



# Come Study with Us 2021-22

## Short Courses available at Westminster

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide range of short courses next academic year and we hope that you will find something to help you go deeper in your exploration of your faith and discipleship or resources and an opportunity for reflection on your ministry.



## Who are these courses for?

- You might be thinking about your faith and would like to explore a particular topic in more depth
- You might be considering what God is calling you to do and would like the opportunity to study
- You might be a Lay Preacher, Worship Leader, CYDO, CRCW or Minister of Word and Sacraments and looking for something to help support you and develop skills for your particular ministry
- These courses may be helpful to you if you are in lay or ordained ministry and would like a chance to reflect on your current practice

## How does it work?

- You sign up to register for a course and we will send you access to the online resources. There is often (but not always) some preparatory reading or exercises to be done before the course begins.
- If we are delivering the course on-line, the sessions will be delivered by a mixture of face-to-face Zoom sessions and guided independent study. Otherwise, courses are usually run in classes based at Westminster or at Ridley Hall, one of our partner institutions in the Cambridge Theological Federation.
- You can choose to write something at the end of the course if you wish, such as a short reflection on your learning, a resource for use in ministry, or a short essay, but this is not essential.



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## What are the classes and sessions like?

- Class sizes vary between 5-25! There is a wide range of age, backgrounds, and experience in the room, which makes for a very rich learning experience.
- The face-to-face sessions are a mixture of lecture-style content, seminar-style discussions and small group work. The independent study sessions usually involve watching a video or reading an article and then having the chance to reflect on it.

## Do I need to have studied any theology before?

No! Many of these courses are suitable for those who have not studied theology before. In the course descriptions below, we have indicated the level of the course. If you have not accessed degree level material before, you might find it most accessible to start with the foundational level courses first.

## Course Descriptions

**Foundational courses:** particularly good if you have not studied Theology before or want to study something at an introductory level.

### **1317 Elements of Ministry and Mission in Context** (10 hours)

This is especially suitable for those who are exploring lay or ordained ministry in the URC. This module will enable you to reflect on: the nature of ministry, mission and vocation and their relation to ecclesiology in the United Reformed Church. Biblical and theological foundations for the church's participation in the mission of God will be considered, alongside biblical and theological foundations for collaborative ministry.

### **1011 Introduction to the New Testament** (20 hours)

This module will offer you an initial overview of the New Testament, of the various different types of literature that are found in it and of the major theological themes its writings raise. It will present the contexts and concerns out of which the New Testament books emerged, set them within their broader historical, religious and cultural backgrounds, and examine the ways that the ancient authors expressed both particular pastoral concerns and more general theological convictions. The module will also explore some of the ways in which the New Testament has been handled and used in various eras and contexts,



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and will allow careful consideration of what might constitute appropriate interpretation and use of these books in today's church and world.

## **1021 Introduction to the Old Testament (20 hours)**

This module provides an initial overview of the Old Testament. The teaching is oriented around some of the key genres, since understanding the kinds of literature in the Old Testament provides important guidance about how to interpret texts appropriately in their historical, literary and cultural context. Some of the tools, methods and approaches used in modern biblical scholarship are also introduced, paying attention to their limitations as well as their strengths. Guidance is given about how to understand the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament, and how to approach some of its more challenging texts.

## **1537 Introduction to Christian Worship (10 hours)**

This module offers an introduction to Christian worship for the purposes of preparation for lay or ordained ministry. It will help you to root your own experience and tradition within the wider contexts of the Christian faith, as well as to grow in confidence in your ability to interpret and apply your learning to your specific ministerial setting.

## **1397 Creating New Christian Communities (10 hours)**

This module introduces you to biblical resources and relevant theological themes for the practice of church planting and the creation and sustaining of new expressions of church. It will encourage you to reflect critically and theologically on contemporary examples of creating new Christian communities and their historical precedents. Ideal for those interested in pioneer ministry, but relevant to all who are interested in the question, 'What is Church?'

## **1421 Introduction to Pastoral Care (20 hours in two parts)**

This module will offer you introductory material exploring some of the major themes and issues relating to pastoral care in congregational contexts. The place of pastoral care in the life and worship of Christian communities will be examined and assessed. You will be encouraged to begin to develop the skills and dispositions required to offer sustained and appropriate pastoral care in ways that do justice to context and to your own roles and experience.



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## **1131 Introduction to Christian Doctrine and History** (20 hours)

This module will explore sources for theological discussion and the grounds for a specifically Christian history. Students will learn the practices, methods and modes of Christian history through the examination of specified historical periods. Alongside this, the way Christians have known and described God as Creator, as the Son who came to save and as the Spirit who is the Life-giver will be explored. These foundations will be rooted in the life of the Church, how it is held through the creeds and how it helps to re-shape the church today.

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Intermediate level courses: these are most suitable if you have done some introductory reading / study of Theology

## **2011 Bible in Context** (20 hours)

The aim of this module is to help you better understand the Bible within its original context (as that can best be reconstructed), and as it has been interpreted in many different contexts during history in order that you can develop good practice in using the Bible within your own context today. Using selected Old and New Testament texts, the module will survey different approaches to these texts and ways people have explored the world behind the text, in the text and in front of the text and applied the text to their own context.

## **2321 – Developing Ministry & Worship in Context** (20 hours in two parts)

This is an ideal course for those who would like to be equipped to lead occasional offices (Holy Communion, baptisms, weddings, blessings, funerals). You will have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and understanding of Christian worship, including the art of preaching, leading intergenerational worship. It will give you the chance to reflect on the theology, psychology and practice of pastoral care related to life's milestones that is rooted in the life and worship of Christian community, as well as the study of children's faith development, and how this can be nurtured in a range of contexts.



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## **3181 Christian Faith and Ethical Living** (20 hours)

This module integrates the theory and practice of Christian ethics. It begins by looking at questions of methodology in Christian ethics, commending an approach to Christian ethics which engages with key sources: the Bible, Christian tradition, reason and experience. It considers different approaches which variously emphasise rules, consequences and virtues, before looking more closely at the key virtues of love and justice. Linked with this discussion are considerations of important issues in ecological, economic, political, medical and sexual ethics. Both academic understanding of Christian ethics and the practical living of Christian faith are emphasised.

## **2121 Topics in Christian Doctrine** (20 hours)

This module will explore several major areas of doctrine with a particular emphasis on their roots in Scripture and their expression in the work of significant recent and contemporary theologians from different Christian traditions. Topics of discussion include approaches to systematic theology, Trinitarian theology, Christology, soteriology, sacramental theology, and ecclesiology. Consideration will be given to each doctrine's connection to the wider pattern of Christian theology, and to the relationships between doctrine and contemporary Christian practice and experience.

## **2411 Mission and Apologetics** (20 hours)

This module is designed to help you to engage missionally with our contemporary culture. It explores the evolving relationship between Christianity and its social and cultural context in the West, paying particular attention to the major intellectual, social and religious trends that have helped to shape people's thinking in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as well as had a significant impact on the church's life and witness. The module aims to equip you with relevant contemporary skills for missional engagement. Underlying these is the ability to read and analyse culture from a missional perspective, exploring the unexamined assumptions of people around us whom the church is trying to reach. It aims to identify the key components for a church's missional engagement, and to discern the key missional questions facing congregations today. The module also surveys major apologetic approaches and evaluates their cultural effectiveness.



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Higher level courses: these are most suitable for those who have done some previous theological study and are involved in lay or ordained ministry

## **3121 Methods in Modern Theology** (20 hours)

This module surveys diverse approaches in modern theology, paying attention to their contexts, methods, and legacies. The module explores how Christian thought developed in response to various aspects of modernity and postmodernity. It encourages study of major modern theological texts and debate of their method, implications, and impact. Through engaging with the concept of theological methodology and methods, and how they lead to divergent theological positions, this module encourages participants to identify and evaluate these methods and to develop their own theological judgements and commitments. You will build on relevant secondary literature and guided primary reading in order to identify, compare, and evaluate major modern theological trends and their contexts.

## **3191 Leadership and Theology** (20 hours in two parts)

This module will introduce you to biblical and theological understandings of leadership, authority, service and collaboration within the perspective of the church's ministry and mission. You will engage in a study of the relationship between spirituality and servant leadership and consider leadership from the perspective of listening to self, others God and the world. In the later part of the module you will have the opportunity to engage with theological and theoretical frameworks for management within a church context and offer transferable learning for management tasks within these contexts, including exploration of managing and building teams, managing meetings, decisions, others and themselves and aspects of change and conflict resolution.

## **3201 Education for the Learning Church** (20 hours)

This module will enable you to explore teaching and learning with adults for Christian discipleship and mission. It will help you to evaluate different adult education theories and practices, and to consider how these relate to the theory and practice of Christian discipleship. You will reflect on relevant theologies which will underpin and energise your understandings of Christian education and mission, and will have the opportunity to reflect theologically on your own role and identity as a Christian educator, disciple and life-long learner. The module will engage with different ecclesial contexts and



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perspectives and consider texts produced by Christian churches to guide the work of Christian education, discipleship and mission.

## **3381 Semper Reformanda! The URC's History, Ethos and Mission (Denominational History & Principles)** (20 hours in two parts)

This module will examine the history and principles of the United Reformed Church. While rooted in the theology and ecclesiology which arose from the Protestant Reformation and found its home in what became the Reformed Tradition, attention will also be given to the importance of Dissent and Nonconformity and how they shaped the contemporary life of the URC. The main questions pursued in the module are: (1) What does history tell us about how and why the URC came to be as it now is? And (2) Does the tradition inherited from those who have gone before enable the URC to respond to the call to be the Church in the twenty-first century? The module explores how the URC is called to live, organise itself and engage with the world, and to do so in such a way that builds up the life of the Church and gives glory to God.

## **3711 Reflective Practice: Relationships and Emotional Management** (20 hours)

This module aims to support you in the variety of relationships with others, which forms the heart of church life and ministry. In particular the module encourages and facilitates considered self-reflection in order to develop the robust emotional intelligence that ministry demands. Within this there will be a focus on a healthy acceptance of power within all relationships, the nature of assertiveness within conflict and non-conflict situations, and the importance of self-care in sustainable long-term engagement. These considerations will draw on a number of disciplines while you are encouraged to locate them all in a theological worldview that is able to live in the tension between and within hope, faith and love.

## **44320 Christian Doctrine and Contemporary Culture** (20 hours)

This is a Master's level course, suitable if you have previously done a BA in Theology. This module will provide students with the opportunity to study particular Christian doctrines in the context of contemporary, predominantly secular, culture. You will be introduced to different methodologies of Christian apologetics and cultural hermeneutics, with the aim of helping you to present and promote a dialogue between Christian faith claims and contemporary culture.



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## **40120 The Bible and Christian Faith (20 hours)**

This is a Master's level course, suitable if you have previously done a BA in Theology. This module will introduce students to a number of hermeneutical approaches to the Bible, ranging from those concerned with the world behind the text (historical criticism), those oriented to the world of the text (literary approaches), and those that recognize the influence of the world in front of the text (the role of readers). It will equip students to raise questions concerning the meaning(s) of the biblical text, and about the assumptions or models operating behind different interpretations. It will also enable students to explore how the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) can be related to the contemporary world.

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## In the Company of...



For a more bespoke programme, come and spend the day or a few days at Westminster, which includes conversation with one of the tutors (max. 1 hour) and study time in the library. Individuals or groups welcome.

For more information please contact the Tutorial Office [wmooffice@hermes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:wmooffice@hermes.cam.ac.uk) / 01223 33 06 49.

## Westminster College Charges for non-accredited students

### **Members of the URC**

If the fees are likely to prevent you from being able to undertake the course of your choice, in the first instance please contact your Synod Training Officer to ask what financial support might be offered. If



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you still find you have a shortfall then please contact the Tutorial Office on [wmooffice@hermes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:wmooffice@hermes.cam.ac.uk) / 01223 33 06 49 and we will do what we can to help.

## Westminster College's charges for non-accredited students include:

- \* Membership at Westminster College
- \* Use of Westminster College public rooms
- \* Use of the Common room
- \* Tea/coffee at 11am each day (Monday to Friday)
- \* Technical IT support and Computer room with printer (charges apply for colour printing and photocopying)
- \* General administration services
- \* Access to the community life network, including social events
- \* Access to all CTF libraries (this does not include borrowing rights)

<b>Independent student's college charges for those on non-accredited courses (2020-21)</b>		
	3-4 day course (equiv. 10-credit module/10 hours)	5 day course (equiv. 20-credit module/20 hours)
URC Members	£105	£195
Non-URC Members	£155	£290