

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION AND AIM:

The GWC MTh degree builds on the BThHons degree by providing graduates with the necessary knowledge, research skills and applied competence within a specialised discipline or field of study in theology. Graduates are able to do advanced independent research. The curriculum provides for a choice of coursework or full dissertation variants. The Research Committee will recommend the variant to be followed, having regard to the needs of the student. See *Programme Structure* below.

## PROGRAMME OUTCOMES:

Graduates of the MTh degree will be equipped with the necessary knowledge, research skills and applied competence within a specialised discipline or field of study in theology in order to act as leaders, educators and facilitators in their church denominations and in society at large.

Graduates will, with an advanced level of independence, competence and self-motivation, be able to analyse and interpret relevant primary and secondary Christian sources, critically evaluate and apply Christian theology and ethics in an appropriate manner, participate confidently in discussion and research into relevant issues and problems, and report their findings clearly in written and oral form.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- GWC BThHons degree (or equivalent as determined by the Faculty Board).
- Basic reading competency in either Biblical Greek or Classical Hebrew; the equivalent of 1-year full time. You can meet this requirement in the following ways:
  - A transcript and curriculum outlines showing you have completed Biblical Greek or Classical Hebrew language studies in the past 5 years covering material equivalent to GWC's Greek 1 & 2 or Hebrew 1 & 2 modules.
  - A pass in the GWC Biblical Greek or Classical Hebrew Entrance Test for Postgraduate Students
  - **OR** A pass in GWC's Biblical Greek or Classical Hebrew 1 & 2 module which can be taken as self-study while completing the BThHons programme; students have access to contact lectures on campus in Muizenberg to support the self-study of either language. Full admission to this programme can only be granted once this entrance requirement has been fulfilled.

The Biblical language requirement has several purposes: (1) to foster a particular attitude towards the text of Scripture and a growing knowledge of the nature of Scripture, even when the original languages are not directly used or later kept; (2) to provide the opportunity to develop your ability in one or more original languages that you have begun in your undergraduate programme; and (3) to prepare you for future work in Biblical studies including engaging with technical commentaries in ministry, or continued research into the Biblical text in subsequent degrees.

- International applicants require an [evaluation of your highest qualification](#) from the SA Qualifications Authority **OR** proof of a qualification completed at an ACTEA accredited institution; as well as proof of English language proficiency through the IELTS test (6.5 overall and 6.0 for the written element) or TOEFL (computerised 232/575; internet based 90/91). Applications for exemption from the testing can be made (with appropriate motivation) to the Faculty Board, whose decision is final. Further details may be obtained from the Assistant Registrar.
- Admission through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is permitted for a maximum of 10% of the enrolment for any year. See the RPL Policy or *Student Handbook* for details of RPL procedures.

## DURATION OF STUDY:

**Full-time:** minimum two years

**Part-time:** maximum four years

Students who register to complete the qualification part-time will be required to sign a part-time study agreement with the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

## APPLICATIONS FOR CREDIT:

Applications for advanced credit for individual modules must be applied for in writing before Registration Day. See the procedures and regulations for *Credit Transfer* in the CAT Policy or *Student Handbook*.

## QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS/ARTICULATION:

180 credits with passes in all modules. See the *Student Handbook* and individual study guides for module pass requirements.

## STUDY GUIDES:

At the commencement of each module, you will receive a study guide which sets out, *inter alia*, the following information:

- the aim of the module, showing how it contributes to the overall programme outcomes.
- the module outcomes
- an outline of the lecture programme
- required and recommended reading
- the assessment requirements

## ASSESSMENT:

The aim of assessment is to determine whether the outcomes, as specified in the study guides, have been achieved. A variety of assessment methods are used, both formative (i.e. on-going) - tests, assignments, class participation; and summative (examinations). The exact method of assessment for each module is specified in the module study guide, available at the commencement of each module.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – MASTER OF THEOLOGY – COURSEWORK OPTION:

This option provides for further consolidation and deepening of knowledge and expertise in three key areas of Christian theology: Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Doctrine. In addition, one further module must be offered as specified by the Research Committee This module will be chosen from Church History, Pastoral Theology, Missiology, Homiletics or Ethics.

A 25,000-word mini-dissertation provides the student with the opportunity to develop further research capacity in a topic of her/his choosing within the College's focus areas. Prerequisites to the mini-dissertation are modules covering Research Methodology, completion of a Research Proposal, and Specialised Reading.

This programme is offered in hyflex mode, which means a student can participate in lectures in real-time, remotely through zoom. Upon application, students can select their mode of interaction.

Master of Theology 2025 – Coursework Option	
Modules	Credits
NT518 Galatians	22
MS512 Congregational Ministry in Africa	22
OT514 Interpreting Chronicles for Today	22
DS518 Justification, Good Works and Sanctification in Romans	22
RM511 Research Methodology	8
RP510 Research Proposal	8
SR510 Specialist Reading	16
MD510 Mini-dissertation	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>

## MODULE DESCRIPTIONS – MASTER OF THEOLOGY – COURSEWORK OPTION:

### NT518 GALATIANS: THE GOSPEL OF FREEDOM AND THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH AND BELONGING

Vuyani Sindo

22cp

Galatians stands as Paul's most intense and politically charged defence of the gospel. In this module, we will explore the letter's sharp rhetoric, crafted to confront a crisis of identity within the early church. Paul's central claim—that covenant membership is grounded in justification by faith rather than "works of the law"—will serve as our starting point. We will examine how Paul presents the gospel as an eschatological revelation that dismantles the old divisions between Jew and Gentile, replacing them with a new social reality of unity in Christ. This unity is expressed in a Spirit-empowered life of freedom, lived beyond the constraints of the Mosaic law, and culminating in a radical inheritance shared by all who belong to Christ.

### MS512 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY IN AFRICA

Vhumani Magezi

22cp

This course exposes church leaders and postgraduate students to real life ministry challenges and approaches in Africa. Come and learn how to relate and apply the gospel to real life situations in a way that makes God's Word and the message about Christ relevant to people's context. African context is not static; times change, and new issues emerge. For example, post-colonial Africa and the on-going decolonisation discussions pose new challenges to the African church today. Any response has both philosophical and practical aspects. Too often we focus on the philosophical but ignore practical questions. This course seeks to address both. And as times change, the fixed Christian foundational truth is that God and His Word do not change. Therefore, we learn to address practical questions in a way that is both mindful of our context, but faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### OT514 INTERPRETING CHRONICLES FOR TODAY: FROM EXILE TO KINGDOM

Peter Hon Wan Lau

22cp

Discover how Chronicles speak powerfully to our contemporary challenges. Written for God's people rebuilding their lives after devastating exile, Chronicles offers timeless wisdom for churches and individuals facing discouragement and uncertainty today. Learn how the Chronicler reworked earlier biblical texts to craft hope for his audiences, and how his key themes bridge ancient and modern faith. Understand how Jesus interprets the Chronicler's vision of the kingdom of God, the temple, and our worship. This module offers critical engagement with current scholarship, while maintaining a theological and pastoral focus.

### DS518 JUSTIFICATION, GOOD WORKS, AND SANCTIFICATION IN ROMANS

Sherif A. Fahim

22cp

This course explores the argument of the Book of Romans, unravelling the profound theological arguments articulated by the Apostle Paul. The primary focus will be on navigating the nuanced relationship between justification and good works, as well as justification and sanctification as articulated in this epistle. The course of the study will include discussions of the exegetical and syntactical issues in the text, in addition to understanding the main theological themes through the book of Romans. One of the objectives is to develop a deeper understanding of the interface between justification and good works, while evaluating various perspectives within and outside traditional interpretations.

### RM511 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 2

Caroline Seed

8cp

Aims to educate learners in the methodology of postgraduate research, thereby aiding successful preparation and production of assignments, reports and theses of a high academic standard. The following areas are addressed: assembly of bibliography and conducting literature reviews; reading techniques; identifying research problems; developing and submitting credible research proposals; dynamics of critical thinking; argumentation strategies; scholarly writing (including formatting of academic papers, general thesis requirements, citation and referencing protocol); patterns of supervision; submission and examination of theses. The handling of bibliographical software, electronic databases, and other digital resources is also given substantial attention.

### RP510 RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Supervisor

8cp

The Research Proposal (RP) is an important document which sets out the rationale for the study and the problem to be investigated in the mini-dissertation. An RP is also "a document that outlines how you *propose to undertake*

*your research studies, and it is a project-planning document which embodies your thinking about the study as you envisage it at the beginning of the project (Mouton, 2001:45).*

**SR510 SPECIALIST READING**

**Supervisor**

**16cp**

A prerequisite to the mini-dissertation, the module aims to ensure that the student has an extensive knowledge of the literature around the topic chosen for research, before she/he embarks on the research.

**MD510 MINI-DISSERTATION**

**60cp**

For the culmination of the Master's degree, the student must show capability of conducting research under supervision and producing a coherent mini-dissertation of approximately 25,000 words on a topic agreed on through her/his research proposal.

**PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – MASTER OF THEOLOGY – FULL DISSERTATION OPTION:**

This option requires students to undertake a major research project, culminating in a dissertation of approximately 50,000 words.

Prior to commencing with the mini-dissertation or dissertation, three modules serve to provide a solid basis for undertaking the chosen research: Research Methodology, the completion of a Research Proposal, and a Specialist Reading module.

<b>Master of Theology Degree 2019 – Full dissertation option</b>	
<b>Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
RM521 Research Methodology	8
RP520 Research Proposal	16
SR520 Specialist Reading	36
MD520 Masters Dissertation	120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>

**MODULE DESCRIPTIONS – MASTER OF THEOLOGY – FULL DISSERTATION OPTION:**

**RM511 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Caroline Seed**

**8cp**

Aims to educate learners in the methodology of postgraduate research, thereby aiding successful preparation and production of assignments, reports and theses of a high academic standard. The following areas are addressed: assembly of bibliography and conducting literature reviews; reading techniques; identifying research problems; developing and submitting credible research proposals; dynamics of critical thinking; argumentation strategies; scholarly writing (including formatting of academic papers, general thesis requirements, citation and referencing protocol); patterns of supervision; submission and examination of theses. The handling of bibliographical software, electronic databases, and other digital resources is also given substantial attention.

**RP520 RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Supervisor**

**16cp**

The Research Proposal (RP) is an important document which sets out the rationale for the study and the problem to be investigated in the dissertation. An RP is also “a document that outlines how you propose to undertake your research studies, and it is a project-planning document which embodies your thinking about the study as you envisage it at the beginning of the project (Mouton, 2001:45).

**SR510 SPECIALIST READING****Supervisor****36cp**

A prerequisite to the dissertation, the module aims to ensure that the student has an extensive knowledge of the literature around their research topic before they embark on the research.

**MD520 MASTER'S DISSERTATION****Supervisor****120cp**

The culmination of the Master's programme: the production of a coherent dissertation of approximately 50.000 words on a topic as approved in the research proposal (RP).