

PRESBYTERIAN & REFORMED CHRISTIANITY

KCML Lecturer: Kevin Ward



**KNOX CENTRE
FOR MINISTRY
& LEADERSHIP**

Content

This course aims to help those entering minister to make sense of their experience of Presbyterian identity in the context of its location in Reformed history, theology and practice globally within the universal (catholic) church. It endeavours to help them lead a community in ways that are both faithful to the best of our rich tradition while enabling it to adapt to the many different and changing contexts we find ourselves in.

Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Recognise and discuss key elements of Presbyterian identity.
- 2) Outline major events in the history of the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 3) Evaluate the legacy of John Calvin, John Knox and some other key figures to Presbyterianism and the global church.
- 4) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the theology of the Westminster Confession and some other key documents of the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions.
- 5) Discuss the contribution of a key personality in the Presbyterian church in New Zealand
- 6) Relate a significant contemporary issue impacting on the life of New Zealand Presbyterian parish to its historical, cultural and theological background and identify and appropriate response.

Block Course Modules

Introduction. Identity and beginnings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to be Presbyterian and Reformed?• Reformation beginnings	Summer 2018 Intern induction
A1. John Calvin and Reformation in Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Calvin and Geneva• John Knox in Scotland.	Summer 2018
A2. Presbyterian Scotland. Church order, confessions, covenants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confessions and covenants: late 16th and 17th c.• Revival and parties: the 18th c.	Winter 2018
A3. Reformed and Presbyterian Christianity in a global world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missionary impulses and Africa• Asia and the Pacific.	Spring 2018
B1. Scotland: Modernisation, conflict and migration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modernisation and conflict: the 19th c.	Summer 2019

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish migration and exporting Presbyterianism: England, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa. 	
B2. Presbyterianism in Aotearoa New Zealand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginnings: 1840-60 • Expansion and consolidation: 1860-1900 • War and peace, unity and growth: 1900-1965 • Fragmentation and decline since 1965 	Winter 2019
B3. Presbyterianism in our context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand: decline, change and growth • Contemporary challenges for Reformed and Presbyterian Christianity 	Spring 2019

Assessments

(1) Essay

Discuss the context, content and significance of a theological conviction, document, issue, person or movement important for Reformed/Presbyterian identity. What aspects of this can you identify which are of particular significance for giving faithful witness to that identity? You should discuss your proposed topic with the course coordinator and/or lecturer

You should give evidence of using the readings in the course to inform your answer, and provide a bibliography

Length: 2000 – 2500 words

Worth: 50% of final grade

Due date: 13 October 2017

(2) Research project

Choose one of the following.

- a) Identify and explore the historical background to an issue of current concern which impacts on the life and witness of your parish. Discuss the historical and theological background to the issue, identify the pastoral and theological questions that need to be considered as part of the way forward. Propose what you think is the best approach for the church to take in doing this.
- b) Introduce and critically evaluate the life, contribution and ongoing relevance of a New Zealand Presbyterian figure. Pay attention to their contribution to the ways they gave faithful witness to Presbyterian Christianity. [NB. If you have chosen a person for assignment 1 you must not choose this option]
- c) Study the story of a Presbyterian parish in New Zealand. How has a Presbyterian ethos and commitments shaped the life of this community?

- d) Draw up a proposal for the development of a new missional faith community within the PCANZ. In what ways will a Presbyterian ethos and commitments shape the journey and nature of this community.

If you choose a, b or c you need to have accessed at least two pieces of information using the Presbyterian Research Centre Archives.

Length: 2000 – 2500 words

Worth: 50% of final grade

Due date: 1 August 2018

Plagiarism statement

It is the responsibility of the intern to make sure that all work submitted to KCML is their own. Generally, we follow the University of Otago's definition and policy regarding plagiarism (refer to <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism>) where plagiarism is defined generally as:

1. copying or paraphrasing another person's work and presenting it as your own;
2. being party to someone else's plagiarism by letting them copy your work or helping them to copy the work of someone else without acknowledgement;
3. using your own work in another situation, such as for the assessment of a different paper or program, without indicating the source.

Plagiarism can be unintentional or intentional. Even if it is unintentional, it is still considered to be plagiarism. Where it is found that plagiarism has taken place, penalties will be applied (see process and penalties <http://knoxcentre.ac.nz/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/KCML-Internship-Programme-Handbook-2016.pdf>)

Indicative Bibliography

There is no one text that covers this course.

The following is a list of easily accessible books which cover aspects of it.

- Glenn Sunshine, *The Reformation for Armchair Critics* (Louisville: WJKP, 2005)
Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (New York: Penguin, 2003)
James KA Smith, *Letter to a Young Calvinist* (Grand Rapids: Michigan, 2010)
John H Leith, *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition* (Louisville: WJKP, 1981)
Donald McKim, McKim, *Introducing the Reformed Faith: Biblical Revelation, Christian Tradition, Contemporary Significance* (Louisville: WJKP, 2001)
Donald McKim. *Presbyterian Beliefs* (Louisville: Geneva, 2003)
Michael Jinkins, *The Church Transforming: What's Next for the Reformed Project?* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)

Dennis McEldowney (ed.) *Presbyterians in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Wellington: Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, 1990.

Murray Rae, Peter Matheson & Brett Knowles, *Calvin: The Man and His Legacy*, Adelaide: ATF Theology, 2014.