

M701 Bible and Context

Code	M701
Title	Bible and Context
Tutor	Helen Miller
School	Moorlands College
Owning Course	MA Applied Theology
Module Type	Standard Taught Module
Brief description	<p>This module explores 'Bible and context', first, in relation to the role of the biblical authors' context within biblical hermeneutics, particularly in relation to different perspectives on the feasibility and importance of ascertaining authorial intention. Secondly, the distinctives of the student's context, and its impact on their interpretation of biblical text is explored. As regards the student's context, there is focus on the distinctives of evangelical theology, and evangelical approaches to the Bible, to enable the student to reflect on the extent to which they align themselves with this theological tradition. The module also encourages critical and theological reflection on students' own cultural context, with a focus on conceptions of human personhood and flourishing. The module explores the role of the Bible in theological reflection and practical theology. In covering these prime topics, the module lays important foundations for the programme as a whole, whichever core modules are subsequently undertaken.</p>
Level of study	Level 7
CATS points	30
Approved base location	Module validated for delivery at Moorlands College, Christchurch.
Restrictions	None
Indicative syllabus	<p>This module covers a range of topics relating to biblical hermeneutics and theological reflection, such as: evangelical theology and approaches to Scripture, including exegesis; the three worlds of the text; Christocentric hermeneutics; theological interpretations of Scripture; theodrama; models of theological reflection, such as Osmer's Four Tasks of Practical Theology, McKitterick's Theological Imperative model and Collins' Scriptural Cycle; the use of the Bible in theological reflection (considering such issues as: the integration of theory and practice; and the location and discernment of authority and normativity); the role of the Holy Spirit in theological reflection; theology in four voices; contextualisation and contextual theology; theological reflection on key features of students' contemporary contexts, with a particular focus on conceptions of human personhood and flourishing.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>A student passing this module should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate critical cognisance of their own approach to and perspective on Christian theology; 2. demonstrate advanced methodological awareness in their interpretation of biblical text(s), including engagement with relevant debates regarding biblical hermeneutics; 3. reflect theologically, critically and systematically on an area of their own context and practice.

Learning and teaching activities	Scheduled learning and teaching activities: 28 hours Guided independent study: 272 hours
Mark Scheme	Postgraduate: Standard Assessment: Mark/Grade
Assessment	A: 100 % Assignment 6,000 words or equivalent
Indicative resources	<p>Atherstone, Andrew ,and David Ceri Jones, eds. <i>The Routledge Research Companion to the History of Evangelicalism</i>. Milton: Taylor & Francis Group, 2018.</p> <p>Bartholomew, Craig G. "Three Horizons: Hermeneutics from the Other End—An Evaluation of Anthony Thiselton's Hermeneutic Proposals." <i>European Journal of Theology</i> 5, no. 2 (1996): 121–35.</p> <p>Cameron, Helen, John Reader, Victoria Slater and Chris Rowland. <i>Theological Reflection for Human Flourishing: Pastoral Practice and Public Theology</i>. London: SCM, 2012.</p> <p>Cameron, Helen, Deborah Bhatti, James Sweeney, Clare Watkins and Catherine Duce. <i>Talking about God in Practice: Theological Action Research and Practical Theology</i>. London: SCM, 2013.</p> <p>Collins, Helen. <i>Reordering Theological Reflection: Starting with Scripture</i>. London: SCM, 2020.</p> <p>Cook, Matthew, Rob Haskell and Ruth Julian, eds. <i>Local Theology for the Global Church: Principles for an Evangelical Approach to Contextualization</i>. Pasadena: William Carey, 2010.</p> <p>Flemming, Dean. <i>Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission</i>. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2009.</p> <p>Gener, Timoteo D., and Stephen T. Pardue, eds. <i>Asian Christian Theology: Evangelical Perspectives</i>. Carlisle: Langham Creative Projects, 2019.</p> <p>Green, Gene L., Stephen T. Pardue, K. K. Yeo and Munther Isaac, eds. <i>Majority World Theology: Christian Doctrine in Global Context</i>. Westmont: InterVarsity Press, 2020.</p> <p>Jeon, Yong Ho. "The Retroactive Re-Evaluation Technique with Pharaoh's Daughter and the Nature of Solomon's Corruption in 1 Kings 1-12." <i>Tyndale Bulletin</i> 62, no. 1 (2011): 15–40.</p> <p>McFarlane, Graham. <i>A Model for Evangelical Theology: Integrating Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience, and Community</i>. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.</p> <p>Morris, Helen, and Helen Cameron, eds. <i>Evangelicals Engaging in Practical Theology: Theology that Impacts Church and World</i>. London: Routledge, 2022.</p> <p>Osmer, Richard R. <i>Practical Theology: An Introduction</i>. Chicago: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2008.</p> <p>Smith, James K. A. <i>How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor</i>. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2014.</p> <p>Stiller, Brian C., Todd M. Johnson, Karen Stiller and Mark Hutchinson, eds. <i>Evangelicals Around the World: A Global Handbook for the 21st Century</i>. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Incorporated, 2015.</p> <p>Swinton, John, and Harriet Mowat. <i>Practical Theology and Qualitative Research</i>. 2nd Ed. London: SCM, 2016.</p> <p>Swinton, John. <i>Becoming Friends of Time: Disability, Timefulness, and Gentle Discipleship</i>. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016.</p> <p>Tate, W. Randolph. <i>Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach</i>. 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.</p> <p>Trueman, Carl R. <i>The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution</i>. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.</p> <p>Vander Lugt, Wesley. <i>Living Theodrama: Reimagining Theological Ethics</i>. Abingdon: Routledge, 2014.</p>
Initial Intake Year	September 2025
Date of approval	January 2025
Revision dates	

**External
Examiner**

Dr Andrew Rogers