



PAST215/315

Christianity, Society and Ministry in New Zealand

Campus Course Outline 2019

SEMESTER 1 2019

Course coordinator:

Dr Lynne Taylor

lynne.taylor@otago.ac.nz

03 479 5358

Lecturers:

Dr Brett Knowles

brett.knowles@otago.ac.nz

Dr Derek Woodard-Lehman

derek.woodard-lehman@otago.ac.nz

04 385 7400

Dr Lynne Taylor

lynne.taylor@otago.ac.nz

03 479 5358

This paper is unique in the Theology programme for two related reasons: it is team-taught and it comprises a mix of sub-disciplines within Theology. We offer a paper like this in order to demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Theology. It is intended to show that the various sub-disciplines really do have a lot in common, for all their unique aspects, and that they can usefully speak to each other. More than that, this paper is intended to offer you an introduction to each of these three sub-disciplines in its New Zealand context. It is in part, then, an exercise in contextual Theology. We have gone out of our way to illustrate what Theology means in our own context, society, culture and history.

The paper is divided into 13 modules only because there are 13 weeks in the semester but you might understand it as comprising three blocks:

Dr Brett Knowles will introduce you to the discipline of History through a survey of the history of Christianity in New Zealand. Here you will consider the early encounter between Maori and missionary; the establishment of the Church in New Zealand; the ways in which the Church has spoken out on public issues (mainly Prohibition, the Great Depression and war); and how the significant cultural changes of the 1960s have left their mark on the Church over the last half century.

Dr Derek Woodard-Lehman will introduce you to Public Theology through a focus on two public issues with both a local and a global dimension: poverty and the environment. We will explore these first as a global challenge and then as a local challenge, and combine an analysis of what is at stake in each situation with theological reflection on how Christian faith might respond.

Dr Lynne Taylor will introduce you to Pastoral Theology by helping you see the implications for ministry of four societal trends: postmodernism; our post-Christendom culture; the increasing ethnic diversity in New Zealand; and the rapid changes in communication technologies. All of these issues are affecting congregations and other

ministry organisations in multiple ways, and we will consider the challenges and opportunities presented by each one.

This paper has a Pastoral Theology code but also covers Church History and Public Theology, both of which usually carry a Christian Thought and History code. The material is integral to the Bachelor of Theology because it lays a foundation for many other papers. This paper will help you gain an understanding of many issues that congregations, other ministry organisations and individual Christians in New Zealand are facing, along with their roots in history.

LEARNING OUTCOMES / GRADUATE PROFILE

PAST 215: By the end of the paper you will be able to:

1. Apply the concepts of Christendom and post-Christendom to the contemporary ministry settings in NZ;
2. Articulate the historical development of Christianity in NZ, with a particular focus on changes brought about since the 1960s;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of what Public Theology is, and what the voice of the church has been and can be in the public square in NZ;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of four areas in Pastoral Theology and think theologically about personal and societal needs in New Zealand that affect ministry in our context; and
5. Identify significant issues facing congregations and ministry organisations in NZ and offer a personal understanding of potential ways of addressing those issues.

PAST 315: By the end of the paper you will be able to:

1. Critically engage with the concepts of Christendom and post-Christendom in a way that makes sense of contemporary ministry settings in NZ;
2. Render an informed account of the historical development of Christianity in NZ, with a particular focus on changes brought about since the 1960s;
3. Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of what Public Theology is, and what the voice of the church has been and can be in the public square in NZ;
4. Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of four areas in Pastoral Theology and think theologically about personal and societal needs in New Zealand that affect ministry in our context; and
5. Identify significant issues facing congregations and ministry organisations in NZ and offer a personal understanding of potential ways of addressing those issues.

This paper feeds into several aspects of the University of Otago Graduate Profile. It will demonstrate an **interdisciplinary** approach because your lecturers specialise in different areas of study. The paper focuses on New Zealand but it will still provide a **global perspective**: the Pastoral Theology and Public Theology components will include discussions of similarities and differences in the issues faced in New Zealand from the rest of the world. They will also address changes in **communication** technologies and how they affect the Church; discuss issues of **cultural understanding** raised by New Zealand's growing diversity of cultures and ethnicities; and enhance **environmental literacy** by exploring patterns of engagement on the part of churches with environmental issues. They will require **critical thinking skills** to apply Christian **ethics** to public issues. The essay topics for each of the three main components will enhance **information literacy** and **research skills**.

TEACHING STAFF

If you have a question or concern about one of the three components you should contact the lecturer for that component. If you have a question about the paper as a whole you should contact Lynne Taylor, who is the course-co-ordinator. Here are our contact details:

Dr Lynne Taylor

lynne.taylor@otago.ac.nz

03 479 5760

Dr Derek Woodard-Lehman

derek.woodard-lehman@otago.ac.nz

04 385 7400

Dr Brett Knowles

brett.knowles@otago.ac.nz

03 479 8639

RESOURCES

- Blackboard, the University's online learning tool;
- The course book and this accompanying course outline
- eReserve, a resource for extra readings, which you can access via Blackboard;
- Theology at Otago's "Study and Style Guide" which recommends students use the 16th edition of the Chicago citation when writing essays. It is available online at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/> .

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Please Note: You must have access to Blackboard and your University email address in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided **only** through Blackboard and your University email address (as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy), so you must check these emails regularly, or arrange to forward them to your main address. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on our website. In particular, we require you to read the section called "Essential Student Information." You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for making online discussion posts and submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Lectures are held on Thursdays from 2:00 to 3.50pm.

MODULE	DATE	THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN NZ
1	28 February	Introduction to the Paper The Task of Church History
2	7 March	Maori Christianity Church and Society
3	14 March	Prohibition The Great Depression
4	21 March	War The 1960s
5	28 March	After-Effects The Public Voice of the Church

MODULE	DATE	PUBLIC THEOLOGY
6	4 April	What is Public Theology
7	11 April	Child Poverty
8	18 April	Tackling Climate Change

Mid-semester Break

9	2 May	Climate Change and Public Theology
---	-------	------------------------------------

MODULE	DATE	PASTORAL THEOLOGY
10	9 May	Postmodernism
11	16 May	Our Post-Christendom, Increasingly Secular World
12	23 May	The Glocal: Case-Study in Migration
13	30 May	The Glocal: Case-Study in Changes in Communication Technology

ASSESSMENT

Assessment at each level comprises three essays worth 30% each and online discussion worth 10%:

- There are three essays each worth 30%. You must do all three essays.
- There are three online discussions each worth 5%. **EITHER** you can do all three online discussions and we will count your top two marks **OR** you can choose which two discussions you will take part in.
- There is no examination for this paper

The assessment questions are the same whether you are doing this paper at the 200-level or the 300-level but the essay word length is higher for 300-level students and we have indicated ways in which we are looking for a deeper, more critical engagement at the 300-level. Note that your essay should come within +/- 10% of the required word length.

You should submit your essay electronically via the 'Assignment' feature on Blackboard. Before you submit your essay, make a backup copy, either in electronic form or on paper, and keep it in a safe place. After essays have been marked they will be returned to you by email (unless notified otherwise). Please consult the 'Essential Information' webpage for information on submitting assignments, assessment criteria, plagiarism and applications for special consideration.

Some additional information on resources: Wikipedia is a good place to get general information about a topic, but it should not be cited in academic writing. Because it is a wiki (open source), anyone can change an entry. Therefore it is not authoritative. You have to be discriminating about which websites you cite for academic essays. Websites of government agencies and church-related organisations are usually safe. Personal blogs are not authoritative! You can cite something from a dubious website as an example of an opinion that a person might hold, but you shouldn't cite information from the Internet as authoritative unless you know something about the organisation that sponsors the website.

All essays should have footnotes and a bibliography that lists all the resources you cited.

1. Essays:

There are three essays each worth 30% of your total mark.

Essay 1: History

Value:	30% of final mark
Word count:	1500 for PAST215 and 1800 for PAST315
Due date:	Midnight Wednesday 10 April

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Allan Davidson has said that 'religious history is still largely on the periphery of New Zealand history and is often written out, marginalized or trivialized in the overall survey histories'. How do you account for the secular nature of New Zealand historiography? There is reading available on e-Reserve (under 'Module 1: Introduction') to help with your research.

2. Choose **EITHER** Prohibition **OR** the Great Depression: what motivated the churches' response to this issue; in what main ways did the churches respond; and how effective was that response?
3. In what main ways has the place of the Church in New Zealand society changed over the last fifty years? Account for that change.

The marking of your essay will take into account:

1. Your ability to account for change rather than just describing it. To get in the A-range your essay will need to make a cogent argument. That will involve showing judgement and selection as you construct your argument and assemble the evidence to justify it.
2. Evidence of engagement with reading beyond that in the coursebook. At the 200-level you should engage with at least five other pieces of scholarship to get a mark in the A-range; at the 300-level you should engage with at least eight.
3. The clarity of your writing and structure; correct formatting of footnotes and bibliography.

Essay 2: Public Theology

Value:	30% of final mark
Word count:	1500 for PAST215 and 1800 for PAST315
Due date:	Midnight Wednesday 8 May

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Critically evaluate the Encyclical *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis, in terms of it offering a constructive Christian response to environmental issues. *You should consider both the points that Francis makes on the environment, and the way that his writing offers an argument in Christian terms.*
2. In *Child Poverty in New Zealand* Jonathan Boston identifies nine claims about child poverty that are subject to distortion and confusion. Focus on one of these claims. First, summarise Boston's treatment of that claim, including how it is distorted and how it is most honestly characterised. Second, analyse his treatment's strengths and weaknesses (What does he get right? What does he get wrong? What's missing?). Third, assess how public theology or ministry effectively respond to the specific aspect of child poverty presented in that claim.

The marking of your essay will take into account:

1. Critical examination of the documentation and academic literature, showing both breadth and depth
2. Careful thought about complex questions
3. Persuasive, well-reasoned and evidence-based arguments
4. Clear writing style and good presentation format and referencing

Essay 3: Pastoral Theology

Value:	30% of final mark
Word count:	1500 for PAST215 and 1800 for PAST315
Due date:	Midnight Wednesday 5 June

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. What are the main opportunities and challenges for ministry presented by post-Christendom culture?
2. How has increasing cultural diversity in New Zealand shaped the church? In future decades, as cultural diversity continues to increase in New Zealand, how should the church adapt in response?
3. New communication technologies present significant challenges and opportunities for ministry. Identify key insights from Christian teaching that can enable people in ministry to respond appropriately to these challenges and opportunities.

The marking of your essay will take into account:

1. Your ability to understand key issues and to articulate positions and arguments clearly.
2. The clarity of your writing and organisation of your essay. This includes a clear overall structure for the essay, and an interesting and inviting introduction and an effective conclusion.
3. The depth of your engagement with the coursebook readings and other resources. For PAST 215, an essay that receives a B will have at least 2 quotations from the Bible and at least 6 quotations or paraphrased ideas from the coursebook and at least 6 quotations or paraphrased ideas from other resources such as articles, books or websites. For PAST 315, an essay that receives a B will have at least 2 quotations from the Bible and at least 7 quotations or paraphrased ideas from the coursebook and at least 7 quotations or paraphrased ideas from other resources such as articles, books or websites. For option 2, the websites cited could include census data from the Statistics New Zealand website.

2. Online Discussion:

There are three online discussions each worth 5%. **EITHER** you can do all three online discussions and we will count your top two marks **OR** you can choose which two discussions you will take part in.

In each case there will be two discussion threads. Your contribution to each one will be marked out of 2.5, giving a combined total of 5. In each thread you will be asked to make two posts. The marking of the Blackboard posts will take into account:

1. The depth of your interaction with the material.
2. Evidence you have engaged with the readings.
3. Evidence you are engaging with other students' posts.
4. Evidence you can be clear and concise.

We encourage you to make your posts informal and conversational – we are not looking for scholarly prose! But posts should engage seriously with the topics and make references to the interviews and readings if possible. (There is no need to footnote comments about the interviews or readings from the coursebook, but if you cite or quote some other source, let

us know what it is by putting the title and author in parentheses.) The lecturer will moderate the discussion but will respond only very occasionally to the Blackboard discussion board posts.

When you respond to another student's post, try to build on what the other student has said. You are also welcome to respectfully disagree with something another student has written. Please do so with civility and kindness. If you don't understand something another student has said, feel free to ask questions for clarification. If you have concerns about what another student has written, please contact your lecturer directly. If your lecturer perceives that a post is disrespectful, he or she will remove it immediately and send an email to the student, explaining the action and asking for the post to be rewritten.

Discussion 1: History

6am Tuesday 5 March to midnight Monday 11 March

6am Tuesday 19 March to midnight Monday 25 March

This discussion will involve watching two brief video clips related to the history of Christianity in New Zealand, one for each week of online activity. You will find two discussion threads, one for each clip, and you will be responsible to post at least two times in each thread. Each time, one post needs to be a response to the question Dr Brett Knowles has posed for the thread, and the other post needs to be a response to another student's post. In order to count as one of the four required posts, your post needs to be between 100 and 200 words. You are welcome to post as many times as you like in response to another student's post, with posts of any length under 200 words, but in order to count as a required post, the posts need to be between 100 and 200 words.

Discussion 2: Public Theology

6am Tuesday 9 April to midnight Monday 15 April

6am Tuesday 30 April to midnight Monday 6 May

This discussion involves watching two TED talks:

1. James Hansen (Climate Scientist) on 'Why I must speak out about climate change'. It is available at:

https://www.ted.com/talks/james_hansen_why_i_must_speak_out_about_climate_change

2. Anote Tong (President of Kiribati, 2003-2016) on 'My country will be under water soon – unless we work together'. It is available at:

https://www.ted.com/talks/anote_tong_my_country_will_be_underwater_soon_unless_we_work_together

You will find two discussion threads, one for each talk, and you will be responsible to post at least two times in each thread. Each time, one post needs to be a response to the question Dr Derek Woodard-Lehman has posed for the thread, and the other post needs to be a response to another student's post. In order to count as one of the four required posts, your post needs to be between 100 and 200 words. You are welcome to post as many times as you like in response to another student's post, with posts of any length under 200 words, but in order to count as a required post, the posts need to be between 100 and 200 words.

Discussion 3: Pastoral Theology

6am Tuesday 14 May to midnight Monday 20 May

6am Tuesday 21 May to midnight Monday 27 May

This discussion will involve listening to an interview with a minister who is thinking about the issues we are discussing in the pastoral theology components. You will find two discussion threads based on the interview, and you will be responsible to post at least two times in each thread. Each time, one post needs to be a response to the question Dr Lynne Taylor has posed for the thread, and the other post needs to be a response to another student's post. In order to count as one of the four required posts, your post needs to be between 100 and 200 words. You are welcome to post as many times as you like in response to another student's post, with posts of any length under 200 words, but in order to count as a required post, the posts need to be between 100 and 200 words.

REFERENCING SYSTEM

For writing essays, we require that you use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide, which is the norm for many academic journals in the Humanities and is often recommended for theses in the humanities. You can find our *Study and Style Guide*, which outlines the Chicago Style and offers other advice on essay presentation via the "Student Resources and Information" page: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments shall be submitted **electronically** via the "Assignment" feature on Blackboard by **midnight** on the due dates notified. Please do not submit paper copies. For full instructions about how to submit assignments electronically via Blackboard as well as other important information on plagiarism, grading, and deadlines, please see the "Essential Information" web page.

All Assignments must be prefaced with a student Plagiarism Declaration Form. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/> It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

The “**Essential Information**” web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library's resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative and distance learning enquiries**, please contact:

Katherine Rae, Administrator, Theology

Email: theology@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 03 479 8639

For out of hours and general queries relating to enrolment, IT support, and other University services, you may contact AskOtago: 0800 80 80 98, email university@otago.ac.nz, or search for an answer to your question here: <https://otago.custhelp.com>

We recommend that you make contact as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.

THEOLOGY AT OTAGO

University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand

www.otago.ac.nz/theology