

Master of Arts in Theological & Pastoral Studies

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	Master of Arts in Theological & Pastoral Studies
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Oak Hill Theological College
4. Programme accredited by	N/A
5. Final qualification	Master of Arts (MA)
6. Academic year	2010-11 – updated 31/01/2014
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time / Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The normal entrance requirement is a UK Honours degree in Theology (classified 2.2 or above). Normally, broader degrees in Religious Studies and other subjects will not provide an adequate grounding for this programme. Students without a degree in theology *may* qualify for admission if they are able to demonstrate both academic ability and sufficient other theological background. Students wishing to take certain modules in Biblical Studies must demonstrate a proficiency in Greek or Hebrew at least to the standard of the relevant Oak Hill modules (as noted on the module descriptions).

Applications should be made through the Admissions Officer. Exceptions to the normal entrance requirement are possible but rare, and are made by the Academic Vice Principal, in consultation with the Admissions Officer and Postgraduate Course Leader.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- develop students as lifelong theological learners and equip them to harness and apply the fruits of such theological study in their diverse ministries;
- provide students with a rounded course of study, covering a range of biblical, theological and pastoral studies at postgraduate level, which are at, or informed by, the forefront of those fields of study;
- provide an opportunity for sustained reflection on and engagement with a theological

or ministerial topic through a research-based dissertation and/or project;

- strengthen and sharpen students' intellectual and practical skills and to develop in them the graces of the Christian theologian in order that they should be more effective in Christian ministry;
- provide opportunity for students to reflect upon and integrate their prior theological studies and their experience of Christian ministry in the process of engaging critically with new learnings and to model this in the way in which teaching and learning are provided;
- enable students to understand something of the demands and opportunities of theological research and equip them to begin such research if they would so choose.

11. Programme outcomes

The learning outcomes below are at the **threshold** level

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have:

1. an advanced and thorough understanding of parts of Scripture and their relationship to the whole and how to interpret them;
2. a systematic and advanced understanding of selected doctrines of the Christian faith and/or periods of church history and historical theology, and their significance for the contemporary church;
3. an advanced understanding of how the Christian faith engages with various leading contemporary ethical and pastoral issues;
4. an advanced understanding of the interconnectedness of the various elements within the study of theology;
5. a thorough understanding of the methodologies and techniques used in the study of theology.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- lectures – giving overall perspective, exemplary discussions of a topic, models for considering and assessing different views of a subject and explanations of complicated material;
- accompanying handouts;
- interaction in the form of questions, discussion, dialogue and argument;
- guided independent reading, some of which is discussed in class;
- student-led seminars with questions and discussion;
- dissertation supervisions;
- practical exercises and simulations;
- problem analysis;
- translation in class;
- class discussion of primary texts;
- role play;
- fieldwork;
- organising an event and reflecting on it;
- individual written (and at times oral) feedback on written work;
- the formative dimension of assessment.

Assessment Method

Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by a combination of unseen written exams; assessed coursework in the form of essays, assignments and student-led seminars; book reviews; applied research projects; dissertations.

<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. critically and reflectively evaluate advanced scholarship in the theological disciplines, applying a variety of critical methods, assessing views and theories and, where appropriate, proposing alternatives; 2. evaluate methodologies employed in the theological disciplines and develop critiques of them; 3. construct and articulate an integrative, coherent, well-informed, critically engaged and sustained argument and develop original application of the knowledge and understanding it contains; 4. demonstrate competence in postgraduate research skills through a substantial research project, or a dissertation and project. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through the teaching and learning methods outlined above. Each module, whatever the format of the teaching, involves discussion of key issues in order to develop the intellectual skills described.</p> <p>Additional methods of particular importance in the development of these intellectual skills are the deliberate modelling of these skills in lectures and classes; the individual feedback given on class contributions and assessed work; provision of special sessions on research skills and methodologies; and individual dissertation supervisions. Moreover, a number of the teaching and learning methods mentioned above are employed with the intention that they should especially contribute to the development of these skills. These include guided independent reading; student-led seminars with questions and discussion; practical exercises and simulations; problem analysis; class reading and discussion of primary texts; role play.</p> <p>Assessment Method</p> <p>The various assessment methods employed (see 'Knowledge and Understanding' – Assessment) all place great emphasis, as shown in the assessment criteria, on the learner's ability to demonstrate these skills. Both written pieces (essays, written examinations, dissertations) and oral presentations (e.g., student-led seminars) provide a vehicle for the demonstration of these skills.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. articulate systematic and creative responses to typical issues arising in Christian theology and ministry; 2. communicate those responses clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences; 3. plan and execute a substantial research project and/or dissertation. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills across the teaching programme. With regard to project work, students receive research skills training and one-on-one tutorial supervision.</p> <p>Growing originality in the application of knowledge is modelled by faculty, forms a key dimension in class discussions and debates, is cultivated in simulations, practical exercises and problem analysis, and constitutes a major component of the formative objectives of assessment.</p>

	<p>Assessment Method Students' practical skills are assessed by essay, exam and dissertation and, in particular, by student-led seminars and assessed applied research projects.</p>
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12. Programme structure

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The MA is a postgraduate qualification of 180 credits, comprising four taught modules, worth 30 credits each, and a dissertation package worth 60 credits. It may be completed either as a full-time or part-time programme. If full-time, it runs for 12 months, comprised of three academic terms and one summer period. If part-time, it normally runs for 24 months, comprised of six academic terms and two summer periods. There is also a provision for Anglican ordinands to study on the MA part-time; for more details, see the Other Information section.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY	DESIGNATED	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 taught modules Either RP6.4 (15,000 word Masters-level Long Dissertation) or RP6.2 (7,500 word Masters-level Short Dissertation) and RP6.3 (7,500 word Masters-level Short Project). Postgraduate Research Skills sessions (non-credit-bearing) 	<p>Students must also choose for the four taught modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 from each of the 3 subject areas: Biblical Studies, Theology & Church History, and Church & World; At least 3 modules must be at 'Specialist Masters-level' (code 6.x). 	<p>The pass mark is 12 on the postgraduate 15-point scale (see Appendix for an explanation of grades).</p>

12.3 Non-compensatable modules

All modules for the MA are non-compensatable.

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

See the current 'Information, Regulations & Procedures' handbook, and the 'Progression Requirements' noted above'.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

N/A (Church of England ordinands registered on the MA complete placements alongside a selection of modules at Level 4 and Level 5 which provide specific Anglican training – see Section 21, below)

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Christian ministry of various sorts (pastoral ministry, missions, academic teaching and research, counselling, youth work)

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

- Extensive theological library (24-hour access to over 50,000 volumes)
- IT resources: email, virtual learning environment, CD-Rom resources, Internet, off-site EBSCO database access
- Monthly postgraduate research seminar
- Tuition sessions on postgraduate research skills
- One-to-one dissertation supervisions
- Special provision for students with special needs (e.g., English not first language, specific learning disabilities): see Information & Regulations handbook for details
- Induction to College and academic life in 'Opening Week'

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Theology & Religious Studies

20. Reference points

- Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives – cognitive domains
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Subject Benchmark Statement for Theology & Religious Studies
- Quality in Formation Panel of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
- Middlesex University Learning & Quality Enhancement Handbook
- QAA – Guidelines for preparing Programme Specifications
- Oak Hill – Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy
- Student, Staff, External Examiner and Graduates' feedback and comments (particularly through Assessment Board, Academic Board and the Courses Evaluation Committee)

21. Other information

The maximum length of registration for the MA for full-time students is 24 months. For part-time students, the maximum length of registration is 48 months.

Anglican ordinands who are already Theology graduates can study on the programme part-time. Normally, their overall programme is technically full-time, lasts for two academic years and comprises a) the MA in TPS part-time, and b) a selection of modules at Level 4 and Level 5 which provide specific Anglican training. The normal length of time for the MA programme is 22 months, comprising six academic terms and one summer period. The student studies four 30 credit modules over six academic terms, together with dissertation preparation. Intensive dissertation work is allowed by the intervening summer period, but completion of the dissertation package is only *required* by the end of August of the second year.

A student who passes the four taught modules (120 credits) but not the independent research element (dissertation and/or project) may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Theological and Pastoral Studies.

A facility exists whereby MA students may apply for temporary suspension of their studies. (See the current 'Information, Regulations & Procedures' handbook for details.)

Please note: Programme Specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the relevant Student Programme Handbook and the University Regulations.

Appendix 1: MA List of Modules by Subject Area and Level

Listed below are all of the Level 7 modules (codes 5.x, 6.x) available for the MA programme. There are four main subject areas for Level 7 modules, along with hybrid codes for modules which encompass two subject areas. These latter modules may count in *either* area but *not* both.¹ Please note that the availability of elective modules may vary year upon year, and students should check precise module offerings with the Academic Registrar.

Subject Areas

BS – Biblical Studies

DH – Theology & Church History²

CW – Church & World

RP – Research & Projects

BD – Biblical Studies and Theology & Church History

BW – Biblical Studies and Church & World

DW – Theology & Church History and Church & World

Biblical Studies

BS5.1 Deuteronomy

BS5.2 Advanced Biblical Hebrew Reading

¹ For example, BW6.1 Pauline Spirituality may fulfil the requirement for a module in *either* Biblical Studies or Church & World but not both.

² The D in the module codes stands for Doctrine.

- BS5.3 Hebrew Psalms & Poetry
- BS5.5 Wisdom Literature
- BS5.7 Studying Prophetic Literature
- BS5.9 General Epistles

- BS6.5 The Old Testament in Scripture
- BS6.9 The Theology of the Book of Acts

Theology & Church History

- DH5.1 Doctrine of God
- DH5.3 Doctrine of Salvation
- DH5.7 Reading Historical Texts in English

Church & World

- CW5.2 Establishing Churches across Cultures
- CW5.3 Apologetics for Mission
- CW5.6 Advanced Christian Leadership

- CW6.2 Advanced Islamic Studies

Biblical Studies and Theology & Church History

- BD5.1 Justification in the Bible & in Christian Doctrine

- BD6.1 Christology in the Bible & in Christian Doctrine
- BD6.2 Theology in the Old Testament & Today

Biblical Studies and Church & World

- BW6.1 Pauline Spirituality

Theology & Church History and Church & World

- DW5.1 Puritan Perspectives on Ministry
- DW5.3 Global Christian Theology

- CW6.1 Christian Theology of World Religions
- DW6.2 Doctrine of Grace

Research & Projects

- RP6.2 Short Dissertation
- RP6.3 Short Project
- RP6.4 Long Dissertation

Reading Module (Study area dependent on topic chosen by student)

- RP6.7 Guided Reading

Progressive Marking Scheme for Written Coursework and Examinations at Level 7

The structure of the mark scheme:

The scheme covers different aspects of a piece of work, from reading and research, through argumentation to presentational standards. Key criteria include: organisation; method; relevance; coverage of data; coverage of concepts; coverage of views; argumentation; independent judgement; writing style; presentation and apparatus.

The use of the mark scheme:

- This scheme will be used in marking both written coursework and written examinations in all 5.x and 6.x modules, except for dissertations and for modules or part-modules which consist of language work. For dissertations it is used in conjunction with the dissertation mark sheet. Obviously not all of the criteria will be applicable to both the coursework and examination elements of assessment. Apparatus, for example, is not assessed in examinations.
- The mark scheme is to serve as an agreed guide for markers, and will be applied at the discretion of markers in the light of judgements made about suitable expectations for a particular piece of work. In some coursework, for example, there may be much less taught material or reading available than in others, and the scheme is intended to allow markers the flexibility to recognize such differing expectations. It is intended to guide marking, not to hold it to ransom. In particular, a marker will exercise his/her discretion in determining the weight between the criteria evident in a particular piece of work for determining the final mark.
- The criteria will be used cumulatively, so that a Level 7 piece of work will be required to meet the relevant positive criteria for work done at Levels 4, 5 and 6.

1-3 – Excellent	4-6 – Very Good	7-9 – Good	10-12 – Satisfactory	13-15 – Fail
<p>Work submitted is excellent, demonstrating high levels of competence across a range of criteria and leaving very little or no room for improvement</p> <p>a. an entirely relevant answer to the question in which each of the component parts makes an integrated and clear contribution to the whole</p> <p>b. thorough knowledge of the obviously relevant sources and initiative in seeking out additional sources</p> <p>c. well-directed application of knowledge from, or informed by, the forefront of the relevant discipline with no relevant ground omitted</p> <p>d. advanced, sophisticated and integrated conceptual understanding</p> <p>e. outstanding analytical, synthetic management of sources</p> <p>f. the generation and clear articulation of independent critical insights</p> <p>g. originality or creativity in developing new perspectives, insights or arguments</p> <p>h. deployment of a wide and relevant range of disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>i. clear, coherent, well-structured, logically well-formed, and sustained argument lucidly and elegantly expressed</p> <p>j. virtually flawless presentation and citation</p>	<p>Work submitted is very good but lacks characteristics of excellent work or across a range of criteria still leaves room for improvement</p> <p>k. a relevant and focussed answer to the question in which the component parts make a clear contribution to the whole</p> <p>l. thorough knowledge of the obviously relevant sources</p> <p>m. well-directed application of knowledge from, or informed by, the forefront of the relevant discipline</p> <p>n. advanced conceptual understanding</p> <p>o. very good analytical and synthetic management of sources</p> <p>p. some independent critical insight and/or the judicious application of sophisticated critical insight of others</p> <p>q. some originality or creativity in developing new perspectives, insights or arguments</p> <p>r. deployment of a relevant range of disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>s. clear, coherent, well-structured, logically well-formed, and sustained argument which is very well-written</p> <p>t. very good presentation and citation</p>	<p>Work submitted is good but there is significant room for improvement across a range of criteria</p> <p>u. an answer to the question as set but with some relevant material missing and / or some irrelevant material included</p> <p>v. a good knowledge of the obviously relevant sources</p> <p>w. generally accurate application of knowledge informed by the forefront of the relevant discipline although acquired mostly in class or from set reading</p> <p>x. good conceptual understanding</p> <p>y. good analytical and synthetic management of sources</p> <p>z. little or no independent critical insight but good application of the critical insight of others though with a tendency to general argument</p> <p>aa. some originality or creativity in developing new perspectives, insights or arguments</p> <p>bb. deployment of the essential disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>cc. an organised, coherent and well-written argument with a recognisable conclusion and supporting reasons</p> <p>dd. generally accurate presentation and good citation of sources</p>	<p>Work submitted is acceptable (it attains threshold standard) but it is either seriously defective in one or two respects or minimally acceptable across a range of criteria</p> <p>ee. an answer to the question is recognisable but with noticeable omissions and irrelevancies</p> <p>ff. an adequate knowledge of a reasonable proportion of the obviously relevant sources</p> <p>gg. unfocussed application of knowledge acquired only in class or from set reading</p> <p>hh. adequate understanding of key concepts</p> <p>ii. some endeavour to inhabit and integrate a variety of sources</p> <p>jj. little or no independent critical insight along with adequate - and not always pertinent - application of the critical insight of others though with a tendency to general argument</p> <p>kk. little or no independence or creativity shown</p> <p>ll. limited but adequate deployment of the essential disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>mm. a recognisable argument, adequately organised but marked by logical errors and/or satisfactory rather than pleasing expression</p> <p>nn. adequate accurate presentation and good citation of sources</p>	<p>Work is submitted but is characterised by unacceptably low standards</p> <p>oo. the demands of the task have been barely addressed</p> <p>pp. insufficient knowledge of the relevant material</p> <p>qq. such knowledge as is shown is not used to answer the question</p> <p>rr. inadequate grasp of key concepts</p> <p>ss. use of sources is uncritical and not integrated</p> <p>tt. little or no critical engagement</p> <p>uu. entirely or almost entirely dependent and derivative</p> <p>vv. inadequate understanding and deployment of relevant methods</p> <p>ww. argument is either absent or incoherent and unstructured and is poorly expressed</p> <p>xx. many mistakes in presentation and failure to observe accepted norms of academic presentation in matters of citation of sources and bibliography</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>yy. Token or no submission</p>