

COURSES 2023-24

BA THEOLOGY (VALIDATED BY BIRMINGHAM NEWMAN UNIVERSITY)

The BA programme is validated by Birmingham Newman University and students who successfully complete the programme will be eligible for a Birmingham Newman University award. Students can choose from 2 distinct BA (Hons) Theology degree pathways:

- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Theology (Biblical & Pastoral Theology)
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Theology (Theology & Missional Leadership)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

The standard pathway consists of three levels: Level 4, Level 5, and Level 6. Students are usually required to progress through each of the three levels by passing one level of study under the available exit awards below. However, each level can form a self-contained qualification known as Certificate, Diploma and Honours degree, respectively. Each level comprises core requirements and options totalling 120 credits, leading to a full 360 credit requirement for the Honours degree.

In the event where a student fails a level, they will be offered the option to either exit with a certificate or diploma at the previously passed level or resit the failed modules through Directed Studies, where a tutor will be assigned to the student to support them through the modules. Students will progress to the next level after they have successfully completed their current level of studies.

AVAILABLE AWARDS:

The following are the available awards for students who are able to fulfil the requirement for the respective target awards depending on the number of credits completed.

Certificate in Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biblical & Pastoral Theology• Theology & Missional Leadership (Level 4 award)	A minimum of 120 credits awarded at Level 4.
Diploma in Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biblical & Pastoral Theology• Theology & Missional Leadership	Level 4 progression requirements met, and a minimum of 240 credits awarded overall.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ordinary Bachelor's (level 6 award)	Level 4 and 5 progression requirements met, and a minimum of 60 Level 6 credits passed.

Level 4 CORE MODULES

Tracks: Biblical & Pastoral Theology, Theology & Missional Leadership

Students will take 8 modules at 15 credits totalling 120 credits. Six (6) of these modules are core modules which means students will have to take these modules regardless of which track they choose.

Introduction to the Bible BCU426 (15 CREDITS)

This course is an introductory course in biblical studies in which the primary focus is the survey of the Bible. It will introduce students to the books of Christian Scripture and the methods that scholars use to understand them. It will cover the history of the periods in which various biblical books were written. By exploring the messages, the form and background of the books the course will discover what the biblical writers were trying to accomplish through their writings. It provides the major doctrines and passages; key events and significant characters mentioned in the Bible. This survey will provide an understanding of the world in relation to the place of humanity and the role of God in the world, and how the Old and New Testaments relate to one another historically and theologically.

Introduction to Hermeneutics & Homiletics BCU428 (15 credits)

This is a combined modular course made up of Hermeneutics (Principles of Biblical interpretation) and Homiletics (Principles of Biblical preaching). The focus of the Hermeneutics section of the course introduces the student to the basic principles of biblical interpretation to cover the basic rules of Bible interpretation by stressing a pattern of explaining the rule, illustrating the principle, and allowing the student to practice interpretation.

Introduction to Theology BCU403 (15 credits)

This module offers a comprehensive survey of Christian doctrines including that of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Human Beings, Salvation, the Church, and Eschatology. An introduction to Christian theology will be given to define theology, its various streams and sources.

Contemporary Christian Leadership (15 credits) BCU430

This module helps students to explore contemporary theories and practices of leadership so that students are able to critically apply biblical/theological values and principles to shape a distinctively Christian model of leadership. The effort will be on trying to answer the question of how a Christian perspective and practice of leadership might differ from other perspectives and trends of leadership.

Introduction to Church History (15 credits) BCU429

The focus is a concentrated study of key events in the history of the church, giving special emphasis to the patristic era through to Christianity in Rome and the new World. It also covers the events of the reformation and post-reformation eras, including highlights on the history of Global Pentecostalism with reference to the Azusa Street Revival, and African Pentecostalism in Britain.

Missions & Migration (15 credits) BCU432

This introductory module aims at helping students explore the relationship between Christian missions and the phenomenon of the diaspora, or the experience of people moving, being moved, and living in contexts that are different from their origin. The focus will be on the challenges and opportunities this phenomenon presents to Christian mission in the globalised contemporary world. The module will expose students to some of the other main world religions and how to minister to, minister through, and minister with people from and beyond the diasporas.

OPTIONAL MODULES

BCU505 Introduction to Biblical Languages (15 credits)- Biblical and Pastoral Theology

No previous experience required! A very simple one-semester introduction to the alphabet and grammar of both Hebrew and Greek, with the aim of being able to use dictionaries and concordances as well as modern commentaries to make better sense of the underlying text.

Pastoral Studies (15 credits)- Biblical & Pastoral Theology Track

This is an exploration of the biblical and theological basis for pastoral ministry and a reflection on various approaches, skills and qualities necessary for the pastor. It offers an understanding of the basic principles and practices of Christian pastoral care from a biblical and theological basis, using biblical texts, examples, and contemporary case studies.

Intro to Mission (15 credits)- Theology & Missional Leadership

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to mission; explore the genesis and purpose of mission and to equip students to understand Missio Dei, types of mission, Pentecostal contributions to mission, mission strategies and the role of the church in mission. The module will equip students with a theological, theoretical and practical framework for understanding mission in context. It is practically oriented for effective mission work in the twenty-first century and is structured to meet contemporary mission in Western culture.

Ministry Placement (15 credits)- Theology & Missional Leadership

Students will combine a placement experience with college-based seminars on ministry integration. Placements will be arranged within any situation proposed by the student and approved by the module coordinator. Independent initiative and ambitious choices will be encouraged. A field supervisor will, in discussion with the student and a BCC staff member devise a reasonable weekly ministry involvement for the student. This will require ten hours attendance per week over one semester. The required attendance can be achieved via a block placement instead of a weekly arrangement, with the approval of the module coordinator.

Pauline Letters (15 credits)- Biblical and Pastoral Theology

This module aims to introduce students to the body of work often referred to as Pauline. It will consider all the epistles that have been attributed, rather than the more limited subset of those widely recognised as Pauline.

The module is designed to gain an overview of each of the epistles, their background, date and contents, as well as to develop from them some idea of who Paul was, and the world he lived in. It will look at his role as the missionary to the Gentiles, and how it affected his theological unlearning and relearning journey from Judaism into Graco-Roman culture, and the subsequent persecution.

We will seek to develop an understanding of Paul and his theology, exploring how the threads of his theology and missionary strategy developed.

Ethics 1 (15 credits)- Biblical and Pastoral Theology

This module explores practical steps to applying the knowledge of ethical theories undergirding Christian ethics to real life ethical issues in the church and society. The focus will be on how a distinctively Christian approach to ethics that is evidently biblical and practically humble in its application to contemporary issues and contexts may be worked out. Various contemporary ethical issues will be used as case studies for critical evaluation of ethical practices in contemporary contexts.

Christ, Gospel and Culture (15 credits)- Theology & Missional Leadership

In this module, students will explore the overlapping and often conflicting relationship between culture and the Christian faith, and students will be challenged to identify the role that the Church has to play in this relationship. By engaging with theology, anthropology, and cultural studies, students will have the opportunity to analyse different approaches towards the engagement between the Christian gospel and contemporary cultures. Students will explore culture across a range of different levels including within the arts, popular culture,

and wider societal norms. The module will encourage students to critically reflect on the relationship between their own faith and cultural context.

BCU413 Church Planting & Evangelism (15 credits)- Theology & Missional Leadership

This module is designed to equip students with tools to the ministry of church planting, growth, and renewal. The emphasis of the course is on giving students strategies needed for starting and developing gospel-centred missional churches that result in the spiritual, social and cultural transformation of entire cities and regions.

LEVEL 5

Tracks: Biblical & Pastoral Theology, Theology & Missional Leadership

Students will take 6 modules at 20 credits totalling 120 credits. Four (4) of these modules are core modules which means students will have to take these modules regardless of which track they choose.

CORE MODULES

Evangelism & Apologetics BCU501 (20 credits)

This module is designed to help students better understand and defend their faith in today's contemporary society. It introduces students to the principles and varieties of Christian apologetics. The course discusses contemporary objections to the Christian faith and critically evaluates the different approaches to doing effective apologetics in contemporary culture.

Old Testament Theology BCU502 (20 credits)

This module aims to introduce students to the principle of Biblical Theology as opposed to Systematic Theology. In doing so, it will focus on the Old Testament, drawing theological understanding from the Old Testament genres, primarily narrative. The focus of the course will be on looking at difficult passages and drawing theological principles from them, before looking at application into a modern-day context.

New Testament Theology BCU503 (20 credits)

This module aims to introduce students to the principle of Biblical Theology by focusing on the New Testament, drawing theological understanding from the New Testament genres, primarily the synoptic gospels, Johannine literature, including Revelation and Pauline epistles. The module will focus on the synoptic problem, the theme of the kingdom of God, the work

of the Holy Spirit in spreading the gospel and drawing theological principles from them for a contextual application into a modern-day context.

Pentecostal & Charismatic Studies BCU504 (20 credits)

This course offers students an understanding of the history and theology of the global Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements. Particular attention is given to examining some of the key issues relating to the history and theology of Pentecostalism and the Charismatic Movements.

Introduction to Biblical Languages (Biblical & Pastoral Theology Track) BCU505 (20 credits)

No previous experience required! A very simple one semester introduction to the alphabet and grammar of both Hebrew and Greek, with the aim of being able to use dictionaries and concordances as well as modern commentaries to make better sense of the underlying text.

Galatians and Romans (Biblical & Pastoral Theology Track) BCU506 (20 credits)

This module involves an examination of the historical background of the Epistles to Galatians and Romans, particularly the occasion and circumstances of the writing of each letter and information pertaining to their recipients. It highlights the timeless practical teachings in these letters and their relevance to Christian living.

Pastoral Theology (Biblical & Pastoral Theology Track) BCU508 (20 credits)

Building on the knowledge and skills learnt from Pastoral Studies, the aim of this module is to provide students with a more robust understanding of the essentials of pastoral theology by examining the issues and challenges related to pastoral care in our contemporary contexts. The biblical and theological basis and the practical implications of the pastoral ministry will be examined critically to show the difference between pastoral ministry and other caring professions. A historical survey of pastoral care and contemporary application will provide case studies for critical analysis of the pastoral role today.

Christian Ethics 2 (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU501 (20 credits)

This module explores practical steps to applying the knowledge of ethical theories undergirding Christian ethics to real life ethical issues in the church and society. The focus will be on how a distinctively Christian approach to ethics that is evidently biblical and practically humble in its application to contemporary issues and contexts may be worked out. Various

contemporary ethical issues will be used as case studies for critical evaluation of ethical practices in contemporary contexts.

Environmental Stewardship (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU510 (20 credits)

This module explores an understanding of Christian stewardship that makes students see contemporary environmental issues of global warming as a challenge to the church's mission and helps them to offer a Christian response to it. The focus will be on demonstrating how available literature and debates in the field help Christians to develop a way of life that makes stewardship, especially, environmental stewardship a necessary aspect of living a Christian life.

Mission In Contemporary Europe (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU511 (20 credits) This module is intended to help students understand the missionary context of Europe. It explores the issues in doing multicultural ministry in Europe and the challenges involved in cross-cultural and multicultural mission. The module also discusses leadership and church growth strategies in the West.

Skills & Strategies in Communication (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU512 (20 credits)

With 24-hour news and social media, corporate mistakes are easily and quickly highlighted to the extent that any little shortfall of customer service or internal problem can go viral and damage the reputation of a company, organisation, or church. This is the reason why everyone occupying a leadership position in a company, organisation, or a church needs to have at least, some basic training and skills in communication, public speaking, and public relations to enable them deal appropriately and effectively with their publics.

LEVEL 6

Tracks: Biblical & Pastoral Theology, Theology & Missional Leadership

At Level 6, students will take 6 modules. Two (2) core modules (10 + 20 credits), a dissertation module at 30 credits and 3 optional modules at 20 credits totalling 120 credits.

Dissertation BCU622 (30 credits)

Students may choose any topic related to the various fields of theology. A suitable title and reading programme will be approved by an appropriate staff tutor who will act as the

supervisor, although for sections or aspects of the dissertation, consultation with other staff members may be recommended.

Christian Ministry in Practice BCU602 (10 credits)

This module provides a theological understanding of and practical skills for the key areas of church ministry, namely Youth, Children, Men, Evangelism and Women. Other areas including Worship will also be explored. Students will explore the reasons why these ministries are important, how to develop them effectively in the church, including how to manage the ministries in the framework of the church and its missional implications.

Research Methods BCU621 (10 credits)

This module will explore a range of different methods suitable for conducting research in theology. Students will be introduced to qualitative and quantitative research methods and address questions about methodology more broadly, such as ways that humans can gain knowledge and the ethical implications of different research approaches. Students will practice developing a research question and analysing their chosen topic to determine the most appropriate research methods to explore it theologically. Students will learn how to form a logical and persuasive argument in their writing and how to analyse data. By the end of the module, students will be equipped to conduct their own research and introduced to tools which will help them at postgraduate level.

OPTIONAL MODULES

Ministry Placement BCU603 (20 credits)

Students will combine a placement experience with college-based seminars on ministry integration. Placements will be arranged within any situation proposed by students and approved by the module coordinator. Independent initiative and ambitious choices will be encouraged. A field supervisor will, in discussion with the student and a BCC staff member devise a reasonable weekly ministry involvement for the student. This will require ten hours attendance per week over one semester. The required attendance can be achieved via a block placement instead of a weekly arrangement, with the approval of the module coordinator.

Theological Reflections (Biblical & Pastoral Theology Track) BCU604 (20 credits)

The aim of this module is to help students appreciate the importance of and the need for theological reflection on the church's ministry within the church, society and in the marketplace, which includes student's own ministry in these contexts. The focus will be to

provide critical knowledge and understanding of how theological reflection fits into the pastoral cycle by showing how reflecting theologically on situations and contexts of pastoral care is essential for effective ministry that brings growth.

Hermeneutics & Homiletics 2 (Biblical & Pastoral Theology Track) BCU606 (20 credits)

This module deals with principles of biblical interpretation and application. Students will be introduced to principles of doing hermeneutics through historical-cultural, theological and contextual analysis. The interpretation component of this module will cover in depth theological analysis, lexical syntax and analysing special literary forms. Whilst the application component will introduce students to applying the Bible in a contemporary multi-cultural environment.

Cross -Cultural Ministry (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU607 (20 credits)

This course is intended to help students understand the intricacies and dynamics of cross-cultural ministry, especially that of Africans and other non-Westerners serving in Western contexts. The focus will be on contextualisation of the Gospel message and Pentecostal practice within Western contexts.

Digital Theology (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU608 (20 credits)

Digital Theology involves reflecting on the digitalisation of society and its implications for Christian faith and practice. Technological innovations are causing a whole raft of social changes across many aspects of life in the twenty-first century. The Christian Church too, like many other religions, is changing through its engagement with social media, its communication through websites, and increasing use of digital technology in worship, in pastoral practice and in evangelism. This module offers practical reflections and tools into effectively engaging with the contemporary digitised culture.

Missions & Social Transformation (Theology & Missional Leadership Track) BCU609 (20 credits)

This module aims to equip students with the necessary tools to critically explore how Christian missions and ministry accomplish social transformation through programmes of practical compassionate service in cross-cultural and urban settings. The focus will be on practical interventions that the church can make to meet the needs of society and thereby bring about social transformation.

Entry Requirements

3 A levels at grade C or above (or equivalent) in a humanities/social science related subject and 5 GCSEs at grade 4/C or above including English at 5/C or above, or recognized equivalents are required.

Mature applicants (21+), with considerable length of practical ministry experience who do not have formal qualifications, may be admitted to the programme if the Admissions Committee deems them able to complete the programme successfully. As part of this assessment applicants will normally be required to submit an essay on a Biblical subject.

Those seeking admission to the BA programme will normally be accepted only subject to satisfactory references and interview. For students wishing to transfer credits into the scheme from other UK universities and recognised institutions, the rules followed will comply with the rules and processes for Newman University. The eligibility of credits gained from overseas institutions will be assessed using UK NARIC guidelines.

Students with a bachelor's degree from another subject may enrol directly to level 6 for a full classification with Honours degree programme provided that they have a first or second classification degree.

English language requirements:

All students must provide evidence of appropriate competency in written and spoken English. For students whose first language is not English, and who have not studied in English up to at least Level 2 the normal requirement will be IELTS 6.0 (with no less than 5.5 in any band) or equivalent.

Other requirements:

All students will have the maturity of character and motivation to be involved in the overall ethos of the course. This is normally ascertained from the application, interview and references.

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will be required before students can begin their placement.

International Admissions:

Those applicants with overseas qualifications in place of the standard academic entrance requirements will be assessed using UK ENIC and UCAS Guides to International Qualifications. Such qualifications would need to be of a standard equivalent to a second-class honours degree or above in order to ensure parity. Overseas students might also be admitted on the basis of professional experience.