

DBS138.15 Biblical Perspectives for Christian Living

Content

This unit considers how the Bible might still speak to Christian life today. Biblical perspectives on five themes will be outlined: freedom, community, the church, love and mission. Narratives from both Testaments will be brought into dialogue with contemporary cinema, music and art in order to demonstrate the relevance of a critical understanding of these themes for contemporary Christians.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- 1 Give an overview of Biblical texts and perspectives on freedom, community, the church, love and mission.
- 2 Demonstrate an ability to explore the question of how the Bible is relevant for today.
- 3 Identify and evaluate at least five key texts, characters or traditions in the Old and New Testaments relevant to the themes.
- 4 Demonstrate an awareness of the analytical skills necessary for theological reflection on Biblical texts.
- 5 Reflect critically on the application of selected Biblical perspectives to contemporary issues.

Prerequisites

Nil.

Teaching methods

The unit will be taught via a combination of lectures and tutorials (equivalent to 12 X 3 hours).

Assessment

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| One 750 word Old Testament thematic exercise | 25% |
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| One 1,500 word essay | 50% |

Offered

As a one week intensive during February 16-20 Semester One, 2009.

Unit Value

15 points at Diploma level.

Location

Whitley College.

Faculty

Mark Brett, Fiona Hill, Frank Rees, Keith Dyer, Ross Langmead.

Recommended Reading

- Achtemeier, Paul C., Joel B.Green and Marianne Meye Thompson, *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B.Eerdmans, 2001.
- Adam, A.K.M. *Faithful Interpretation: reading the Bible in a postmodern world*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
- Borg, Marcus. *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2003.
- Collins, J.J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- Collins, R.F. *Introduction to the New Testament*. London: SCM Press, 1983.
- Drane, John. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Rev.ed. Oxford: Lion, 2000.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas K.Stuart, *How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Jacobs, A.J. *The Year of Living Biblically*. Riverside: Simon & Schuster, 2007.