

Programme Specification

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| 1. Title: Postgraduate Certificate in Mystical Theology | |
| 2. Awarding institution | University of London |
| 3. Teaching institution | Heythrop College, University of London |
| 4. Final Award | Postgraduate Certificate in Mystical Theology |
| 5. Interim Awards (if applicable) | n/a |
| 6. Mode(s) of study | Part time |
| 7. Normal duration of Programme | One year |
| 8. | |
| 9. External reference points used to develop this programme | The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2008 |
| 10. Date of production or revision of this specification | February 2013. NB. Programme to start in 2014/15 (not 2013/14) |
| 11. Programme Convenor | Dr Edward Howells |
| 12. Brief description of this programme | |
| <p>The Programme looks at the origins and development of mystical theology in the wider context of the Christian spiritual tradition. It focuses on major figures in the history of mystical theology, from Origen and Augustine to Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross. The aim is to examine the texts closely, against the historical, cultural and spiritual background of their time, understanding mystical theology as a key element in Christian thought. Questions relevant to the wider study of spirituality are central, such as how the human person is understood in relation to God, how the person is transformed on the mystical journey, what is involved in the mystical journey and what the goal of the journey is. The approach is theological, with attention to the role of scripture and doctrine as well as to related topics in the study of Christian spirituality.</p> <p>The Programme is designed for those seeking in-depth reflection on the traditions of mystical theology in Christian thought and practice, in two modules taught and assessed at Master's level. The programme supports practical engagement in Christian spirituality, such as in pastoral teaching or retreat work, but is open to any suitably qualified student with an interest in the topic.</p> <p>The programme is part-time, with two modules taken over two terms. Occasionally these modules are both timetabled in the same term, allowing a quicker progress through the degree.</p> <p>Successful completion of this programme may allow students to enrol for the full MA in Christian Spirituality at Heythrop College with advanced standing.</p> | |
| 13. Relationship to staff research | |
| <p>A very substantial proportion of staff are active researchers within the disciplines in which they teach. Many optional modules directly reflect the research interests of the module teacher.</p> | |
| 14. Programme Aims | |
| <p>The programme aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an in-depth understanding of Christian Mystical Theology, with particular attention to its historical origins and key texts of the Christian tradition through which it has developed. 2. To provide the conceptual tools necessary for historical understanding and retrieval of Christian | |

| <p>Mystical Theology.</p> <p>3. To enable students to engage critically with key themes in Christian Mystical Theology.</p> <p>4. To enable students to relate questions in the study of Mystical Theology to a range of contemporary issues in the wider area of spiritual growth.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>15. Learning outcomes</p> <p>The Postgraduate Certificate in Mystical Theology (Level 7) provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>By the end of the programme, competent and diligent students can expect to attain the following:</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO1 | A critical appreciation of the variety of approaches to the study of spirituality and of key assumptions in different spiritual beliefs and practices; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO2 | A demonstrably competent knowledge, with due attention to historical and cultural context, of selected historical and contemporary texts and other sources in Christian spirituality, with special attention to texts in Mystical Theology; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO3 | A clear understanding of some of the key theological and other issues which, whether implicitly or explicitly, are relevant to the theory and practice of Mystical Theology; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO4 | The ability to analyse critically, develop an argument and produce formal written work in the discipline of Christian Spirituality, at Master's level. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intellectual and Cognitive Skills</p> <p>A student will be able to:</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO5 | The ability to analyse and synthesise key concepts and ideas; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO6 | An ability to apply, with insight, key concepts in particular situations; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO7 | The ability to identify, gather and analyse material from a range of sources to inform research; | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Practical and transferable skills</p> <p>The practical and <i>transferable skills</i> which are fostered are:</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO8 | Effective use of Communication and Information Technology (CIT) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO9 | The ability to work collaboratively with others, both learning from them and contributing to their learning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO10 | The ability to use clear and cogent language in various kinds of written and oral presentations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO11 | The ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks autonomously with an appreciation of the range of strategies available | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LO12 | The ability to reflect critically upon the student's own experiences of learning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Title</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Level</th> <th>Credit tariff</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Foundations for the Study of Christian Spirituality</td> <td>SPR401</td> <td>7</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>History of Christian Mysticism to the Reformation</td> <td>SPR504</td> <td>7</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | Module Title | Code | Level | Credit tariff | Foundations for the Study of Christian Spirituality | SPR401 | 7 | 30 | History of Christian Mysticism to the Reformation | SPR504 | 7 | 30 |
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| History of Christian Mysticism to the Reformation | SPR504 | 7 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

7. Admissions requirements

An honours degree (normally 2.1 or above) or equivalent, in an appropriate subject. It is not essential for the first degree to be in philosophy or theology.

For mature students, academic ability to undertake the programme may be considered on the basis of other evidence, including learning from experience, evidence of prior study or work at an appropriate level, references and interview.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have an IELTS score of 7.0 or equivalent.

18. Indicative Learning and Teaching activities

May include:

Lectures, interactive lectures, seminars enabling group work and group discussions, individual or small group academic tutorials, individual learning, research and study. Students will study with others taking both this degree and the MA in Christian Spirituality so benefit from broader perspectives on a range of topics.

19. Assessment strategy and indicative activities

Students are assessed by means of a range of tasks which may include book reviews, essays of various lengths, and presentations. Essay questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students pursue original thoughts and ideas and question opinions, and the organisational skills used to structure answers allows the transferable skills to be assessed. There are learning outcomes for each level of the programme, and assessment criteria indicate the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Students submit coursework through the Virtual Learning Environment (Helios) and receive detailed on-line feedback or oral feedback in a tutorial

All coursework is moderated in accordance with College published procedures. All end-of-year essays and examinations are blind double marked and a selection of essays/script is sent to the external examiner.

20. Support for students and their learning

Students can also access a range of support mechanisms through the college. All students are allocated a personal tutor who can offer guidance and refer the students to more specific support. The Student Development Manager can offer personal and academic support, including study skills and access to a range of student welfare provision, either in College or through the University of London. Support and guidance on academic matters is available from module convenors and programme convenors and also from the Heythrop Students' Union.

21. Student evaluation opportunities

Students have a range of opportunities, both formal and informal, to evaluate their learning experiences. Informal means include consulting individual members of staff, including their personal tutor, module leader, programme convener or staff in the Student Services Centre. Issues can be raised with the Heythrop Students' Union who can raise issues with the College on behalf of individuals or groups of students. Formal module evaluations are carried out. Taught postgraduate students have termly meetings to provide feedback to staff. Occasional consultations or evaluation exercises gain views on aspects of the student experience.

22. Indicative time commitments

Each module usually involves a weekly 2-hour seminar for one term, with the exception of a reading week in the middle of the term. There are therefore normally 11 x 2 class hours.

Student effort hours which are not spent in classes or tutorials are used for directed personal study – e.g. preparing for seminars, and self-directed work, such as wider reading, coursework and essay writing.

23. Opportunities for graduates of this programme

This programme will expand previous academic qualifications, and complement vocational qualifications and experience in Christian spirituality. It will be useful in to those engaged in church and pastoral contexts, as well as in the academic field or in teaching.

The transferable skills gained are valuable in many professions.

Successful completion of this programme may allow students to enrol for the full MA in Christian Spirituality at Heythrop College with advanced standing.