



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

AT380

A THEOLOGY OF THE ARTS

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

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| Unit code | AT380 |
| Unit name | A Theology of the Arts |
| Associated higher education awards | Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) |
| Duration | One semester |
| Level | Advanced |
| Core/elective | Required for a major in Arts |
| Weighting | Unit credit points: 10 Course credit points: Bachelor of Education (Secondary) 320 Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) 320 |
| Delivery mode | Face-to-face on-site |
| Student workload | <p><i>Face-to-face on site</i></p> <p>Contact hours 30 hours Reading, study and assignment preparation 120 hours TOTAL 150 hours</p> <p>Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.</p> |
| Prerequisites/ co-requisites/ restrictions | <p><i>Prerequisite:</i></p> <p>30 credit points of Arts units at 200-level</p> |
| Rationale | Amid post-modern accusations of the bankruptcy of the Western cultural traditions spawned by the Judeo-Christian worldview, it is important for Christian artists and performers to be able to reflect upon their traditions as they develop a philosophical framework for artistic expression. This unit seeks to explore the dynamic relationship between commitment to faith and commitment to art. It also develops a Christian aesthetic based on biblical perspectives. In order to achieve this goal, the unit combines reflection on theory and practical artistic responses as vehicles for developing individual expressions of a Christian theology of the arts. |
| Prescribed text(s) | Begbie, J.S. (2012). <i>Sounding the Depths: Theology through the Arts</i> . London: SCM Press. Selected readings will be available via the Moodle™ site for this unit. |
| Recommended viewing | Begbie on Bach |
| Recommended readings | <p>Books</p> <p>Avis, P.D.L. (2014). <i>God and the Creative Imagination: Metaphor, Symbol and Myth in Religion and Theology</i>. New York, NY: Routledge.</p> <p>Crouch, A. (2008). <i>Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling</i>. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.</p> <p>Johnson, R.K. (2007). <i>Reframing Theology and Film: New Focus for an Emerging Discipline</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.</p> <p>Taylor, W. & David O. (Eds.). (2010). <i>For the Beauty of the Church: Casting a Vision for the Arts</i>. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.</p> <p>Treier, D. J., Husbands, M., & Lundin, R. (Eds.). (2007). <i>The Beauty of God: Theology and the Arts</i>. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.</p> |

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| | <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV 2011) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV).</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at http://www.biblegateway.com. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p> |
| Specialist resource requirements | Nil |
| Content | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modern Christian theologies and the arts 2. Biblical framework for artistic expression 3. Role of the artist in Christian perspective 4. Application of a Christian theology of the arts 5. Christian worship and the arts 6. Issues in the arts |
| Learning outcomes | <p>On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understood and interrogated a range of theological perspectives on the arts; 2. analysed and evaluated critically the role of the artist within a biblical perspective; 3. analysed critically issues raised by commitment to faith and the arts in a post-modern world; 4. critically reflected upon issues relating to the arts from a Christian perspective; 5. applied philosophical and biblical perspectives on the arts to a specific form of artistic expression; 6. developed personal perspectives on a theology of the arts; and 7. communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard: with special attention to design elements, grammars, usage, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation. |
| Assessment tasks | <p>Task 1: Oral Presentation</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 10 minutes</p> <p>Weighting: 20%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 5-7</p> <p>Assessed: Weekly</p> <p>Task 2: Extended Written Response</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 40%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 5-7</p> <p>Assessed: Week 6</p> <p>Task 3: Analytical Essay</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 40%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-7</p> <p>Assessed: Week 14</p> |
| Unit summary | <p>Students will explore the dynamic relationship between commitment to Christian faith and commitment to art, and develop a sound foundation for a Christian aesthetic based on biblical perspectives. The unit combines theoretical reflection and practical artistic responses as vehicles for developing individual expressions of a Christian theology of the arts.</p> |