



MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14

Please read the following *carefully*.

Dates and Times

The MA can be completed full-time over 12 months or, more typically, part-time over a minimum of 11 months and a maximum of five years. Students at Sarum College usually study part-time and complete the degree within three years (two years for the taught part and a further year for the dissertation). Students who satisfactorily complete three taught modules (60 credits), and exit, obtain a Postgraduate Certificate. Students who satisfactorily complete six taught modules (120 credits), and exit, obtain a Postgraduate Diploma. Students who satisfactorily complete six taught modules and a dissertation (180 credits) gain an MA awarded by The University of Winchester. Further details of student registration and progression are available in the University of Winchester's *Common Academic Regulations for Taught Masters Programmes*.

Most students will begin the MA in September, but a January start could be available in 2014. Students attend six **3½ day intensive modules** at Sarum College supplemented by **preparatory reading, individual study, tutorial support, access to the Sarum College Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** and assessed **written work**. Students are also required to attend a **research skills training course** at the start of their second year prior to beginning their dissertation.

All taught modules are worth 20 credits. Students are expected to complete the Core Module (compulsory) and five Optional Modules. With prior approval of the programme leader, students may also choose to take a co-validated Optional Module from another MA programme offered by Sarum College or a Guided Reading Module under supervision.

For a list of module dates, please refer to the 'Academic Diary 2013-15' document.

CORE MODULE

Theology and Human Culture (20 Credits)

This module will engage with the 'texts' and practices of human culture and encourage students to explore the nature of the relationship between theology and culture through creative and critical perspectives. Throughout the module, students will be given the opportunity to refine and update their knowledge of theologians and key theological debates as they relate to human culture, show how central themes in theology are expressed through different forms of culture in history and today, and be given the opportunity to critically reflect on human culture from theological perspectives. Students will be introduced to the interface between God and Human Culture and become familiar with both the sociological, theoretical, and theological studies of culture by attending to the nuanced approaches of different disciplines. In this module, students will gain an appreciation of the creative interactions between different ways of understanding culture.

OPTIONAL MODULES

The MA at Sarum College offers an exceptionally wide range of Optional Modules. Each module runs every other year and the dates of the Optional Modules will be available two years in advance to help students plan their programme of study. For an up-to-date list of module dates, please see the *Academic Diary*.

Re-imagining Church in a Changing Culture (20 Credits) *co-validated with the MA in Christian Approaches to Leadership programme*

Much has been written about the continuing decline in Church membership and attendance as evidence of 'the death of Christian Britain', raising questions about the future of 'organised religion'. This module aims to go beyond such 'headlines' and to equip students to critique the contemporary church, using both theological and sociological tools. The Church in Britain will be 'read' in the wider context of social, religious and cultural change, and compared with the situation in Europe, America and the developing world. Both the challenges facing the contemporary church, and the responses offered, will be critically examined, with particular reference to patterns of community, mission and ministry.

This module will enable students to acquire the tools necessary to understand the Church in mission in contemporary culture. It will offer the opportunity to appraise new ways of being Church and assess the different types of Church growth both past and present. Students will be encouraged to learn about different cultures and explore different theologies in relation to mission e.g. liberation theologies, black theologies and green theologies.

Literature and Spirituality (20 Credits) *co-validated with the MA in Christian Spirituality programme*

Tracing the interconnections between literature and spirituality in a selection of novels and poetry from C17 to the present day, this module pays particular attention to the use of classical myth and the biblical theme of pilgrimage in modern English literature. Students are encouraged to give their own critical readings and to develop their own understanding of the relationship between the literary imagination and the spiritual quest.

Music in Christian Worship (20 Credits) *co-validated with the MA in Christian Liturgy programme*

Music is a core feature of much Christian worship, whether chanted psalms, congregational hymns, liturgical texts arranged for choirs or contemporary worship songs. This module explores the variety of musical styles in Christian worship from both historical and contemporary perspectives and draw upon critical themes in musicology, theology and pastoral liturgy. It will equip students to make informed assessments of music choices in the liturgical events of different ecclesial settings. Musical skills, while beneficial, are not required.

Worship, Art and Architecture (20 Credits) *co-validated with the MA in Christian Liturgy programme*

The space in which Christian worship takes place is influenced by the culture of the age and place as well as ecclesiology. This module will investigate the Church buildings and their art in selected and typical historical periods in order to highlight the key interpretative issues. It will consider 20th century and contemporary responses to social and theological change demonstrated in Christian architecture. Students will be encouraged to reflect upon the use of liturgical space in specific contexts.

Text, Interpretation and Imagination (20 Credits)

The images, stories, myths and teachings of the Bible have served as a foundation for the Western cultural imagination. The Bible, when read in each new cultural context, both challenges the readers' cultural assumptions and is challenged by new ways of reading which spring forth from the readers' distinct perspective. The discipline, art and craft of hermeneutics require that one becomes sensitive to both the reading of the text and the act of being read by the text. In this module, students will engage in critical and creative hermeneutics and engage in both a deeper and closer reading of the Biblical texts themselves, and see how these texts inform, and are informed by, human creativity. Students will analyse and offer a critical appreciation of different types of text contained in the Bible. They will pursue inter-textual analysis and have the opportunity to make comparisons between different types of text

(sacred and otherwise) and be encouraged to explore a variety of original and imaginative interpretations of text.

God, Beauty and the Imagination (20 Credits)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to an understanding of aesthetics as a subject, in general, and to theological aesthetics in particular.

The course includes a general introduction to aesthetics and in particular to theological aesthetics, as illustrated by the central theological doctrines of the incarnation, the cross, the resurrection and the trinity. Students read and discuss relevant writings by theologians relating to themes such as imagination, beauty, divine revelation, truth and meaning and art as locus theologicus.

Theology and Film (20 Credits)

This course will explore the growing field of theology and film. Students will become conversant in the language and history of cinema, noting specifically the unique ways in which film uses technology, editing, framing, and sound to convey meaning.

After a brief introduction to film studies, this module will explore the historical relationship between theology and film, as well as the reception (ranging from prohibition to utilisation) of film by the Christian churches. Students will spend considerable time looking at and studying selected films to develop the critical skills helpful for film interpretation and explore possible theological approaches to film criticism.

Art, Belief, and Spirituality (20 Credits) co-validated with the MA in Christian Spirituality programme

This module will enable students to understand the relationship between Christian spirituality and art. This will be placed in historical, cultural and theological perspectives and the students will be encouraged to develop their own aesthetic and spiritual awareness. The module will enable students to appreciate the place of art in Christian worship and the life of the church.

Reflective Practice (20 Credits) co-validated with the MA in Christian Approaches to Leadership programme

The module will make a methodological and hermeneutical study of how reflective practice can underpin and challenge an understanding of leadership. It will introduce students to contemporary models of reflective practice both in the educational, theological and business worlds and encourage reflection on how these models inform and critique one another. The module will include practice in a variety of methods so that students can select and design their own models to apply to their professional situations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students may elect to take one independent study module as one of their optional modules. There are two options for guided independent study:

Guided Reading Module (20 Credits)

The module aims to provide students with the opportunity to pursue supervised study on a topic of their choice in any aspect of the field of Theology, Imagination and Culture which has been approved by the Programme Committee. It enables them to extend further the critical skills needed to interpret primary sources and/or to assess the judgements and interpretations of secondary sources. A reading schedule and essay question will be agreed with an assigned tutor and private study will be supported by tutorials.

Guided Artist Study Module (20 Credits)

This module provides the student with an opportunity to engage with the study of a single artist's body of work in relationship to theological study. Students may choose to examine the work of a particular film maker, author, musician, painter, poet, sculptor or any other 'artist' deemed appropriate and theologically relevant by the Programme Leader. Tutors are assigned and guided reading provided; the amount of tutorial time is increased as there are no lectures. Tutors will be assigned according to expertise.

Research Skills Training - not for credit but compulsory for all students

This day training session will provide students from across the Sarum College postgraduate academic programmes to further develop their research skills. Students will become familiar with a variety of research methodologies and techniques, become conversant in the regulations associated with the planning, research, writing, and submission of their dissertation, and engage in small group activities designed to support the initial stage of dissertation topic-selection and planning.

Dissertation (60 Credits)

In 20,000 words, candidates must argue and discuss, with a full critical method, a stated proposition which is to be presented and defended by demonstration of appropriate materials and the proper use of evidence. The proposition must be one which relates to the subject matter of the programme and which permits the demonstration of independent research, study and reflection.

Additional Module Information

Most modules begin on Monday* afternoon and then run from 9.15 am until 5.15 pm on each full day over the next three days. Students may be residential or non-residential. On the first afternoon there is an important induction session and the first class takes place on the Monday evening. On each of the following days there will be two classes in the morning and two in the afternoon, each lasting 1½ hours. Each intensive course will thus involve 20 classroom hours. In classroom sessions, learning will occur through a variety of methods, including lectures, discussion groups, and student-led seminars. During the residential portion of the course there will also be time for meeting with tutors and use of the library. There is an 80% attendance requirement at modules. Tutorial support (by visits, Skype, telephone or email) for each module will be available until the completion of the assessed written work. Students receive further support through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which will offer students access to key reading materials, discussion groups, module-specific knowledge bases, and formative assessment exercises. Each module is completed over a three month period: three weeks of pre-course reading; the intensive at Sarum College and a further two months to complete the assignments.

*Except in the instance of a bank holiday week

Please note:

This course demands a real time commitment for individual reading, study and written work. This involves preparatory reading prior to each intensive and significant work afterwards to complete the additional reading and written work.

How to choose your Optional Modules

Please note that apart from the Compulsory Modules, five Optional Modules are needed to complete the taught part of the MA course and qualify for a Postgraduate Diploma. With prior approval from the Programme Leader, these may be obtained in the following ways.

1. Choosing five of the Optional Modules offered at Sarum College.
2. Substituting an individually tailored Guided Study Module for one Optional Module.
3. Substituting an Optional Module from other MA Programmes at Sarum College.
4. Substituting an Optional Module from another compatible British University course.

Attending Modules as General Study Courses (Auditing)

Students may attend modules in addition to those which they are studying for credit, by permission of the Programme Leader. The hospitality rates will be the usual student rates, £202.50 (residential, en-suite) and £44.50 (non-residential), with an added administration fee of £20. Please note that students must give clear information on whether they are attending modules as part of their accredited study in advance of attendance. Should the module be oversubscribed, preference will be given to students taking the module for credit.

Library, Information Technology & Bookshop

Registered Certificate/Diploma/MA students will have membership of the College library for the duration of their course and access to the Virtual Learning Environment. They will also have access, when the College is open, to the IT facilities. The Sarum College Bookshop is a unique theological resource. Students registered for the MA automatically receive a discount. Books may be purchased by mail order.

Fees and Methods of Payment

Please see the separate document 'Fees and Methods of Payment 2013/14' for full information about fees and payment methods.

Withdrawal from study

If you withdraw from the course, you will be charged the full year's fees for the number of years of study that you have commenced, plus any additional modules over and above 3 modules in year 1, 6 modules in year 2 and 6 modules and the dissertation in year 3. The date of withdrawal will be the date of receipt of a formal notification of withdrawal by Sarum College.

Period of study

The fees are calculated on the basis that the Masters degree will be completed within 3 years of commencing the course, the Postgraduate Diploma will be completed within 2 years of starting the course and the Postgraduate Certificate will be completed within 1 year of starting the course. Students who take longer to complete their studies will be charged £525 per year of continuing study.

Continuation fees will be applied as follows:

- Postgraduate Certificate – continuing beyond 1 September 2014.
- Postgraduate Diploma –continuing beyond 1 September 2015.
- Masters – continuing beyond 31 July 2016.

Application Procedure

Application for the course is made through the written application form. (Please refer to the Application Checklist for full instruction on requirements.) Interviews are normally held in the winter and spring before the commencement of the course. Candidates will be notified by either the Academic Registrar or the Programme Leader when a suitable time has been arranged. After interview the Programme Committee will consider all applications and students will be notified of their decision as soon as possible after that meeting. Owing to the demand for places, on being offered a place we require that students send us a £100 registration fee to secure their place. The course will run subject to satisfactory student recruitment.

Students with Disabilities and/or Special Needs

Sarum College has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes students with disabilities onto its courses. The suitability of college facilities will be discussed during the application process separately from other discussions. Please fill in the necessary parts of the application form to facilitate this process.

Re-validation

Please note that all four MA programmes at Sarum College are scheduled for revalidation towards the end of 2013. There may therefore be some changes made to modules and other aspects of the programmes. Students will of course be kept fully informed during all stages of the revalidation process.

Non-UK/EU students

Sarum College is presently unable to sponsor non-EU students and are therefore not able to accept non-EU applicants onto its postgraduate programmes.