Course Description

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to the study and practice of theology. It will look at what theology is, who does theology, where it is done, and for what purpose. The traditional sources of theological reflection, such as the Bible, traditions, experience and reason will be examined. The contextuality of all theologies will be stressed, and the relativity of traditional Western theology will be exposed, and newer approaches to theology will be explored, including liberation theologies of the two-thirds world. Students will be encouraged to bring a Pacific focus to their own work, drawing on various models of contextual theology with a view to identifying, describing and critically analysing the methods that undergird such models.

Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Be aware of and describe the context in which they do theology
- Define what theology is and understand the role of the theologian
- Describe several sources for doing theology
- Appreciate several different models of doing contextual theology
- See how key doctrines have been interpreted through contextual methods

Method of Teaching

A combination of lectures, readings, writing and discussion.

Assessment

Assessment will be as set out below, with one essay, class participation, and an exam. All assessment must engage with the class materials, readings, and additional scholarly materials (books, journal articles, and generally not online materials). Every effort should be made to write correct English in the essay and exam.

1) Class Participation (15%)

Students are expected to participate in class and contribute to discussions. Participation should be based on listening to the lecturer and other students and having read and made notes on the required readings. Marks will be granted based on this rubric:

- Frequency of participation in class (often, seldom, never)
- Quality of comments (insightful, general, uninformed)
- Listening skills (attentive, inattentive, asleep)

2) Essay: Reflection on Your Context (35%)

1000-1500 words due in class on Monday 12 March 2018.

Write a reflection on the context in which you will be a theologian or minister. This may include an analysis of your church, nation, city/town/village, family, culture, gender, economic status, or other relevant factors as
discussed in the course. Then describe your role within that context as a theologian or minister. This is an open questions and you are free to work within it. You may describe those aspects of your background that you think have been most important in forming your understanding of God, or you might write about the theologies you wish to react against or go beyond.

The essay must be formatted essay properly. References should follow the PTC style guide, available from the website (http://ptc.ac.fj/?page_id=591). Include the PTC cover sheet with your name and essay title. This is available from the PTC website (http://ptc.ac.fj/?page_id=1136)

3) Final Exam (50%)
   Assessment Week, Semester 1A
   Students can expect questions from every week of the course, so it is worthwhile to be familiar with the readings and course materials.

Texts and Readings

The textbook for this course is **Stephen B. Bevans, Models of Contextual Theology**, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002 (Revised and Expanded Edition). This is available from the PTC bookshop. We are reading most of this book for the course so you need to have it. Highly Recommended for purchase is **Daniel L. Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology**, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

In addition to these books a Course Reader with the other Required Readings will be available from the PTC Bookshop. Most other readings and resources will be available in the PTC Library. **Optional Additional Readings** are for students wanting to pursue topics further, perhaps in essays or for exam preparation.

Other Recommended Readings

In addition to the set readings for each lecture outlined below, there are few books which are recommended on the general topic of contextual theology. All are held in the PTC library.


For general introductions to the subject of theology you may turn to these:

Sources for Contextual Theology from the Pacific / Oceania

The library holds a fine collection of sources for contextual theology from the Pacific / Oceania region. One of the best sources is the thesis collection of former PTC students. Other good Anglophone sources are the following journals:

- Catalyst [in library]
- The Pacific Journal of Theology [in library]
- The Missionary Review [in library]

Course Outline

Week 1 (beginning 5 February 2018)

Session 1: Course Introduction: The Seamless Garment of Theology

Required Reading


Optional Additional Reading


Session 2: Contextual Theology and the Theologian
Required Reading
- Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Chapter 1: "Contextual Theology as a Theological Imperative"

Optional Additional Reading

Week 2 (beginning 12 February 2018)

Session 3: Sources of Theology

Required Reading

Optional Additional Reading

General

Revelation

Scripture
Tradition


Reason


Worship


Experience


Session 4: Pacific Contextual Theologies

Required Reading


Optional Additional Reading

Developing a Contextual Theology in Melanesia. Goroka: Melanesian Institute. Also online as a dissertation at http://place.asburyseminary.edu/ecommonsatsdissertations/682/

- Pacific Conference of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of Churches, the Pacific Theological College, and the South Pacific Association of ...


**Week 3 - (week beginning 19 February 2018)**

**Session 5: Theology with Adjectives 1: Postmodern Theologies / God**

**Required Reading**


**Optional Additional Reading**
Postmodern Theologies


God


Session 6: Theology with Adjectives 2: Postcolonial Theologies / The Trinity

Required Reading

Optional Additional Reading

**Postcolonial Theologies**


**The Trinity**


**Week 4 (beginning 26 February 2018)**

**Session 7: Theology with Adjectives 3: Feminist and Womanist Theologies / Christology**

**Required Reading**


**Optional Additional Reading**

**Feminist and Womanist Theologies**

of the South Pacific.


**Christology**

Session 8: Theology with Adjectives 4: Liberation Theologies / The Bible

Required Reading

Optional Additional Reading
Liberation Theologies

The Bible

Week 5 (beginning 5 March 2018)

Session 9: Contextual Theology 1: The Translation Model / Theological Anthropology

Required Reading
- Bevans, Stephen B. Models of Contextual Theology. Chapter 4: "The Translation Model"

Optional Additional Reading
The Translation Model


Theological Anthropology


Session 10: Contextual Theology 2: The Anthropological Model / Soteriology

Required Reading


Optional Additional Reading

The Anthropological Model


Soteriology

Week 6 (beginning 12 March 2018)

Session 11: Contextual Theology 3: The Praxis Model / Ecclesiology

Required Reading

Optional Additional Reading
*The Praxis Model*

*Ecclesiology*

Session 12: Contextual Theology 4: The Synthetic Model / Eschatology

Required Reading
- Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Chapter 7: "The Synthetic Model"

Optional Additional Reading
*The Synthetic Model*
Week 7 (beginning 19 March 2018)

Session 13: Contextual Theology 5: The Transcendental Model / Creation

Required Reading
- Bevans, Stephen B. *Models of Contextual Theology*. Chapter 8: "The Transcendental Model"

Optional Additional Reading
*The Transcendental Model*

*Creation*
- Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Chapter on "The Good Creation"

Session 14: Contextual Theology 6: The Countercultural Model / Ethics

Required Reading

Optional Additional Reading
The Countercultural Model


Ethics