of John are dearly loved by many Christians today. Rich in theology and symbolism, these texts draw heavily on the Jewish tradition fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah. This unit will equip you to interpret and apply these extraordinary texts, as well as help you to see the ways in which the story of Jesus fulfils the testimony of Israel.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB553
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### **BIB554 THE WORLD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Why would Paul, A Hebrew speaking Jew, writing to Latin speaking Romans, use Greek? Why was the liberating message of the crucified Messiah considered "foolish?" What did the first Christians look like to outsiders? Did Paul really endorse slavery and male headship? So many aspects and difficult issues of the NT are overlooked or misunderstood in the 21st century for the very simple reason that we don't understand the world of the original text. This course takes a look at the culture, customs, and values of the first century, especially as they relate to the NT. It asks the question "What was that world like?" and "How does the NT challenge it?" It shows how radical this minority group – the Christians – were in the face of the Roman Empire and invites the student to be challenged in their own convictions and values as 21st century Christians.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB554
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible or 40 credit points

### **BIB561 LUKE-ACTS**

Luke-Acts is a two-volume work which tracks the movement from the ministry of Jesus through to the early church (and beyond!). Obviously this text is therefore of great significance in the New Testament, and has been used by Pentecostals for over a century in our quest to recover a truly biblical faith. This unit examines the narrative of Luke-Acts in a way that holds together the historical and theological foci, and seeks to equip you with a solid reading strategy for approaching these remarkable texts.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB561
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### **BIB562 ROMANS AND GALATIANS**

Have you ever wondered why Christians don't follow the full Mosaic Law? Have you ever asked what sets Christianity apart from Judaism? Paul's letters to the Romans and Galatians answer these questions and more, whilst in many ways these letters reveal most fully the heart of his theology. This unit will also synthesise Paul's thought into a storyline of history that informs his pastoral and theological reflections. If you are interested in understanding the core Gospel message and its relevance in our contemporary culture then this unit will scratch where you itch!

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB562
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible or 40 credit points

### **BIB565 THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

The Revelation (or the Apocalypse as it is often called, from its opening word in Greek) is by common consent one of the most difficult of all the books of the Christian Bible. Nevertheless, attention to its historical context, social and religious milieu, and literary genre will bring considerable light to bear on its form, content, and function, as well as its relevance for us today and in light of contemporary theological perspectives.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: BIB565
- Credit points: 10

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### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

### **BIB590 NEW TESTAMENT FIELD STUDY**

This unit provides students with a first-hand introduction to the relevant cultural, geographical, historical, and archaeological issues for the New Testament. This unit features an on-site field study program in the location of modern day Turkey and Greece, formative for the biblical text, including hikes, Biblical walks, visits to archaeological sites and traditional churches and museums that cast light on Paul's missionary journeys and epistles, assisting us in exegetical tasks.

### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 2
- Course code: BIB590
- Credit points: 10

### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- BIB401—Introduction to the Bible

This course may be offered in the following formats

- Requires a Field Study component of approximately 10 days (75 hours), which includes orientation and preparation meetings. This is in addition to the approx. 50 hours out of class time for reading, research, writing, and ancillary activities associated with completion of assigned tasks.

### **BIB601 METHODS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**

This unit is taken as part of your development of an area of specialisation in Biblical Studies. You will build a detailed understanding of the historical development of the theory and practice of methods in biblical studies, including historical-critical methods, literary approaches, ideological criticisms, and social-scientific theories. You will critically evaluate the validity, usefulness and consequences of different approaches to biblical studies, demonstrate advanced proficiency in using methods of biblical studies and advanced skills in biblical exegesis.

### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2, as required
- Course code: BIB601
- Credit points: 20

### Prerequisites

- RES601 Research Methods

### **BIB602 SEMINAR PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**

This unit is taken as part of your development of an area of specialisation in Biblical Studies. In this unit, you will propose a topic of research within biblical studies and formulate a research proposal. You will demonstrate advanced research skills, critical engagement with alternate perspectives and the ability to make a solid argument; utilise an appropriate method to develop a coherent argument on selected issues or passage; and present the results of research to peers and respond critically and generously to the research of others.

### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2, as required
- Course code: BIB602
- Credit points: 20

### Prerequisites

- BIB601 Methods in Biblical Studies

### **COM504 PREACHING AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Have you ever wished that you could bottle the persuasiveness and power of your favourite preacher in order to supercharge your own sermons and see your congregation transformed? When it comes to sermons, the bridge between the first century text and twenty-first century context can often seem longer than 2000-plus years. If you want to discover what turns effective preaching into life-changing preaching, and bring revelation to postmodern people who struggle with the Christian story, then look no further. Get ready to be equipped with the rhetorical tools in this unit to craft a message so powerful that it will be impossible for your audience to leave unchanged.

### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: COM504
- Credit points: 10

### Prerequisites

At least 40 credit points plus:

The following courses are prerequisites:

- RES401—Postgraduate Research and Writing or equivalent

### **EXP501 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

Itching to connect the realm of the classroom with some real-life experience? Professional Practice is designed with just this aim in mind. Students will have the chance to engage academically with issues pertaining to their major specialisation plus experience a hands-on workplace placement.

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Working with an experienced supervisory mentor (no family members or close friends!), students will complete a 100 hour placement over the course of semester, with a variety of formats to choose from. For instance, do you have a heart for local church ministry? You could complete 8 hours a week in a ministry of Hillsong Church, working with a key leader or oversight. Or perhaps a block placement involved in one of the Hillsong Church's annual Conferences would be the kick start needed... The sky is the limit!

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2 (upon student request)
- Course code: EXP501
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

Completion of at least 40 credit points.

### **HIS502 EARLY AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY**

This subject examines the context, origins and development of early Christianity and its impact on the surrounding communities from the Apostolic Age to the Continental Reformation. It explores how the rapid expansion of the church brought various social, cultural and theological challenges and examines how these were addressed. The contextualisation of medieval Christian thoughts and actions are discussed, as well as their formative influences in contemporary contexts. An analysis of major reform movements will also reveal how they have shaped the history of Christianity.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 2
- Course code: HIS502
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

40 Credit Points OR

The following courses are prerequisites:

- HIS401—History of Christianity

### **MIN510 COMMUNICATING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

The 'E' word: Evangelism – is a concept that can equally incite 'excitement' and 'excruciation'. In this unit, extroverts and introverts alike will find themselves engaging with the historical, biblical and theological roots for communicating the Gospel and gaining the skills (along with the empowering of the Spirit) to communicate effectively. In doing so, students will explore ways to engage with a world where the acceptance of the Christian story is counter-cultural, as well as ways to connect the good news of the kingdom to contemporary social concerns.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: MIN510
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

- At least 40 credit points or MIN401 Foundations of Pastoral Ministry

### **RES500 INDEPENDENT GUIDED RESEARCH**

This research unit is undertaken with a supervisor and provides you with an opportunity to pursue a research question in your area of interest. You will demonstrate knowledge of methodology relevant to your research question, enabling you to identify the appropriate research method to address your question. You will develop your ability to identify and develop a research question in a chosen area of interest, and to execute research method to complete your research, including a significant literature review.

To secure your supervisor for this unit, we recommend beginning discussions with the Masters Program Coordinator to assist you in allocation of a supervisor before enrolling in this unit. The earlier you begin this process, the better you will be set up for a great research project!

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2 (upon student request)
- Course code: RES500
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

- RES401 or equivalent and completion of at least 3 subjects in major area and at least 1 elective.

### **RES601 RESEARCH METHODS**

This core research methods unit is taken at the commencement of your Master of Theology. Within this unit you will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodologies approaches to research and demonstrate a broad understanding of basic statistical techniques in data interpretation. You will demonstrate the ability to formulate a research question and outline an appropriate research plan for data collection; articulate a research question and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected research field to develop appropriate solutions. Further, you will also effectively construct and communicate a research project which will inform and enhance the selected research field.

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#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2 (as required)
- Course code: RES601
- Credit points: 20

### RES602 RESEARCH PROJECT

This core unit is the capstone of your development of an area of specialisation and advanced research skills within your Master of Theology. It provides an opportunity for you to pursue an in-depth independent research project, in consultation with an approved supervisor. The research project should be in the area of specialisation (either Theology or Biblical Studies).

You will identify and develop an approved research question to be investigated in a subject area of suitable complexity and represented by a major stream in the relevant degree. You will describe a suitably sophisticated method for resolving the research question, construct a critical literature review for the area of research in interaction with described methodology and high level, peer-reviewed scholarship, then show an advanced competence in descriptive, critical and analytic skills with respect to the topic of your research. This culminates in you producing a piece of work of the defined length of 20,000 words which is clearly expressed, well-structured and well-argued relative to the appropriate topic, and which appropriately engages the peer-reviewed literature in the area.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2 (as required, for enrolment your final semester of study)
- Course code: RES602
- Credit points: 40

#### Prerequisites

- RES601 Research Methods

### THE501 CHRISTOLOGY

Is it an oxymoron (contradiction) to claim that Jesus is both human and divine? How do we make sense of Jesus' death on the cross? Is the resurrection something that can be believed in this modern scientific era? These are the sort of questions addressed in this unit, which provides students with the opportunity to explore central elements of Christian faith at a deeper level of theological reflection. It explores what has traditionally been labelled the "person" and "work" of Jesus, i.e. "who is he?" and "what did he do for us?". In answering these questions, students are encouraged to reflect on both the ancient traditions of the bible and early church and, further, to discuss the significance of Jesus Christ for contemporary Christian life and thought especially in view of modern Christological reflections.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: THE501
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE502 TRINITY AND CREATION

Do you think that the doctrine of the Trinity is just too hard to understand, even though you know that this doctrine is foundational to Christian faith? This unit provides students with an opportunity to reflect deeply on the doctrine of the Trinity – both its historical development and its relevance for the contemporary church. It also explores God's providential work in the creation and addresses controversial issues such as the creation / evolution debate.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: THE502
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE503 SPIRIT AND CHURCH

How do you explain Pentecostal distinctives? How well do you understand, and how clearly can you explain, historical developments in pneumatology, such as the filioque controversy? In today's diverse ecclesial context, how can you engage in ecumenical dialogue locally and globally, and relate pneumatology to ecumenism? Within this unit you will explore the historical developments of pneumatology, including the filioque controversy. You will learn how to explain the development of Pentecostal pneumatology and appraise key distinctives, including the theology of baptism in the Spirit, as well as analyse contemporary theologies of the spirit. You will develop an ability to demonstrate implications drawn from the relationship between pneumatology and ecclesiology, and discriminate between alternate conceptions of church. Beyond this, you will build understanding and skill to be able to relate pneumatology to ecumenism and engage in ecumenical dialogue.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: THE503
- Credit points: 10

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### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE504 CHRISTIAN ETHICS

In an era of moral relativism, Christians should stand out as moral beacons. However, it is increasingly the case that the Church is seen not as a community of love but, rather, as a legalistic, dogmatic, mean-spirited and hypocritical institution. This unit helps students to think through how they go about making ethical decisions. It argues against legalism, and sets up a theological method of approaching ethics that prioritises grace and the power of the Spirit. It also facilitates guided reflection on personal morality and societal ethical issues.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: THE504
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE510 THEOLOGY AND POPULAR CULTURE

Conservative Christian communities have long been suspicious of popular culture. It is increasingly apparent, however, that if the church is going to be relevant in the modern world, it needs to find ways to engage with the mediums of popular culture; film, television, music and the internet. Building on Christian Worldview studies, this unit teaches students tools for interpreting pop culture texts, and encourages critical analysis. It focuses particularly on film, but provides students the option of exploring other mediums. Teaching strategies include listening to podcast lectures and gathering together to watch and discuss films. The unit will feel a little like a series of “nights-out” although beneath all the fun is some serious reflection on the culture within which we live and minister.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 2
- Course code: THE510
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE512 APOLOGETICS

Is it possible to make sense of Christian faith in the 21st century? This course explores traditional “proofs” of the existence of God and analyses their contemporary

relevance. It considers the relationship between theology and science, and provides students with tools to defend central elements of the Gospel. Students are also challenged to put theory into practice by engaging in discussions about faith with non-Christians.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: THE512
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE520 THE CHURCH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

This unit provides a biblical theology of holistic mission and Gospel proclamation that takes seriously the responsibility of the church to address issues of justice and poverty. It argues scripturally and theologically that the good news of the Kingdom of God has vital implications for social and cultural values and practice. Too often in our western society we see political ideology claiming these values. As Christians we need to reclaim them as expressions of our faith, and as reflections of God’s Kingdom on earth.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 or Semester 2
- Course code: THE520
- Credit points: 10

#### Prerequisites

The following courses are prerequisites:

- THE401—Christian Worldview

### THE601 THEOLOGIANS: METHOD AND MEANING

This unit is taken as part of your development of an area of specialisation in Theology. You will develop an advanced ability to explain the contribution of selected theologians central to Christian tradition (pre-20th Century) to contemporary thought and practice; compare, contrast and evaluate the theological insights of selected authors; and summarise the theological method of key 20th/21st Century theologians and explain the way this frames their theology; and present research conclusions to peers and engage in constructive and critical dialogue.

#### Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2, as required
- Course code: THE601
- Credit points: 20

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Prerequisites

- RES601 Research Methods

**THE602 SEMINAR PRESENTATION OF THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

This unit is taken as part of your development of an area of specialisation in Theology. In this unit, you will explain the epistemological perspectives of contemporary western culture and discriminate between alternate theological responses. You will propose a topic of research on a contemporary theological issue and formulate a research proposal; demonstrate advanced research skills, critical engagement with alternate perspectives and the ability to make a solid argument; utilise an appropriate theological method to develop a coherent argument on selected theological issues; and present the results of research to peers and respond critically and generously to the research of others.

Quick Info

- Currently offered: Semester 1 and Semester 2, as required
- Course code: THE602
- Credit points: 20

Prerequisites

- THE601 Theologians: Method and Meaning