

**MODULE TITLE: SPIRITUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURES**

**MODULE CODE:** FMM729

**MODULE SUMMARY:**

This module requires you to critically explore missional movements and denominations (such as the Celtic Church, the Jesuits, and inter alia Pentecostalism) to see how their spiritual practices supported their mission in particular historical/cultural contexts; critically explore a range of marginal missional movements (such as the rise of early Christianity and the emergence of spiritualities of liberation by marginalised groups in contexts of structural oppression – e.g. Latin American liberation spirituality, and African-American ‘beloved community’ spirituality) and a range of ‘monastic’ missional movements (such as desert and Benedictine monasticism and the emergence of new monastic and new friar movements); critically examine the appropriateness of contemporary Christian approaches to spirituality in the context of both their local community and the wider cultural context of globalisation, postmodernism, secularism, and evaluate various ‘sustainable’ responses to local and global crises; and broaden their understanding of contemporary spirituality outside of the church (such as the New Age movement and appropriation of Eastern mystical practices) and critically explore the implications for Christian spirituality.

**SEMESTER OF DELIVERY:** 1

**CATS VALUE:** 20

**ECTS VALUE:** 10

**CONTACT HOURS:**

Lectures 16 hours; Tutorials 4 hours.  
Independent study: 180 hours (Directed learning 100 hours; Self-directed 80 hours)  
Total hours for module: 200 hours.

**MODULE LEADER:** Carol Kingston-Smith

**Tutors:** Nicole Gordon and John Baxter-Brown

**MODE OF DELIVERY:** Blended

**PROGRAMME(S) FOR WHICH THIS MODULE IS MANDATORY:**

MA Missional Leadership and Spirituality  
PGDip Missional Leadership and Spirituality

**PROGRAMMES WHERE THIS MODULE MAY BE TAKEN AS AN OPTION:**

PGCert Missional Leadership and Spirituality

**NORMALLY AVAILABLE TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS:** No

**THE PRE-REQUIREMENT(S) FOR THIS MODULE ARE:** None

**THIS MODULE IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR:** N/A

**RELEVANT BENCHMARKS/NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS:**

- QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (February 2022):  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81\\_18](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81_18)
- Subject Benchmark Statement - Theology and Religious Studies (March 2022):  
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/theology-and-religious-studies>

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a successful student you will be able to:

- Demonstrate independent study of contextually appropriate examples of spiritual practice and teamworking.
- Engage in advanced critical thinking in the application of missional leadership principles and practices to spiritual disciplines and practices and the analysis of relevant spirituality-based leadership skills.
- Demonstrate capacity for independent thought and judgement including appreciation of alternative perspectives of contextually relevant and appropriate spiritual practices.
- Formulate, communicate, debate, and defend concepts, ideas, and practical application in their local contexts, in class time.
- Formulate your own original approaches to spiritual theology suited to your missional context so that these practices can also be used to equip others own spiritual experiences.

**ASSESSMENT:**

- Component 1: 75% Essay (3,750 words) critically engaging with the key content of the module, chosen by you from a short list of options set by the Programme Director.  
KIS Category: Coursework
- Component 2: 25% Personal Development Profile Assessment Task (1,250 words or equivalent) as set out in the PDP Handbook.  
KIS Category: Coursework

**READING STRATEGY:**

The kind of literature in the field of spiritual theology, its beliefs and practices, has a nuanced focal point for this module. Studies in contemporary cultures are complex, especially as the Western (and increasingly non-western) context is faced with the challenges posed by multiculturalism and pluralism of culturally orientated worldviews and a large variety of belief systems. This module takes these challenges seriously as you need to develop the knowledge and understanding required to equip your missional communities and organisations to work in this complex situation. There is a large body of literature that covers millennia for you to draw on, which itself has arisen in diverse cultural contexts and has sought to address the spiritual needs of humanity in a large range of cultural situations. Moreover, in more recent years there is an increasing body of literature arising in Black theology, Indian theology, Asian theology, Feminist theology etc. that provides a range of insights that will help you to explore creative responses to address your own needs in leadership. Specialist tutors in spiritual theology will help to direct you to sources in this nuanced field.

#### **INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Bessenecker, S. (2010). *Living Mission: The Vision and Voices of New Friars*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Books
- Cannon, M. E. (2013). *Just Spirituality: How Faith Practices Fuel Social Action*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books
- Farag, L. (2012). *Balance of the Heart: Desert Spirituality for Twenty-First Century Christians*. Eugene, Oregon:
- Hardy, A. and Yarnell, D. (2017). *Missional Discipleship After Christendom*. Eugene: Cascade.
- Reeves, R. (2011). *Spirituality According to Paul: Imitating the Apostle of Christ*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic
- Wells, S. (2015). *A Nazareth Manifesto: Being with God*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

#### **Journals:**

- Missiology - An International Review (American Society of Missiology)
- Journal of Missional Practice
- Missional Focus Journal
- International Review of Mission (WCC)
- Range of numerous other journals and e-books/articles on ATLA/EBSCO accessed through Moodle