



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Highland Theological  
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste Dhiadhachd  
na Gàidhealtachd



# *Access to Christian Theology*

*A Community of Faith and Scholarship*

The Access Course is ideal for *anyone* who wants to learn about Theology. It's presented at an accessible level, in an easy-to-understand format, and is an ideal course for ordinary church members who just want to deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith. In general, two groups of people study Access:

- those who want to study the Christian faith, just for their own interest, but not at degree-level
- those who would like to take an entry-level course before embarking on further theological studies

Funding is available to eligible students. Contact the Finance Officer on [barbara.macphail@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:barbara.macphail@uhi.ac.uk) or  01349 780000.

Successful completion of the Access Course within two years entitles a prospective student to apply for degree-level studies. Other institutions may also recognise this course as an appropriate entry qualification to degree level courses in theology or other disciplines.

*A Community of Faith and Scholarship*

Access is available by *open learning*.

## **Open Learning**

- Study at home
- Start at any time
- Work at your own pace
- Personal tutorial support from pastorally experienced tutors
- A pack of materials clearly details how to proceed through the course; the reading for each unit is carefully set out; students are guided through a set of activities and instructed when to return written work to their tutor
- Twice-yearly Conference Days (attendance is optional) to meet with tutors and other students

There are six modules, each comprising 15 units. Each unit takes about 7 hours to complete. *You don't have to study all the modules. If you want, you can choose individual module(s) without committing to studying the whole Access Course.*

## Introduction to Studying Theology

This module introduces the student to studying theological texts and biblical materials. It provides a 'refresher' on study for people who haven't studied for a long time, or who didn't feel very confident about studying when they were at school. It gently eases the student into studying and builds confidence for the rest of the course.

- Particularly beneficial to anyone who has been out of the habit of study for some time,
- Also valuable to seasoned scholars because of the theological texts used.

## Old Testament Overview

Although the Bible tells us about many people, places and events, it is really telling one story, which some have called *His-story*, the story of God and his acts. This module introduces you to the first part of that story by giving a thematic introduction to the Old Testament.

- Become familiar with the broad sweep of biblical history, particularly as seen in the Old Testament,
- Identify most of the key themes of the Old Testament, and understand something of the historical background to these themes, and
- See some of the links between the Old Testament story of God's people and the New Testament story of God's revelation in Jesus Christ.

## New Testament Overview

Where **Old Testament Overview** focused on the Old Testament, this module focuses on the content and meaning of the New Testament. The books of the New Testament focus on the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, and the consequences of these events both for the people of God and the history of the world. The books of the New Testament cover only a relatively small number of decades, but they bring to fulfilment the themes developed over centuries of Old Testament history.

- Become familiar with the major divisions of the New Testament,
- Learn some of the historical background to the New Testament,
- Identify the development of key themes as introduced in **Old Testament Overview** (grace, covenant, sin, etc),
- Learn how these are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ, and
- See the significance of these things for personal faith.

## History of Christianity

This module studies the history of the Church. The parameters of this study are enormous, spanning the last 2,000 years and touching all parts of the earth. The module gives an overview of this remarkable story in a way that is readable and informative without being daunting.

- See an overview of the history of Christianity from the first century AD until today, and
- Understand some of the major eras in the Christian story to help you examine current issues.

## Systematic Theology

This module gives students an introduction to Systematic Theology, drawing together the different strands of teaching found in the Scriptures in an attempt to systematically, coherently and meaningfully expound the Christian faith.

- Become familiar with what Christians believe, and the tasks and methods of systematic theology,
- Identify the key themes of systematic theology,
- Trace the links between these themes, and
- See how the person and work of Christ, as revealed in the Scriptures, is the key to understanding them all.

## Pastoral Theology

Theology is not simply an academic discipline. Theological reflection takes place in the 'rough and tumble' of life. It relates to the real world in which people are born, live and die. It is our theological reflection on God's dealings with us in this real world which gives us the raw material for pastoral theology.

- Learn some of the aims and methods of pastoral theology,
- See the relationships between biblical and theological studies,
- Explore some of the life issues which we all face day by day,
- Reflect on some issues of pastoral relevance, and
- Explore some of the fundamental issues involved in grief and bereavement.

*“ I was by no means an academic. I struggled right through my schooling, so it was with some uncertainty that I enrolled on the Access Course. I wasn't uncertain about starting the course as I knew God wanted me to do it; the uncertainty lay in my ability to do the work. With help and encouragement from tutors and fellow students I soon got into the swing of things and was surprised at how much I enjoyed the studies. That's not to say I found the work easy, but I was fully aware of the Lord granting me the ability to keep going and complete the course. ”*

*“The Access Course was for me an amazing journey of faith and, having spoken to other students, many found it to be the same. I completed the Access Course and even went on to complete the BA! The course work was excellent, clearly presented and easy to follow. I found it challenging but also very enlightening. The tutor support and support from other students was very often the thing that kept me going when I was struggling. Being prayed with and prayed for makes a world of difference. HTC has been one of the most challenging places and experiences in my life but it has also been one of the most rewarding. I can honestly say that it has been a privilege for me to study here. ”*

For an Application Form contact the HTC Registry Officer on [htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk) or ☎ 01349 780000.

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*Ideal for home study*

*Excellent background  
understanding for those  
wishing to help in bible  
studies, pastoral visits, etc*

*Age is no barrier (previous  
Access students have  
included school-leavers,  
pensioners, and all ages in  
between)*

*No formal entry  
qualifications required*

*Start any time, study at  
your own speed*

*Fully tutor-supported*

*Also available full-time,  
on-campus*



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