

Modules for BA (Hons) Theology, Mission and Ministry with Specialism in Worship

(Please note: This specialism will be offered from September 2024, subject to final approval by Birmingham Newman University)

Year 1

Reading and Interpreting the Old Testament - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The module introduces students to the Old Testament, its contents, context and literary genres and to the methodologies of biblical reading, study and interpretation. It focuses on cultural forces that shaped a variety of biblical texts and the communities it was written for. It introduces students to a variety of interpretive methodologies used to examine a text, enabling them to work through some of the complex issues involved in discovering their contemporary relevance in the contemporary cultural situations they find themselves working in.

Introduction to Christian Theology - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The study of Christian theology is fundamental to any ministry or mission programme that seeks to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to analyse their faith traditions. Systematic theology (also known as dogmatic theology) provides important methods for the systematic categorisation of a variety of theological ideas that almost every Christian tradition interacts with as part of its beliefs that informs its key practices. In this module, students will learn the core ideas of Christian theology.

Reading and Interpreting the New Testament - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The module introduces students to the New Testament, its contents, context and literary genres and to the methodologies of biblical reading, study and interpretation. It also covers contextual biblical interpretation, with a focus on the New Testament. It introduces students to a variety of interpretive methodologies used to examine a text, enabling them to work through some of the complex issues involved in discovering their contemporary relevance in the contemporary cultural situations they find themselves working in.

Principles of Christian Worship – 20 Credits – Compulsory*

Foundational to all programmes of study at ForMission College is the commitment to help students to frame and inform their understanding of Christian worship. This module sets the foundation of theological worship in the Old and New Testament and an exploration of worship practices through theological reflections on God's presence in worship. This module will develop student knowledge and understanding of the psalms and their use in worship, analysing worship encounters in the Gospels.

History of Worship – 20 Credits - Compulsory*

This module explores the history of Christian worship practices, developing student knowledge of the ever-evolving approaches from different traditions. This module will help students to understand and appreciate different worship practices. This module will focus on common forms of worship, worship in the early and contemporary church and its impact on missional worship. This module will also explore the reformation, relating critically to missional worship in the 21st century.

Multicultural/multiethnic/multilingual/intergenerational worship – 20 credits – Compulsory*

This module in Multicultural, Multiethnic, Multilingual, and Intergenerational worship delves into the rich diversity within worship experiences and practices. By exploring the intersectionality of culture, ethnicity, language, and generations, this module seeks to equip worship leaders, church leaders and communities with the understanding needed to foster inclusive worship environments. Through case studies, best practices, and a focus on community engagement, students are empowered to embrace and celebrate the diverse identities present in worship settings.

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Year 2

Pneumatology and Worship – 20 Credits - Compulsory*

Pneumatology plays an important role in understanding and engaging in missional worship. In this module, students will explore the theological significance of the Holy Spirit's presence in worship. Students will also explore the work and person of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments, considering doctrinal perspectives and application to your own worship context. In this module students will be able to identify biblical themes and texts and relate them critically to scholarly debates concerning the Holy Spirit and worship.

Missional Worship – 20 Credits - Compulsory*

The foundation of this module is to help students to integrate mission and worship as two dimensions of the life of the church. Students will explore the missional heart of worship, and the issues surrounding worship and mission. This module aims to engage students in the mission of God, where mission and worship are inseparable. This module seeks to take mission and worship back to their biblical roots in insightful ways.

Intermediate Biblical Studies - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module explores the importance of reading biblical texts from a narrative theological perspective. There is an emphasis on an increased engagement with literary approaches to reading texts, gaining an understanding of the key motifs and frameworks which formulate the biblical story which assist the student to discover the value of the biblical story and stories contained within its writings. It will also build on student knowledge and understanding of how narrative structures function in the Bible, and how narratives create a framework of understanding for believers and their faith-communities to make sense of their lives. This module will also make use of some select biblical and historical case studies (motifs), focusing on a variety of narrative frameworks to help to inform mission and ministry.

Genres of Christian Worship Music – 20 Credits - Compulsory*

This module seeks to explore different genres of Christian Worship Music (CWM). Students will explore the 'worship-wars' and battles between hymnals and contemporary worship songs, appreciating the evolving worship music and traditions to date. In this module students will explore various traditional and contemporary songwriters, their lyrics and music styles. In the context of missional worship, these genres play an important role in engaging believers and meeting people where they are at, leading to deeper encounters with God.

Principles of Congregational Worship – 20 Credits - Compulsory*

This module prepares students in developing knowledge in congregational worship practices that can be applied to a variety of settings. This module helps students to appreciate the need for equipped worship leaders and church leaders who can meet the diverse needs of their congregation. This module set out the importance of congregational worship, principles of congregational worship in the Old and New Testament and how to engage the congregation in missional worship.

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Year 2 - Continued

The Role of the Worship Leader in the Church - 20 Credits - Compulsory*

An understanding of the role of the worship leader is essential in the life of a church and community. This module helps students to frame their understanding on the practical and spiritual aspects of a worship leader. In this module, students will understand the different worship leadership roles and how these may apply within their own context and setting. This module will equip students to better understand how the role of a worship leader creates opportunities where worship and mission intersect.

Research Skills - 0 Credits - Compulsory

This is a short additional Year 2 module which introduces students to research methods in preparation for their Year 3 research project. It explores research design (positivism and interpretivism). It considers qualitative and quantitative methods, such as interview, questionnaires and participant observation. It considers desk-based research, and skills used to find and review written resources. It contains research ethics and limitations. Throughout all of this it considers theological and missiological research.

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Year 3

Dissertation - 40 Credits - Compulsory

The dissertation module enables the student to undertake a piece of missiological ethnographic research, or literature-based research. The aim is to investigate an area of interest using learning from the research methods found in the Dissertation Handbook and sources. If undertaking ethnographic research, the types of research methods will involve qualitative and quantitative methods as appropriate. As this is the most advanced module for the honours degree, the aim is to apply rigorous ethical practices to how research is conducted.

Scripture from a Missional Perspective - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module has been designed to enable missional leaders to use literary cultural analysis to critically reflect on passages in the New Testament. It also acts as a primary learning process that will enable emerging missional leaders to critically reflect how the early church faced cross-cultural challenges and conflicts, as the Christian message crossed the Jewish cultural boundary into the Greco-Roman sphere. The aim here is to provide the student with transferable learning of how cross-cultural conflict occurs and how this can operate in the multicultural context. The overall aim of this module is for missional leaders to be able to use Biblical sources to enable their mission teams to formulate understandings of what challenges and conflicts they will face when engaged with other sub-cultures.

Missio Dei and Contextual Theology - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This first part of this module has been designed to engage emergent missional leaders in critical study of a range of views on missio Dei theology. The second part of this module explores contextual theology. The third part of this module explores theology that emerges from a variety of global perspectives and the implications of this for mission. This module engages with decolonial perspectives, and the desire for a decolonialised curriculum.

Dynamics of Worship Leading and Ensembles - 20 Credits - Compulsory*

This module will help students to frame and inform their understanding of the dynamics of worship leading and ensembles. This module will equip students in the stages of songwriting composition to worship leading performance. Students will also develop knowledge in organising ensembles in a worship context. Vocalists will develop in the dynamics of leading or participating in a vocal group. Musicians will develop in their musicianship for performing traditional or contemporary worship. Communication will be a key aspect in how team dynamics are managed.

Change Management and Conflict Resolution for Worship Leaders - 20 Credits - Compulsory*

This module draws from theories and methodologies that come from other fields of study, for example contemporary business studies and organisational studies. The worship leader needs to develop knowledge, understanding, abilities and skills to be able to navigate the dynamics within their congregations. This module teaches you how to embrace and facilitate change and transition and the conflict that this often brings, both to the leader and to the worship team and organisation. In addition, the worship leader will need to be able to identify different types of change and know how to approach the different challenges that are posed by technical and adaptive change processes. It also explores conflict resolution, justice, peace-making and reconciliation.

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