

## Module specification

<b>Title</b>	Contemporary Culture & the Challenge of Mission				
<b>Code</b>	ML1	<b>Faculty</b>	Education & Theology	<b>Cost Centre</b>	
<b>Level</b>	FHEQ 7 YSJU M	<b>Credits</b>	30	<b>Total Learning Hours</b>	300
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	None			<b>Barred Combinations</b>	None

Learning and Teaching			
Type of Learning Activity	comprises	hours	weeks
Timetabled Contact:	Block learning (+ regional networks)	30	16
Independent Study:	Reading primary and secondary sources, accessing and completing verbatim, researching and preparing assignments	270	16
Total:		300	16

Rationale and Aims
<p>The term 'missional' is now widely used but not necessarily well understood. This module explores the historical, theological, and contemporary contexts for this concept, with particular reference to how mission can relate to contemporary Western culture.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To critically engage with and appreciate the nature of cultural theory and its relevance for missional work</li> <li>2. To critically explore how Western culture has changed in recent years and gain advanced knowledge of the historical background to these changes</li> <li>3. To examine and analyse the elements of a culturally-attuned approach to mission in the West (including evangelism, social action and church planting)</li> <li>4. To identify and critically examine both historical and more recent expressions of 'missional church' and evaluate them in the light of contemporary culture</li> </ol>

Learning Outcomes
<p><i>Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critically analyse concepts of Western culture and develop greater awareness and appreciation of the need for a 'missional' approach to evaluate contemporary mission</li> <li>2. Critically analyse the ways in which churches and/or faith-based organisations can engage in a variety of forms of mission relevant to contemporary culture</li> <li>3. Critically reflect on the application of missional thinking to their own ministry setting and apply robust, reflective and contextually-appropriate approaches to their ministry</li> </ol>

Assessment <i>(please include expected word length (for text-based assessment))</i>			
#	description	weighting	learning outcomes
1	5000 word essay	80%	1, 2, 3
2	Personal development task	20%	3
<p><b>Qualified Failures:</b> in order to pass the module, students must achieve at least:  <i>(for modules with more than one summative assessment component please delete as applicable)</i></p>			
A mark of 20 in each component and an overall pass mark			

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<b>Indicative Content</b>
Students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explore theories of culture, particularly the influence of secularisation, postmodernity, (and their epistemological assumption) and the waning influence of Christendom within Western societies</li><li>2. Explore contemporary challenges to mission, including philosophical (e.g. science and the new atheism), cultural (e.g. consumerism, individualism) and theological challenges (including that of Islam and other major world faiths), and how these may be overcome.</li><li>3. Examine examples of mission in the West since the Enlightenment, including an assessment of contemporary missional movements and reflect on the development of the 'missional conversation'.</li><li>4. Assess the different ways in which evangelism, social action and church planting can be undertaken in the context of the West as components of Christian mission.</li></ol>
<b>Library Resources</b> <i>Indicative essential book provision (5 examples):</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Smith, J.K.A., <i>Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012)</li><li>2. Van Gelder, C. &amp; Zscheile, D., <i>The Missional Church in Perspective. Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011)</li><li>3. Day, A. and Lövheim, M. (eds.), <i>Modernities, Memory and Mutations: Grace Davie and the Study of Religion</i> (Ashgate, 2015)</li><li>4. Barker, C., <i>Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice</i>, (London: SAGE, 2011)</li><li>5. Murray, S., <i>Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World (After Christendom)</i> (Bletchley: Paternoster, 2011)</li></ol>
<i>Indicative journals / periodicals (3 examples from current subscriptions):</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Missiology - An International Review (American Society of Missiology)</li><li>2. Journal of Missional Practice (The Missional Network)</li><li>3. International Review of Mission (WCC)</li></ol>
<i>Audio-visual / non-printed material:</i>
None
<b>ICT Resources</b> <i>Hardware</i>
N/A
<i>Specialist software</i>
Moodle (online VLE) ATLA database and e-library
<b>Media Resources</b> <i>AV equipment</i>
Data projectors, DVD player
<b>Title(s) of award bearing programmes to which the module contributes</b>

## Module specification

MA Missional Leadership  
PG Dip Missional Leadership  
PG Cert Missional Leadership  
MA Mission Spirituality  
PG Dip Mission Spirituality  
PG Cert Mission Spirituality  
MA Urban Mission  
PG Dip Urban Mission  
PG Cert Urban Mission  
MA Cross-cultural Mission  
PG Dip Cross-cultural Mission  
PG Cert Cross-cultural Mission  
MA Missional Practice  
PG Dip Missional Practice

<i>Version</i>		<i>In use from</i>		<i>To</i>	
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External Examiner Code:	
Fee Profile:	
Date Approved:	

### Notes