



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

JB201

A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHURCH

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 | JB201 | |
| Unit name | A Biblical Understanding of the Church | |
| Associated higher education awards | Bachelor of Ministry | |
| Duration | One semester | |
| Level | Intermediate | |
| Unit coordinator | Ps Marika Kaloutsis | |
| Core/elective | Core | |
| Weighting | Unit credit points: 10cp | Total course credit points: Bachelor of Ministry 240cp |
| Student workload | Face-to-face on-site | External |
| | Timetabled hours: 39 | Directed study hours: 39 |
| | Readings and study hours: 51 | Readings and study hours: 51 |
| | Assignment preparation hours: 60 | Assignment preparation hours: 60 |
| | Total hours per unit: 150 | Total hours per unit: 150 |
| Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week | | |
| Delivery mode | Face to Face on site External | |
| Pre-requisites/ co-requisites/ restrictions | Prerequisites: JA103 Biblical Studies in the New Testament Co-requisites: Nil Restrictions: Nil | |
| Rationale | <p>The church is a complex social and historical phenomenon that has been subject to remarkable growth and renewal in spite of its history of division within and attack from without. For many people, both within and outside the Christian community, “the church” is a misunderstood concept. The word, “church”, is often used without attention to the precise meaning of the term. As such, “the church” has been studied by theologians, biblical scholars, historians and sociologists all with different conclusions. Therefore it is essential to engage in the unfolding conversation concerning an understanding of the church from a biblical, historical, sociological and theological perspective.</p> <p>This unit is designed to assist students to formulate an understanding of the essential nature, function and mission of the church, based upon biblical study and interpretation as well as the field of ecclesiology, which uses theology and sociology to help explain the church. It is designed to examine the life of the church as a worshipping, evangelising, and serving community, called by the Father, commissioned by the Son and empowered by the Holy Spirit.</p> | |
| Prescribed text(s) | <p>Easley, KH & Morgan, CW (eds.) 2013, <i>The Community of Jesus: A Theology of the Church</i>, Broadman & Holman, Nashville, TN.</p> <p>Harper, B & Metzger, PL 2009, <i>Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction</i>, Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> | |

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| <p>Recommended readings</p> | <p>Allison, GR 2012, <i>Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church</i>, Crossway, Wheaton, IL.</p> <p>Badcock, GD 2009, <i>The House Where God Lives: Renewing the Doctrine of the Church for Today</i>, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> <p>Bruno C & Dirks, M 2014, <i>Churches Partnering Together: Biblical Strategies for Fellowship, Evangelism, and Compassion</i>, Crossway, Wheaton, IL.</p> <p>Easley, KH & Morgan, CW (ed.) 2013, <i>The Community of Jesus: A Theology of the Church</i>, B & H Academic, Nashville, TN.</p> <p>Halter, H & Smay, M 2008, <i>The Tangible Kingdom: Creating incarnational community</i>, Jossey Bass, San Francisco, CA.</p> <p>Harper, B & Metzger, PL 2009, <i>Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction</i>, Baker, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> <p>Hellerman, JH 2009, <i>When the Church was a Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community</i>, B&H Publishing, Nashville, TN.</p> <p>Keller, T 2012, <i>Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City</i>, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> <p>Laniak, T 2006, <i>Shepherds After My Own Heart</i>, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL.</p> <p>Thompson, JW 2014, <i>The Church according to Paul: Rediscovering the Community Conformed to Christ</i>, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI.</p> <p>Wright, CJH 2006, <i>The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative</i>, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL.</p> <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as <i>The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV)</i>.</p> <p>This translation and many others 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> |
| <p>Specialist resources requirements</p> | <p>Nil</p> |
| <p>Content</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biblical, theological, historical and sociological foundations for 'ecclesia' and church leadership 2. The origins of the Church and mission 3. Biblical and historical models of the Church and its leadership 4. God, the Church and its empowerment 5. The Church and the Kingdom of God 6. The ministry and character of the Church 7. Calling, gifting and function within the Church 8. The Church's role in society and mission 9. The local Church – the hope of the world 10. Church leadership, governance and authority 11. The Church as community and biblical discipleship 12. Positioned within and accountable to the local Church 13. The didactic mandate of the Church – 'Equipping the saints for the work of ministry' |

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| Learning outcomes | <p>On completion of this unit, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate biblical, theological, historical and sociological approaches to the understanding of the church and its leadership; 2. Examine and discuss the biblical mandate and mission of the church; 3. Identify and critique biblical, historical and contemporary models of the church's role and ministry within society; 4. Illustrate the various callings, giftings and ministries within the church and its leadership as revealed in the Scriptures; 5. Develop and critically reflect on an ongoing personal ministry profile from their involvement in and with their local church; and 6. Communicate at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation. |
| Assessment tasks | <p>Task 1: Essay</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 2,000 words</p> <p>Weighting: 40%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1, 3, 5, 6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 6</p> <p>Task 2: Research Paper</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 3,500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 60%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-6</p> <p>Assessed: Week 12</p> |
| Unit summary | <p>This unit builds upon biblical studies concerning God's covenantal community in the New Testament, and the life and ministry of the early church in order to form theological foundations for understanding the church. This is a core unit as the church is the primary vehicle that God has instituted to outwork ministry and mission.</p> |