



FMBC Individual Modules 2024-25 Content Overview

Christian Theology

Semester 1, Mondays, 09:30–13:00

This course is a wide-ranging introduction to systematic theology, with a focus on biblical doctrine for a life of worship, discipleship, and service. We will consider the sources and purposes of systematic theology, and its relationship to the other theological disciplines. Over the semester, all the main areas of doctrine will be introduced, with a consistent emphasis on each doctrine's biblical foundations, its interrelationships with other doctrines, and practical applications for ministry. This course will also foster the acquisition of key theological principles for biblical interpretation, to equip students for a lifetime of faithful Bible-reading and Bible-teaching.

Introduction to Church History

Semester 1, Tuesdays, 09:30–10:30

This course provides an introduction to Church History, exploring how the Church has grown and diversified. It takes students on a journey from Pentecost to the present across different continents and cultures. It provides students with an introduction to the key developments in the history of Christianity, familiarising students with the significant figures, events, and movements in the history of Christianity.

Children & Youth Ministry

Semester 1, Tuesdays, 11:00–12:00

This module will give students a grounding in key biblical principles for children and youth ministry. We'll consider how understanding childhood development should impact teaching and learning, curriculum construction and practical communication skills. The opportunities and challenges of new media and cultural trends will also be explored. The overall aim being to help students develop as effective communicators of the gospel to children and young people.

Prayer & Revival

Semester 1, Tuesdays, 12:05–13:05

This module comprises two interrelated series of lectures of five weeks each. The lectures dealing with prayer provide a detailed analysis of the varied aspects of this vital part of Christian experience and church life. The lectures on revival comprise an investigation into what revival actually is, how it has been experienced in church history and whether similar outpourings of the Spirit are to be expected in the present day. The course aims to

make students aware of the breadth and variety of prayer, to encourage them in their own prayer development, to explore reasons why prayer is apparently unanswered, and to distinguish between evangelism, spiritual awakening, renewal and revival and revivalism.

Biblical Interpretation

Semester 1 & 2, Tuesdays, 14:00–16:00

The first part of this course will introduce students to the science of biblical hermeneutics, and particularly the presuppositions of a Christian hermeneutical approach. Students will learn to apply key hermeneutical principles and methods to a variety of biblical genres. The second part of this course will take students from the exegetically completed stage of the study of a biblical text into the preparation of a written expository sermon and then on to the production and delivery of an evangelistic sermon, appropriate to an intended audience.

Global History of Christianity

Semester 2, Thursdays, 09:30–13:00

Over the past two millennia, Christianity has spread from humble beginnings in the Middle East to become a global movement reaching across continents and cultures. This course traces the history of Christianity, exploring how the church has grown and diversified. It introduces students to the key developments in the history of Christianity, especially in the areas of theology, exegesis, and missions. Lectures will familiarise students with the key figures, events, and movements in the history of Christianity, while seminars will provide students with the opportunity to engage with works written by prominent Christians from different eras of church history.

Old Testament in Contexts

Semester 2, Mondays, 09:30–13:00

The Old Testament is the first part of the Christian canon and was the Scripture of Jesus. Traditionally divided into the Torah, Prophets and Writings, it comprises texts written over roughly a thousand years in a wide range of genres, by diverse human authors and for diverse audiences. Yet by the inspiration of the Spirit it also possesses a fundamental unity that points forward to the Christian hope. Through an overview survey of the whole and detailed examination of particular passages, students will gain a deeper understanding of the nature of the Old Testament as a historical, literary and theological corpus.

Christian Character & Biblical Relationships

Semester 2, Tuesdays, 09:30–10:30

This module studies the teachings of Christ from the Sermon on the Mount. Students will explore how a person is changed as a believer and how this influences their relationships with others. The module aims to understand the biblical principles of change in the life of a believer and the development of Christian character, study how Biblical change involves community and how this looks in our relationships with others, and develop skills in self-reflection so as to point us to Christ and our need of His transforming work in our lives.

Pastoral Care

Semester 2, Tuesdays, 11:00–12:00

This course establishes a framework for pastoral care by exploring key biblical texts and laying down core theological principles. It also examines commonalities and differences between Christian and secular approaches to pastoral care. This framework is applied to a range of pastoral care scenarios including illness, disability, grief, anxiety, depression, addiction, marriage problems and divorce. The course also explores how to undertake pastoral care as part of a team, enlisting the support of small groups, support groups, church workers, and counselling services.

Introduction to Theology

Semester 2, Tuesdays, 12:05–13:05

This module lays a foundation for a Christian understanding of who God is and his actions toward the world he has made. In order to do this, we investigate major theological summaries ('creeds' and 'confessions') as they have emerged in the life of the church, and assess them in light of Scripture. The goal is not simply to amass details about academic theology, although learning of this kind has its part to play. Rather, in considering carefully the nature and content of faith, there is growth also in understanding in a deeper way the interconnectedness of these beliefs, in enriching an appreciation of the God who is worshipped, and enhancing the effectiveness of the life of service to which disciples are called.

New Testament in Contexts

Semester 2, Wednesdays, 09:30–13:00

The New Testament makes up the second part of the Christian canon of scripture, and this course complements the Old Testament in Contexts course. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek by early followers of Jesus. These texts have shaped and informed Christian thinking over the past two millennia. This course introduces the content of the New Testament through its different genres (gospels, epistles, apocalypse) and aims to think about the texts in their context considering questions such as, who were the original authors, to whom did they write and why, and what do they have to say to us?

Christian Ethics

Semester 2, Thursdays, 09:30–13:00

Ethics is the task of moral reasoning, which involves making decisions about right and wrong in order to live well. This course introduces the three main models of ethical theory (deontology, consequentialism and virtue ethics) and sets them within a holistic framework informed by Scripture and the reflections of theologians and ethicists past and present. This involves considering five things that matter for ethical reflection: (1) God's character; (2) creation; (3) community in Christ; (4) new creation, and; (5) biblical commandments. These five things are permeated by the two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbour (Matt 22:37-40). This holistic framework is applied to a variety of ethical issues including sexuality, work, marriage, divorce, bioethics and public theology.