Foreword

This handbook applies to students starting the MPhil in Theology course in Michaelmas term 2016. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mophilintheo/studentview/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mophilintheo/studentview/). If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations.

If you have any concerns please contact Penny Rodgers, Graduate Studies Administrator [graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk).

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Disclaimer:

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 12th October 2016, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.
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MPhil Theology Course Handbook 2016/17
Degree of Master of Philosophy in Theology

1. Introduction

1.1 Course Information

The course requirements presented in this pamphlet are based on the Examination Regulations, which can be found online at

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mophilintheo/studentview/

The Examination Regulations remain the definitive regulations for all courses, although this pamphlet is designed to present them in an accessible format and to add further details for clarification. If in any doubt, please always consult the Examination Regulations.

Copies of all handbooks, pamphlets and forms can be found on the Faculty's WebLearn site.

Other key sources of information are the Faculty website and the University’s Oxford Students website. Please be aware that the colleges have their own handbooks, which are available on college websites.

1.2 Key Contacts

Course Coordinators

All students are assigned a supervisor, and in most cases this will be the course coordinator for the specific subject stream of the MPhil in Theology that you are enrolled on. Your supervisor may arrange for some or all of the teaching to be undertaken by other members of academic staff, but your supervisor will still retain overall responsibility for your progress. The course coordinators are:

- **Old Testament**: Professor Hindy Najman, Oriel College
  (email: hindy.najman@theology.ox.ac.uk)
- **New Testament**: Professor Markus Bockmuehl, Keble College
  (email: markus.bockmuehl@theology.ox.ac.uk)
- **Ecclesiastical History**: Professor Sarah Foot, Christ Church
  (email: sarah.foot@theology.ox.ac.uk)
- **Christian Doctrine (Patristic Theology)**: Professor Carol Harrison, Christ Church
  (email: carol.harrison@theology.ox.ac.uk)
- **Christian Doctrine (Scholastic Theology)**: Dr William Wood, Oriel College
  (email: william.wood@theology.ox.ac.uk)
- **Christian Doctrine (Theology of the Reformation Period)**: Professor Sarah Foot, Christ Church
  (email: sarah.foot@theology.ox.ac.uk)
• **Christian Doctrine (Modern Theology):** Professor Graham Ward, Christ Church (email: graham.ward@theology.ox.ac.uk) and Dr Philip McCosker, Mansfield College (email: philip.mccosker@theology.ox.ac.uk)

• **Christian Ethics:** Professor Nigel Biggar, Christ Church (email: nigel.biggar@theology.ox.ac.uk)

Other useful contacts:

**Graduate Studies Administrator (Theology and Religion Faculty Office):** Miss Penny Rodgers (phone: 01865 270714, email: graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk).

**Graduate Studies Assistant (Humanities Division Graduate Office):** Mr Nick Fowler (phone: 01865 270048, email: nick.fowler@humanities.ox.ac.uk).

For queries regarding the examinations and assessments process, please contact your supervisor or, if it concerns an administrative matter, your college office, or email: grad_exams.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk.

**Director of Graduate Studies (Michaelmas term 2016):** Professor Graham Ward (email: graham.ward@theology.ox.ac.uk)

**Director of Graduate Studies (Hilary and Trinity terms 2017):** Professor Anna Sapir Abulafia (email: anna.sapirabulafia@theology.ox.ac.uk)

1.3 Important dates

**Dates of full term 2016/17 (not including 0th week)**

Michaelmas 2016: Sunday, 9 October to Saturday, 3 December

Hilary 2017: Sunday, 15 January to Saturday, 11 March

Trinity 2017: Sunday, 23 April to Saturday, 17 June

**Deadline for submitting proposals for essay titles:** Monday of Week 5 of Trinity term of the student’s first year. (Although students are encouraged to submit the titles by Week 4 of Hilary Term of Year 1 of the course, if possible.)

**Deadline for submitting proposals for thesis/dissertation title:** Monday of Week 0 of Michaelmas Term of Year 2 of the course.

**Deadline for submitting essays:** No later than fourteen days before the first day of the written examinations, which takes place in Week 10 or 11 of Trinity Term in Year 2.
Deadline for submitting the thesis/dissertation: No later than fourteen days before the first day of the written examinations, which takes place in Week 10 or 11 of Trinity Term in Year 2.

Graduate Studies Committee: Meets on Tuesdays of Weeks 1 and 6 each term.

Graduate Joint Consultative Committee: Meets on Tuesday of Week 4 each term.

2. Course Content and Structure

2.1 Overview

Title of award: Master of Philosophy in Theology

FHEQ level 7

Length of course: 21 months

2.2 Course Aims

The aims of the course are:

1. To train students in the analysis and evaluation of both primary and secondary literature.
2. To teach students the art of selecting the most significant materials for their purpose and combining these to form a structured argument.
3. To develop the habits of critical questioning, clear exposition and objective evaluation

In addition, within the specific streams that the MPhil in Theology offers, you will:

1. In Christian Doctrine
   • have a comprehensive grasp of the history of Christian thought during one of four periods (100-451 A.D., 1050-1350 A.D., 1500-1650 A.D., 1789-modern day).
   • impart understanding in depth of three distinct topics within the chosen period through a dissertation and two prepared essays.
   • be equipped with at least one of the languages necessary for the reading of primary texts where these are not in English.

2. In Christian Ethics
   • have been acquainted with the conceptual and methodological questions arising in contemporary Christian moral thought in its major traditions.
   • have developed an understanding of the approaches taken to moral reasoning, and to a particular topic within the discipline, by Christian thinkers from antiquity to the present.
   • be prepared for further research.
3. In Ecclesiastical History
• have an understanding of different approaches to the writing of ecclesiastical history.
• impart understanding in depth of a particular period and of scholarship on that period.
• be prepared for further research.

• be given a comprehensive grasp of the genesis and contents of the canon commonly known as the New Testament.
• have an understanding of the milieu of the New Testament writings and/or of hermeneutic theory.
• develop competence in New Testament Greek.

5. In Old Testament Studies
• be given a comprehensive grasp of the genesis and contents of the canon commonly known as the Old Testament.
• have an understanding of hermeneutic theory or of other materials relevant to the understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures.
• develop competence in Biblical Hebrew.

2.3 Intended Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding
On completion of the course, students will have
• acquired a general understanding of the field of study;
• acquired some specialist knowledge of relevant primary and secondary literature;
• developed in intellectual depth and grasp of profounder issues.

B. Skills and other attributes

I. Intellectual skills
On completion of the course, students will have:
• gained some specialist knowledge of a particular discipline and/or historical period, as a basis for more detailed research or as a foundation for teaching in theology
• gained a grounding in relevant research methods
• written a dissertation, which may constitute a basis for proceeding to a future research degree.

II. Transferable skills
On completion of the course, students will be able to:
(i) find information, organise and deploy it, including through the use of libraries and information technology;
(ii) use such information critically and analytically;
(iii) consider and solve complex problems;
(iv) work well independently and in co-operation with others;
(v) effectively structure and communicate their ideas in a variety of written and oral formats;
(vi) plan and organise the use of time effectively;
(vii) make appropriate use of language skills.

Languages

Students who intend to apply to pursue doctoral studies should begin learning the necessary languages to pursue doctoral research as early as the MSt level. The Oxford University Language Centre (OULC) at 12 Woodstock Road offers excellent facilities and free courses to members of the University who wish to learn or improve a foreign language relevant to their academic work. Courses are offered in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Georgia, Modern Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Welsh, and English as a Foreign Language. Most courses consist of two single fifty-minute classes each week or one double class. Courses begin in October and continue throughout the academic year. If a course is required for study or research, there is a priority enrolment scheme. Students should make sure to discuss their language needs with supervisors at the start of the Michaelmas Term.

2.4 Course Description

The MPhil degree is a course designed to offer extensive postgraduate education in a specialist field of Theology for very able students. Candidates who are successful in the MPhil may be allowed to expand the MPhil thesis for a DPhil.

The course is studied over 21 months full time.

2.5 Course Regulations

Candidates for the M.Phil. in Theology are required to follow a course of instruction and directed research for six terms and to present themselves for examination in one of five subjects:

I. Old Testament

II. New Testament

III. Christian Doctrine, specializing in one of seven fields:

- History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology (c. AD 100-787)
- History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology (c. AD 1050-1350)
- History of Doctrine: Theology of the Reformation Period (c. AD 1500-1650)
- Issues in Theology with special reference to Patristic Theology
- Issues in Theology with special reference to Scholastic Theology
- Issues in Theology with special reference to Reformation Theology
- Issues in Theology with special reference to Theology from 1780 to the present day
IV. Ecclesiastical History, specializing in one of five fields:

- The Early Church AD 200-476
- The Western Church AD 476-1050
- The Western Church AD 1000-1400
- European Christianity AD 1400-1800
- European Christianity AD 1800-2000

V. Christian Ethics

The examination consists of three elements:

A. Two written examinations (or in Old Testament, route II, one written examination) each of three hours’ duration, which take place in Week 10 or 11 of Trinity Term in Year 2.

B. Three essays of not more than 5,000 words each or one long essay of not more than 15,000 words. Essay proposals must be submitted for consideration by the Faculty’s Graduate Studies Committee not later than Monday of Week 5 of Trinity Term in Year 1. The completed essays (two copies of each), together with a signed statement by the candidate that it is his or her own work, must be submitted for examination not later than fourteen days before the first day of the written examination in Trinity Term of Year 2. The written examinations take place in Week 10 or 11 of Trinity Term in Year 2.

C. A dissertation of not more than 30,000 words.

The dissertation proposal must be submitted for consideration by the Faculty’s Graduate Studies Committee by Monday of Week 0 of Michaelmas Term in Year 2. For candidates intending to proceed to doctoral study, the topic of the dissertation should normally be such as to provide a foundation for doctoral research. The completed dissertation (two copies), together with a signed statement by the candidate that it is his or her own work, must be submitted for examination by Friday of Week 8 of Trinity Term.

All essay and dissertation proposals should comprise a title, a short statement of how the subject will be treated, a bibliography of core texts (both primary and secondary), and the signature of the supervisor indicating his or her approval. The titles and content of the essays and dissertation should not substantially overlap with each other.

All submitted work should be double-spaced in font-size 12.

Candidates must not put their names on the written examination papers or on any submitted work. All submitted work must be printed and sent in a parcel bearing the words, ‘M.Phil. in Theology’, to the Chair of Examiners, c/o the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

Each candidate is also required to present himself or herself for an oral (viva voce) examination, which takes place within a few days of the written examination, and may include discussion of the candidate’s work in any of the three elements listed above.

Within this general pattern, the specific requirements of each subject may be found below.
I. OLD TESTAMENT

Two routes are possible, route I involving two written examinations and route II only one:

I.

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. **Prescribed Hebrew Texts**

2. * Either (a) Unseen passages from the Hebrew Bible
   - or (b) The Aramaic portions of the Old Testament
   - or (c) Passages from the Septuagint *

B. Candidates will write *either* one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) in one of the following subject areas: (1) The Literature of the Old Testament and Apocrypha in its Historical Setting; (2) Old Testament Theology; (3) the History and Principles of Biblical Study. The topic(s) will be chosen by the candidates in liaison with the supervisor.

II.

A. There will be one written examination in **Prescribed Hebrew Texts**.

B. Candidates will write *both* one long essay (up to 15,000 words) in one of the following subject areas, *and* three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) in another: (1) The Literature of the Old Testament and Apocrypha in its Historical Setting; (2) Old Testament Theology; (3) the History and Principles of Biblical Study. The topic(s) will be chosen by the candidates in liaison with the supervisor.

I and II.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
II. NEW TESTAMENT

A. There will be two written examinations:


Candidates will be required to translate and to comment on matters of literary, historical and theological importance from a selection of these prescribed texts.

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics in one of the following subject areas: (1) New Testament Theology; (2) Varieties of Judaism, 200 B.C. – C.E. 200; (3) the History and Principles of Biblical Study. The topic(s) will be chosen by the candidates in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
III. CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Candidates will be required to offer one of the following sections:

Section A. History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology
Section B. History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology
Section C. History of Doctrine: Reformation Theology
Section D. Issues in Theology with special reference to Patristic Theology
Section E. Issues in Theology with special reference to Scholastic Theology
Section F. Issues in Theology with special reference to Reformation Theology
Section G. Issues in Theology with special reference to Theology from 1780 to the present day

Section A. History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology.

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. The Development of Christian Doctrine to A.D. 451. Candidates will be expected to write three essays on different topics, showing knowledge of the main lines of development of Christian Doctrine, and discussing particular developments in relation to the historical conditions which influenced them.

2. Either (a) Hellenistic Philosophy and Christian Theology

Or (b) Christology of the Patristic Era

In each case the examination will consist of two essays on different topics and passages for translation and comment. Candidates may choose whether to translate and comment on Greek or on Latin texts. The prescribed texts for both examination papers will be listed in the Course Regulations for the M.Phil. in Theology for the year in which the candidates commenced their course.

For (a) the prescribed texts to be studied in Greek are:

Ps.-Aristotle, De Mundo (Loeb)
Plutarch, De E apud Delphos (Loeb)
Albinus, Epitome VIII-XI (Budé)
Platonic, Enneads 1.6, V.1 (Loeb or Oxford Classical Texts).
Origen, Contra Celsum VII (Sources Chrétiennes [S.C.])
Gregory of Nyssa, Quod non sint Tres Dii (Migne, P. G., Vol. 45)
———De Hominis Opificio (Migne, P. G., Vol. 44)
Dionysius the Areopagite, De Mystica Theologia (Migne, P. G., Vol. 3).

For (a) the prescribed texts to be studied in Latin are:

Augustine, Contra Academicos (Corpus Christianorum Series Latina [C.C.S.L.], Vol. XXIX)
———Confessions X-XII (C.C.S.L., Vol. XXVII)
———De Civitate Dei VIII-X (C.C.S.L., Vol. XLVII)
———De Trinitate XII, XIII (C.C.S.L., Vols. L and LA)
For (b) the prescribed texts to be studied in Greek are:

- Origen, *Dialogue with Herakleides* 1, 1-8.17 (S.C., Vol. 67)
- Athanasius, *De Incarnatione* (S.C., Vol. 199)
- Athanasius, *Epistle to Epictetus* (Migne, P. G., Vol. 26)
- The Chalcedonian Definition of the Faith (ed. T. H. Bindley, op. cit.).

For (b) the prescribed texts to be studied in Latin are:

- Tertullian, *Adversus Praxean* (ed. E. Evans)
- —— *De Carne Christi* (ed. E. Evans)
- Hilary, *De Trinitate* X (C.C.S.L., Vol. LXIIA)
- Augustine, *De Trinitate* IV (C.C.S.L., Vol. L)
- —— *Epistle* 137 (*Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*, Vol. XXXIII)
- —— *Sermons* 186, 187 (Migne, P. L., Vol. 38)
- Leo 1, *Tome* (ed. T. H. Bindley, *Oecumenical Documents*)
- —— *Sermon* 8 (XXVIII) (S.C., Vol. 22)

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within the Patristic era, chosen by each candidates in liaison with the supervisor; if necessary a special supervisor will be appointed in addition to the overall supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
Section B. History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. Doctrine and Methods. Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of major theologians in the period 1050-1350 by commenting on passages from prescribed texts in Latin and writing two essays on different topics. The prescribed texts are:

   Anselm, Proslogion
   ——— Cur Deus Homo
   Abelard, Sic et Non
   The Gloss on Romans
   Bernard, De Gratia et libero arbitrio
   Hugh of St Victor, De sacramentis christianae fidei
   Peter Lombard, IV Libri Sententiarum, Bk. IV
   Bonaventure, De triumon trium ad theologiam
   ——— Breviloquium
   Albert, In librum Dionysii de mystica theologia
   Bacon, Compendium studii theologiae
   Scotus, Prologue to the Ordinatio.

2. The Thought of Aquinas. Candidates will be expected to display knowledge of the thought of Thomas Aquinas by commenting on passages from prescribed texts in Latin and writing two essays on different topics.

   The prescribed texts for both examination papers will be listed in the Course Regulations for the M.Phil. in Theology for the year in which the candidates commenced their course.

   The prescribed texts are:

   Summa Theologiae: Prima Pars, qq. 1-2, 12-13, 43;
   Prima Secundae, Prologue, qq. 6-10, 18-21, 106-14;
   Secunda Secundae, qq. 23-7;
   Tertia Pars, Prologue, qq. 7-8, 46-9, 60-5, 75-6.

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within the Scholastic era, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
Section C. History of Doctrine: Reformation Theology

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. **Theology in Western Europe from Gabriel Biel to Jacob Arminius.** Candidates will be expected to write three essays on different topics, showing familiarity with the tenets of the most seminal theologians of this era and to discuss them in relation to the political, social and economic tendencies of the age.

2. **Protestant and Tridentine Teaching on the Doctrines of Grace, Freewill and Predestination.**

Candidates will be expected to write three essays on different topics.

B. Candidates will write *either* one long essay (up to 15,000 words) *or* three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within the Reformation era, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
Section D. Issues in Theology with special reference to Patristic Theology

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. Methods and Styles in Theology from 1780 to the Present. Candidates will be expected to write three essays on different topics, discussing problems of theological method, showing a critical understanding of the main themes in systematic theology, and taking account of the impact on Christian theology of contemporary philosophy, critical historical studies, the natural and social sciences and non-Christian religions and ideologies.

2. Either (a) The Development of Christian Doctrine to 451 A. D., as in Section A.A.1 above; or (b) Hellenistic Philosophy and Early Christian Thought, as in Section A.A.2(a) above; or (c) Christology in the Patristic Era, as in Section A.A.2(b) above.

Passages for comment in (b) and (c) will be chosen from the same texts prescribed in Section A.A.2 above, but here in English only.

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within the Patristic era, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor; if necessary a special supervisor will be appointed in addition to the overall supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor; if necessary a special supervisor will be appointed in addition to the overall supervisor.
Section E. Issues in Theology with special reference to Scholastic Theology

A. There will be two written examinations.

1. Methods and Styles in Theology from 1780 to the Present, as in Section D.A.1 above.

2. Either (a) Doctrine and Methods, as in Section B.A.1 above;
       or (b) The Thought of Aquinas, as in Section B.A.2 above. In (b) candidates will be expected to comment on passages from the same texts prescribed in Section B.A.2, but here in English only.

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within the Scholastic era, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
Section F. Issues in Theology with special reference to Reformation Theology

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. Methods and Styles in Theology from 1780 to the Present, as in Section D.A.1 above.

2. Either (a) Theology in Western Europe from Gabriel Biel to Jacob Arminius, as in Section C.A.1 above; or (b) Protestant and Tridentine Teaching on the Doctrines of Grace, Freewill and Predestination, as Section C.A.2 above.

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within the Reformation era, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
Section G. Issues in Theology with special reference to Theology from 1780 to the Present

A. The two written examinations will be:

1. Methods and Styles in Theology from 1780 to the Present, as in Section D.A.1 above.

2. Modern Theology;

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics falling within Modern Theology, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
IV. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

A. There will be two general papers, assessed either by two written exams, or by one written examination and three essays (up to 5,000 words each).

1. A General paper on the Nature and Practice of Ecclesiastical History. Candidates will be expected to discuss the nature of ecclesiastical history as a sub-discipline within History through study of the writing of the history of the Church from the Early Church to the modern day and investigation of shifts in historical method, with particular reference to methodological debates within History since the mid-nineteenth century.

2. A General paper on one of the following, assessed either by unseen examination or by three essays (up to 5,000 words each):

   (a) The Early Church, A.D. 200-476
   (b) The Western Church, A.D. 476-1050
   (c) The Western Church, A.D. 1000-1400
   (d) European Christianity AD 1400-1800
   (e) European Christianity AD 1800-2000

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics in ecclesiastical history, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
V. CHRISTIAN ETHICS

A. There will be two written examinations:

1. Christian Moral Concepts and Methodology. Candidates will be expected to write three essays on different topics, showing an understanding of basic conceptual and methodological issues as these are discussed in relevant classical and contemporary texts.

2. Select Texts and Practical Issues in Christian Ethics. Candidates will be expected to write three essays on different topics, showing careful interpretation of classic texts and a capacity to analyse moral issues arising in practical fields.

B. Candidates will write either one long essay (up to 15,000 words) or three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics in Christian ethics, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor.

C. All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate’s progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.
3. Assessment

3.1 Examination entry and examination dates

Guidance and advice on examination entry and how to ensure that you are entered for the correct examinations and assessments is available at [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry).

Information on alternative examination arrangements is available at [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/arrangements](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/arrangements).

Examination timetables are published as early as possible and no later than five weeks before the start of the examination. Provisional start dates are provided on the University’s website: [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/exams/timetables/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/exams/timetables/), but these must be taken as a guide only. A personal timetable showing the dates, times and location of your examinations will be sent to you at your college at least two weeks before the examination starts.

3.2 Guidance for the submission of proposals for thesis titles

Students should complete the online Graduate submitted work title approval form, which is located in the Graduate area of the Faculty’s WebLearn site. All proposals must have the prior approval of the person responsible for supervising the work. Please note that supervisors will be contacted by the Graduate Studies Assistant for verification.

In certain circumstances you may wish to make minor changes to the title of your dissertation as your research evolves. If you wish to make a change to an essay or dissertation title once it has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee, you should agree any such changes with the subject co-ordinator your supervisor in the first instance. Details of the change must then be submitted via an online form (accessible from the Graduate area of the Faculty’s WebLearn site) for checking by the Graduate Studies Committee no later than Monday of 0th week (Trinity Term). This is the final deadline for alterations to essay/dissertation titles. If you submit an essay or dissertation with a different title to the one approved, your final mark may be subject to a penalty. Exact details of the penalties will be outlined in the Examination Conventions for each course.

3.3 Guidance for the submission of written work for examination

- TWO copies of each thesis and essay must be submitted.

- All submitted essays and theses must be accompanied by a ‘Graduate submitted work coversheet’ (found at the back of the Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students and on the Faculty’s WebLearn site), which must include a clear statement of the all-inclusive word count for text and footnotes (but excluding bibliography). Candidates are not permitted to exceed the stated word limit.
Essays and theses must be securely fastened or bound.

All submitted work must be anonymous, and identified by CANDIDATE NUMBER ONLY; the student’s name or any other identifying information (such as dedications containing names) should not appear.

Penalties will be imposed for over-length essays and theses, for unapproved changes to the title of essays and theses, and for work which is not securely bound or which bears the candidate’s name.

Each piece of submitted work must be accompanied by a declaration (the ‘Graduate submitted work declaration’ found at the back of the Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students and on the Faculty’s WebLearn site), signed by the supervisor of that piece of work, that it is the candidate’s own work and that no part has been submitted for any other degree at Oxford or another institution.

More information about the presentation of written work can be found in the Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students.

3.4 Conduct in examinations

Information on (a) the standards of conduct expected in examinations and (b) what to do if you would like examiners to be aware of any factors that may have affected your performance before or during an examination (such as illness, accident or bereavement) are available on the Oxford Students website (www.ox.ac.uk/students学术/学术/exams/guidance).

If you have any difficulty in interpreting the Examination Regulations, or finding out about subject options, dates, deadlines, etc. ask for advice from your Director of Studies or the Faculty Office.

3.5 Examination conventions and grade descriptors

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

The examination conventions and descriptors for allocating marks issued in 2015/16 can be found on the Faculty’s WebLearn site. Any modifications will be published not less than one whole term before the examination takes place or, where assessment takes place in the first term of a course, at the beginning of that term. Up-to-date conventions will be sent to all students before the examination and published on the Faculty’s WebLearn site.
3.6 Weightings

The individual components of the MPhil examination are weighted as follows:

Exam 20
Exam 20
3 x 5k essays 20
30k dissertation 40 (i.e. double weighting)

Exact details are to be found in the Examination Conventions for each course.

3.7 External Examiner and Examiners’ Reports

The External Examiner for the Master of Studies in Theology is Dr. Rachel Muers, Senior Lecturer in Christian Studies, School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science, University of Leeds.

Students are strictly prohibited from contacting external examiners directly. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment you may make a complaint or appeal (see *Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students*).

You can access the Examiners’ reports (including the external examiner’s reports) in Weblearn at https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/humdiv/theology/theo_grad.