

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Practical Theology (Top Up)

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| <i>School:</i> | Humanities, Religion and Philosophy | | |
| <i>Entry from:</i> | 2018/19 | <i>In:</i> | September |
| <i>Awarding Institution:</i> | York St John University | | |
| <i>Teaching Institution:</i> | Congregational Institute for Practical Theology | | |
| <i>Delivery Location:</i> | Congregational Federation Offices, Nottingham | | |
| <i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i> | York St John University | | |
| <i>Exit Awards:</i> | BA Ordinary | | |
| <i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i> | Not applicable | | |
| <i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i> | Not applicable | | |
| <i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i> | Theology and Religious Studies | | |
| <i>Mode/s of Study:</i> | Part Time | | |
| <i>Language of Study:</i> | English | | |

Introduction and Special Features

The BA (Hons) Top up programme is designed as a top up year for students who have successfully completed the FD Practical Theology or a programme to Level 5 with similar learning outcomes. It aims to provide members of Congregational Churches and others with the opportunity to take further their understanding of what it means to be a Christian in a Congregational setting in the contemporary world. It is taught part time by Blended Learning (see below under Teaching and Learning) over a minimum of two years.

Political, Religious and Philosophical Dissent has been a powerful influence shaping our world. It has been a focus of British history, and has provided a counter-narrative to that of power in Empire. Coming from within one of the historic Dissenting traditions, this programme provides a strongly dissenting focus.

You will be encouraged to integrate your studies with your personal experience of faith and awareness of wider issues. You will study compulsory modules, which engage with dissenting practical theology through biblical, historical, social and theological studies; and optional modules, which focus on specific issues.

Our tutors are practitioners with a wide variety of theological background and experience. The modules are integrated, so that learning through study and practical experience interact.

You will attend face to face teaching sessions at four training weekends a year. The rest of your time will be supported learning and independent study. You will receive a handbook for each module, which guides you through your reading, and helps to prepare you for the assignments. There is a library available at the Congregational Centre, with module related resources as well as wider reading. You will be provided with a list of academic libraries throughout the UK, with details of their availability. Membership of Luther King House Library will give you access to online journals and electronic resources, as well as a lending library. You will have access to online resources through CONGLE, the Congregational Federation Virtual Learning Environment, and may be invited to online tutorials or seminars. Your personal tutor, the module tutors, and the Director of Studies, will keep in touch with you, and you will also be supported by your local Area Pastoral Care Board representative.

Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

All students on the BA (Hons) Top up programme are required to hold an enhanced Disclosure and Barring (DBS/CRBS) certificate obtained through the Churches Agency for Safeguarding.

The entry requirement is to have successfully completed the FD Practical Theology, or another course of study to Level 5 with similar learning outcomes.

You may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#).

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <http://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements.aspx>).

You can apply for the BA (Hons) Top Up Practical Theology through the CF website www.congregational.org.uk or by contacting the CF offices. Applications are initially handled through the Congregational Institute for Practical Theology.

Members of Congregational Federation churches, or working for a Congregational Federation Area or the National office, with their church, Area or National endorsement, are admitted to the course at reduced cost. If you qualify for reduced cost, you will need to use the church endorsement form which you will find alongside the application form. Endorsement must be renewed at the beginning of each year of study.

Programme Aims

The Aims of the Programme are:

- 1) To develop the student's ability to engage critically with the Christian scriptures and inter-testamental literature, from a perspective of dissent;
- 2) To develop the student's ability to reflect both analytically and synthetically on the nature of dissent in theology, politics and the arts;
- 3) To enable the student to gain a deep and extensive knowledge of dissenting traditions in the context of the Churches and wider faith communities throughout the ages;
- 4) To cultivate the discipline of independent thought, reflection, reading and research, with skills to discern appropriate resources and apply them;
- 5) To inculcate a habit of critical engagement with practical issues in church and society, including mission, worship, church life, politics and contemporary culture;
- 6) To cultivate the skills of imparting an enthusiasm for learning and development in others, in the church or society.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 6 / FHEQ L6

On successful completion of the Programme, students will be able to:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

- 1) Critically analyse the Christian scriptures and inter-testamental literature in the context of current scholarship in a range of theological approaches;
- 2) Critically engage with and evaluate a variety of models of theological reflection and contextual analysis;
- 3) Critically analyse the history and context of Dissent;
- 4) Critically reflect on the interaction between dissenting thinking and contemporary culture.

B. Intellectual and Cognitive Skills such as:

- 1) Critically reflect on their personal experience of discipleship in the context of wider issues, such as mission, politics and contemporary culture;
- 2) Demonstrate skills in research, including the ability to find and use appropriate resources, develop sustained arguments, and form independent opinions;
- 3) Evaluate and use with confidence research tools such as Action/Reflection ;
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to undertake further skills development and research.

C. Skills and other Attributes

- 1) Demonstrate skills in effective presentation to a variety of audiences, including the creative use of print and electronic media;
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to present and defend a sustained argument both orally and in writing;
- 3) Demonstrate the ability to impart enthusiasm for, and promote and evaluate engagement with learning in others in a variety of environments.

Programme Structure

Modules for the Programme

| Level | Code | Credits | Status * | Year | Term | Title |
|-------|---------------------------|---------|----------|-------|-----------------------|---|
| 6 | 6XCFR1 ¹ B | 15 | O5 | even | 2 & 3 | The Word And The Words |
| 6 | 6XCFR2 ² W | 15 | O5 | even | 2 & 3 | The Learning Church |
| 6 | 6XCFR3 ³ WM | 15 | O5 | even | 2 & 3 | Multicultural Ministry |
| 6 | 6XCFR4 ⁴ WC | 15 | O5 | even | 2 & 3 | Living Congregationally |
| 6 | 6XCFTT ^T C | 15 | C | even | 1 | Contexts of Dissent |
| 6 | 6XCFFP ^B | 15 | C | odd | 1 | Hidden And Revealed: Biblical And Extra Biblical Texts of Dissent |
| 6 | 6XCFQQ C | 15 | C | odd | 2 | The Spirit Of Dissent |
| 6 | 6XCFU1 WM | 15 | O6 | odd | 3 | Worship Shaping Mission Shaping Worship |
| 6 | 6XCFU2 W | 15 | O6 | odd | 3 | Faith Shaping Politics Shaping Faith |
| 6 | 6XCFSS ^T | 30 | C | 1 + 2 | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 | Long Project |

* C: compulsory; O: optional (choose one module from each numbered group).

A number in the "year" column denotes whether you will study this module in your first or second year. Other modules are offered in even-numbered or odd-numbered years. If you are a 2016 entrant, you will study "even" modules in your first year and "odd" modules in your second.

1, 2, 3, 4 these modules are barred combinations for Modules at Level 5: when you choose one particular module at level 5 (from the group O4), you cannot study its level 6 equivalent (from O5.). (See FD Practical Theology Programme Specification).

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| B | Biblical Studies |
| T | Theology |
| C | Church History/Congregationalism |
| W | Work-related |
| M | Mission |

There are opportunities for practical experiential work throughout the course. These are designed to help you set your own experience in the local church and mission in a broader context.

The Congregational Federation is in partnership with worldwide churches through the Council for World Mission (CWM) and International Congregational Fellowship (ICF). Occasionally, opportunities arise for visiting a church, church organisation or seminary in a different part of the world. With CWM, costs are

covered. ICF would normally expect you to raise funds towards your visit. Visits can normally be used towards appropriate module assessments.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide high quality, creative and challenging learning experiences that will enable students from a diverse range of backgrounds to achieve their full potential. The programme is delivered through Blended Learning, so that you are able to study part-time in a way which is flexible enough to meet your needs, yet to a disciplined framework of study. Blended Learning combines timetabled face to face teaching sessions, with a large component of supported and independent study in your own setting. This roots the learning experience in your own context.

You will meet tutors and other students at teaching sessions based at the CIPT training centre in Nottingham. Here, you will encounter a variety of teaching styles in small and large groups. At the beginning of the programme, you will be assigned a personal tutor, who may be the same person that worked with you through the FD, and will normally be with you through the whole period of study. You will have the opportunity to meet your personal tutor at one to one sessions at each weekend, to discuss progress on the course, and any issues that arise. Action points from the one to ones will be passed on to the Director of Studies. Your CF Area Pastoral Care Board representative will keep in touch with you, and offer support. You will have contact details for module tutors, your personal tutor and the PCB rep.

Face to face teaching is blended with supported and independent study. You will receive a substantial module handbook for each subject studied, which provides guided study with reference to core books and electronic resources. You will also have the chance to interact with tutors and fellow students through online classrooms (facilitated through Google Hangouts). We provide resources through the library at the Congregational Centre, and information about academic libraries closer to you. You will have access to a lending library and electronic journals through Luther King House, and electronic resources and interaction through CONGLE.

Assessment

As well as marked assignments, you will engage in formative work. This takes place during teaching sessions, or in on-line interaction, or as preparation for marked assignments (for example proposals for case studies or research projects). Proposals for research projects will be guided by tutors supervising projects and will be monitored by an ethics committee in line with York St John University.

Your work is assessed in a variety of ways in keeping with the practical nature of the programme and its focus on Dissent. You will engage in exercises designed to be formative, in helping you develop essential learning skills, and as preparation for the marked summative assessment. These include self-reflective tasks, such as journaling, presentations in a group setting, and proposals or plans for work undertaken in the module.

Summative assessment is marked and contributes to your final grade. This includes written work, in the form of essays, notes on Bible passages, reflections on practical experience, and a dissertation. We use case studies in several modules. These may be formative, collective exercises in a group setting, with discussion. They may also form the basis of a summative assignment, to root the concepts of the module in an actual personal, pastoral or global situation. Other modules include visits to or contact with specific settings, with assessment based on reports and portfolios as well as written reflections.

We will ask you to make presentations to group sessions from time to time. These may be short pieces of research, for example, into historical figures or ethical issues, with discussion and teaching to follow.

We will inform you of assessment methods and deadlines at the beginning of each module, and the information is also contained in the handbooks. You will receive extensive comments on your

assignments, normally including tracked comments in the text of the assignment, which are designed to help you build up your skills in integrating knowledge and experience, and communicate effectively. Assignments include a variety of written assignments, including essays, notes on biblical passages and project reports, as well as case studies self-reflection and presentation. For work related modules you will sometimes be asked to submit reports or evaluations by groups with whom you have worked.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in [the Programme Structure section of the Programme Document](#).

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#)
- [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Prospectus (CIPT)
- Programme handbook (CIPT)
- Module handbooks (CIPT)

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