

The University of Manchester

Faculty of Humanities

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

MA Handbook 2012-13

Religions and Theology

Religions and Theology

Welcome and Introduction to Religions and Theology

Welcome to Religions and Theology at the University of Manchester. In this department we offer advanced teaching in a broad range of subjects covering many cultures, geographical areas and historical periods. An interlocking set of course options provides the basic material for our five MA programmes: MA Religions and Theology; MA Biblical Studies; MA Jewish Studies; MA Religion and Political Life; and MA South Asian Studies. In addition to the course units taught by our own staff (the courses with RELT course codes), the programmes draw on many of the riches of other parts of the School and beyond, especially in the Middle Eastern Studies subject area, with which we have particularly close links. In pursuing MA study in Religions and Theology at Manchester you will be part of a scholarly community that, together, is engaging in the widest range of investigation in these subjects which are so crucial for life in today's world. I wish you well in your MA studies and will be pleased to talk with any of you during my office hours, which are posted on my door, WG13.

David Law,
Professor of Christian Thought and Philosophical Theology
Head of Religions and Theology

Staff in Religions and Theology

Postgraduate Officers (Taught Courses):

Dr Peter Oakes

Peter.oakes@manchester.ac.uk 0161 275 3612 room WLG14

Dr Michael Hoelzl

Michael.hoelzl@manchester.ac.uk 0161 275 5695 room WG8

Dr Oakes (Semester 1&2) and Dr Hoelzl (Semester 1) supervise the running of all the MA programmes in the subject area. They are the people to see for general academic or pastoral issues relating to the MA or your participation in it. They also sit on the Graduate Studies Committee and welcome student suggestion about issues coming before the committee (there is also a subject student representative on the committee).

Postgraduate Officer (Research Students):

Dr Jean-Marc Dreyfus

Jean-marc.dreyfus@manchester.ac.uk 0161 275 3292 room WG20B

Dr Dreyfus advises MPhil and PhD students for Religions and Theology. He will invite you to attend an information session toward the end of the first semester for MA students who are considering going on to the PhD, but please don't hesitate to contact him with any queries about the PhD at other times.

MA Programme Directors

Each programme has its own director. They will guide you over course choices and you can go to them with any issue about an MA programme or your progress in it. The programme directors for 2012-13 are:

MA Biblical Studies
MA Jewish Studies
MA Religion and Political Life

Professor George Brooke
Professor Daniel Langton
Semester One: Dr Michael Hoelzl
Semester Two: Professor Peter Scott

MA Religions and Theology

Semester One: Dr Peter Oakes
Dr Michael Hoelzl
Semester Two: Dr Peter Oakes
Dr Atreyee Sen

MA South Asian Studies

Head of Department

Professor David Law

E-mail: david.law@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3596 WG13

The Head of Department is responsible overall for the running of courses in Religions and Theology. He is happy to meet with students in his office hours.

Academic Staff:

The Department has a wide range of teaching and research staff. Full-time or permanent teaching staff (teaching fellow, lecturer, senior lecturer, reader or professor) are normally available for supervision of postgraduate dissertations. Other members of staff (research fellows, etc.) are often also available for this. To check, ask your Programme Director. Further details of staff research interests, their publications and their affiliation to departmental research centres, may be found on the religions and theology web-site (<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/subjectareas/religionstheology/>). All members of staff have office open hours during which students can consult them without an appointment. These are detailed on their room doors.

Mustafa Baig

Teaching Fellow in Islamic Studies

E-mail: mustafa.baig@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3603 WLG15

Professor George Brooke

Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis

E-mail: george.brooke@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3609 WG12

Professor Brooke is Co-Director of the Centre for Biblical Studies and of the Manchester-Sheffield Centre for Dead Sea Scrolls Research. His other interests include the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, and the use of the Hebrew Bible in the scrolls and New Testament. He is also a member of the Centre for Jewish Studies.

Dr Susannah Cornwall

Lincoln Theological Institute Research Fellow Tel: 0161 275 3736 WG19C

Dr Cornwall's research area is Theological Anthropology. The working title of her LTI project is currently: Intersex, Identity, Disability: Issues for Public Policy, Healthcare and the Church

Dr Jean-Marc Dreyfus

Reader in Holocaust Studies

Tel: 0161 275 3292 room WG20B

Email: jean-marc.dreyfus@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Dreyfus's research interests lie particularly in the historical and political context of the Holocaust and its consequences.

Professor Jeremy Gregory

Professor of the History of Modern Christianity (Head of School)

E-mail: jeremy.gregory@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3600 WLG12

Professor Gregory has wide-ranging interests in religion in Britain in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, which is also a major archival strength in the John Rylands University Library. His current research explores religious links between England and North America in the colonial period.

Dr Michael Hoelzl

Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion

E-mail: Michael.hoelzl@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 5695 WG8

Dr Hoelzl's current research focuses on Religion and Politics. An international network among European institutions supports the research. The general topic of this joint collaboration is: The New Visibility of Religion in European Democratic Cultures. He also has research interests in continental philosophy, epistemology and Christian anthropology. Dr Hoelzl's most recent research is a study of the work of Carl Schmitt and early 20th century philosophy of law.

Dr Todd Klutz

Senior Lecturer in the New Testament Studies

E-mail: todd.klutz@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3608 WG7

Dr Klutz's research has concentrated largely on the use of contemporary linguistics, literary theory, and anthropology to interpret the writings of the New Testament and other ancient Mediterranean texts. Especially prominent in his most recent work are the topics of ancient demonology and exorcistic praxis, which are the focus of two of his studies soon to appear in print.

Professor Daniel Langton

Professor of Modern Jewish-Christian Relations

E-mail: daniel.langton@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 8592 WG20A

Professor Langton has research interests in the history of Jewish-Christian relations, progressive Jewish thought, Jewish views of Jesus and the apostle Paul, Holocaust Theology, and Anglo-Jewish history.

Professor David Law

Professor of Christian Thought and Philosophical Theology

E-mail: david.law@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3596 WG13

The foci of Dr Law's research are Christian doctrine, apophatic theology, hermeneutics and existential philosophy, particularly the work of the Danish thinker Kierkegaard and the German philosophers Heidegger and Jaspers. His most recent publications are *The Historical- Critical Method* (London: T & T Clark, 2012) and *Kierkegaard's Kenotic Christology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).

Dr Peter Oakes

Greenwood Senior Lecturer in the New Testament

E-mail: peter.oakes@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 3612 WLG14

Dr Oakes's research interests are in Pauline Studies and in the relationship between the NT and the Graeco-Roman world. Currently he is writing a commentary on Galatians for the *Paideia* series. He is on the steering committee of the Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy research project and is a member of the Context Group for Biblical Research.

Professor Peter Scott

Professor of Theology, Ethics and Society and Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute

E-mail: peter.scott@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161-2753064 WLG16

In both teaching and research Peter Scott is committed to relating theological insights to the dilemmas and issues of modern life. His work thereby cuts across disciplinary boundaries and draws on political theory and philosophy as well as Christian theological traditions. He is author of *Theology, Ideology*

and Liberation (Cambridge University Press, 1994), A Political Theology of Nature (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and numerous articles, and is co-editor of the Blackwell Companion to Political Theology (2004). He is a member of the Center of Theological Inquiry (Princeton, USA) and is on the editorial board of the journal Ecotheology.

Dr Atreyee Sen

Lecturer in Contemporary Religion and Conflict Tel: 0161 275 8596 WG19B

Email: atreyee.sen@manchester.ac.uk

Areas of research interest are gender, conflict, women's militancy, child-soldiering, urban anthropology and religious fundamentalism in South Asia.

Dr Renate Smithuis

Lecturer in Medieval Jewish Studies

Tel: 0161 275 3601 WG9

Email: renate.smithuis@manchester.ac.uk

Research interests are Medieval Jewish and Muslim philosophy, science and mysticism; transmission of Arabic learning to Europe; intellectual history of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance (Latin, Hebrew, Arabic); manuscript-based research; Cairo Genizah

Dr Jacqueline Suthren Hirst,

Senior Lecturer in Comparative Religion

E-mail: jacqueline.hirst@manchester.ac.uk

Tel: 0161 275 3616 WLG21

Dr Jacqueline Suthren Hirst specialises in the Advaita Vedanta school of Indian philosophy, Shankara's interpretations of scriptural texts and pedagogy in particular. She also works on issues of text and gender in South Asian traditions and on representation in Religious Education.

Professor Alan Williams

Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Religion

E-mail: alan.williams@manchester.ac.uk

Tel: 0161 275 3618 WLG11

Professor Williams is a specialist in the religion and culture of ancient and medieval Iran. He has written in particular on the Zoroastrian religion of ancient Iran. He is also interested in Islamic mystical literature and methodology in the study of religion.

Dr John Zavos

Senior Lecturer in South Asian Studies

E-mail: john.zavos@manchester.ac.uk

Tel: 0161-275-3835 WLG17

Dr Zavos takes a specialist interest in the relationship between religion and politics in South Asia, and in the South Asian Diaspora. He has worked extensively on the development of the Hindu nationalist movement, and its relationship over time with the Hindu tradition. Most recently he has been involved in an inter-disciplinary project investigating the development and significance of strategies of political mobilisation based around issues of culture in South Asia.

Programme Aims and Outcomes

The Department offers five MA programmes:

- 1) MA Religions and Theology
- 2) MA Biblical Studies
- 3) MA Jewish Studies
- 4) MA Religion & Political Life
- 5) MA South Asian Studies

All MA programmes are for 180 credits and may be studied full-time over one year, or part-time over

two years. All comprise a core course, three elective courses and a dissertation of 12,000 – 15,000 words.

The generic aims of the MA programmes are:

- a) To provide multi-disciplinary curricula informed by the research and scholarly activities of the teaching staff.
- b) To develop in students a critical understanding of religion and theology through a range of learning and teaching methods.
- c) To equip students with the skills necessary to interpret primary and secondary sources and to make available appropriate language instruction, where feasible.
- d) To help students from diverse backgrounds progress through their programme by providing effective academic and pastoral support.
- e) To equip students for a variety of careers through subject specific knowledge, active engagement in their own learning and the development of analytical and other transferable skills.
- f) To provide a stimulating research environment through seminars, tutorials and programmes of guest lectures that will foster postgraduate study
- g) To develop skills in research and analysis that will foster postgraduate study.

The learning outcomes of the MA programmes are that on successful completion of the programme students will have:

- a) acquired an advanced knowledge of selected aspects of religion and theology
- b) developed an understanding of the methodological and theoretical issues involved in the advanced study of religion and theology
- c) actively engaged in their own learning through seminar work, one-to-one tutorials and giving presentations to groups of peers
- d) acquired an understanding of techniques applicable to their own research and developing scholarship

In addition to giving you knowledge of specific subjects, all the MA programmes are intended to help you develop certain skills – cognitive, practical/professional, transferable and affective. The tables at the end of course unit descriptions are there to give you a general indication of which courses will help you to develop which particular skills.

MA Religions and Theology

Programme aims:

- a) To provide graduates holding a first degree in Religious Studies, Theology or a closely related discipline the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the place of religion and theology in history and society.
- b) To provide graduates with degrees in other relevant disciplines the opportunity to study in depth aspects of religion and theology.
- c) To exemplify and promote an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of religion.

Programme learning outcomes. By the end of the programme students will normally:

- a) Have a sound knowledge of the major relevant primary and secondary sources for the study of at least two religions.
- b) Be able to analyse critically religious traditions from the standpoint of one or more of a number of different methodologies, e.g., textual, historical, theological/philosophical, sociological/anthropological.
- c) Have an informed awareness of how the study of religion and theology in an academic setting differs from the study of religion within the religious faith communities.
- d) Have acquired the research skills necessary to proceed to further research in the field of religion and theology.

Programme requirements:

- 1) A Core Course from one of the programmes below (30 credits) and three further taught courses (30 credits each) to be chosen from a list of courses approved for this programme.
- 2) A dissertation of 12,000 – 15,000 words (60 credits). Students are allowed to submit the dissertation after satisfying the examiners in their taught course units and receiving the agreement in principle to proceed to dissertation by successfully completing the Research Outline.

MA Biblical Studies

Programme aims:

- a) To provide graduates with a first degree in Biblical Studies, Religious Studies, Theology, or a related discipline the opportunity to further their study of the Bible through engagement with a range of texts in the original languages, wherever appropriate.
- b) To develop research skills which need to be acquired before further research in Biblical Studies can be undertaken.
- c) To attract recent graduates considering postgraduate study and to serve as in-depth training for those with an ongoing interest in the Bible.

Programme learning outcomes. By the end of the programme students will normally:

- a) Have mastered a range of library and bibliographical resources required for advanced work in Biblical Studies.
- b) Have acquired the skills needed to exegete critically primary sources.
- c) Have acquired a sufficient knowledge of either Greek or Hebrew or both to engage with Biblical texts in their original languages.
- d) Have engaged with aspects of the historical and archaeological contexts of Biblical texts.
- e) Have studied in depth one or more groups of ancient texts related to the Bible, e.g., the Ugaritic texts, the Apocrypha/Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, early Rabbinic literature, and Gnostic texts.

Programme requirements:

- 1) The programme's Core Course (30 credits) and three further taught courses (30 credits each) to be chosen from a list of courses approved for this programme.
- 2) A dissertation of 12,000 – 15,000 words. Students are allowed to submit the dissertation after satisfying the examiners in their taught course units and receiving the agreement in principle to proceed to dissertation by successfully completing the Research Outline.

MA Jewish Studies

Programme aims:

- a) To provide graduates in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, or in Religious Studies, with the opportunity to undertake advanced work in the field of Jewish Studies.
- b) To enable graduates in other relevant disciplines to develop their interest in Jewish Studies.
- c) To enable students with Yeshivah or seminary training, or from similar educational backgrounds, to engage in the academic study of Judaism.
- d) To provide essential interdisciplinary research training for students intending to proceed to further research in Jewish Studies.

Programme objectives. By the end of the programme students will normally:

- a) Have gained an overview of Jewish history and of the major issues in the academic study of Judaism in the main periods of Jewish history.
- b) Have studied a range of primary sources and learned how to analyse these sources critically.
- c) Have learned how to apply at least two academic methodologies (historical, legal, theological or sociological) to the study of Judaism.
- d) Have gained an understanding of how the academic study of Judaism differs from the study of Judaism within the faith community.
- e) Have acquired the skills necessary to proceed to further research in the field of Jewish Studies.

Programme requirements:

- 1) The programme's Core Course (30 credits) and three further taught courses (30 credits each) to be chosen from a list of courses approved for this programme.
- 2) A dissertation of 12,000 – 15,000 words. Students are allowed to submit the dissertation after satisfying the examiners in their taught course units and receiving the agreement in principle to proceed to dissertation by successfully completing the Research Outline.

MA Religion and Political Life

Programme Aims:

- a) To explore with graduates with a first degree in Religious Studies or Theology or a first degree in Government or Political Science the interdisciplinary field of Religion and Political Life.
- b) To provide essential interdisciplinary research training for students intending to proceed to doctoral research in Religion and Political Life.
- c) To foster among graduate students an awareness of the profound interrelationship between Religion and Politics.
- d) To produce students who have the knowledge, skills and attributes for progression into research and enquiry-focused professions and/or for further study at PhD level in the field of Religion and Political Life.

Programme Learning Outcomes. By the end of the programme students will normally have:

- a) acquired an critical understanding of key concepts and themes in the field of religion and political life

- b) acquired a knowledge of the various approaches to examining the relationship between Religion and Political life (theoretical, historical, anthropological, ethnographic, sociological methods, for example) and be able to evaluate them.
- c) acquired knowledge of the historical and continuing involvement of Religion in various forms of political culture.
- d) acquired the ability to analyse critically religious traditions or aspects thereof from the standpoint of their involvement with political life.
- e) acquired the necessary historical, conceptual and methodological foundations for further research in the field of Religion and Political Life.

Programme requirements:

- 1) The programme's Core Course (30 credits) and three further taught courses (30 credits each) to be chosen from a list of courses approved for this programme.
- 2) A dissertation of 12,000 – 15,000 words. Students are allowed to submit the dissertation after satisfying the examiners in their taught course units and receiving the agreement in principle to proceed to dissertation by successfully completing the Research Outline.

MA South Asian Studies

Programme Aims:

- a) provide graduates in Religious Studies, Social Sciences or History who have a specialist interest in South Asian Studies with an opportunity to undertake advanced work in this field.
- b) enable graduates in these and other relevant disciplines to develop their interest in South Asian Studies and enrich the present research culture.
- c) enable students to bring together historical, textual, sociological and ethnographic approaches to South Asian Studies [PgDip and MA only].
- d) offer a range of models of teaching, learning and assessment that reflects the diversity of the curriculum and of the student body.
- e) equip students with the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for progression into research and enquiry-focused professions and/or for further study at PhD level in the field of South Asian Studies [MA only].

Programme Learning Outcomes. By the end of the programme students will normally:

- a) understand continuities and discontinuities across South Asian traditions in South Asia and its diasporas.
- b) be able to appraise critiques of Orientalist study and analyse the effects of scholarship upon South Asian institutions and conceptions of 'religion'
- c) show, where appropriate, an awareness of the relationship between the academic study of South Asian traditions and their own professional and voluntary practice.
- d) have acquired the necessary historical, conceptual and methodological foundations for further research in South Asian Studies

Programme requirements:

- 1) The programme's Core Course (30 credits) and further taught courses (totalling 90 credits) to be chosen from a list of courses approved for this programme.
- 2) A dissertation of 12,000 – 15,000 words. Students are allowed to submit the dissertation after satisfying the examiners in their taught course units and receiving the agreement in principle to proceed to dissertation by successfully completing the Research Outline.

Programme Structure

MA Biblical Studies

When choosing the course units you wish to take you must ensure you choose:

- 180 credits – Full Time students
- 60 credits in the first year (including a core course) and 120 credits in the second year (including the Dissertation) – Part-time students

Helpful hints

- ✓ All courses are 30 credits unless stated otherwise
- ✓ The semester a course is taught in is identified by the last digit in the course code. A zero identifies the course unit is taught over both semesters.
- ✓ More information about each of the courses listed below can be found via the Humanities Course Unit Database: <http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/pg/>

Compulsory

RELT70001 Bible and Early Judaism in Context

RELT60000 Dissertation (60 credits)

Optional

RELT60231 New Testament in the Roman Empire

RELT60082 Magic in the Ancient Mediterranean World

RELT70992 Dead Sea Scrolls

CLAH60111 Living in the Roman Empire

CLAH64012 Greek Religion and Society

Note One – MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES COURSE UNITS

Staff in Middle Eastern Studies provide MA teaching in areas such as Islamic Studies, Rabbinic and some Modern Jewish Studies and study of Syriac Christianity (availability may vary). These are taught as Directed Reading units or language. You may take up to 60 credits of these, subject to the approval of your Programme Director and the Course Unit Director.

Note Two – FREE CHOICE

Courses are also available in other disciplines; you may take up to 30 credits from other subject areas in the University subject to the approval of your programme director and the course unit director.

Note Three – DIRECTED READING

You may be able to take up to 60 credits as Directed Reading course units (RELT60611/60612). This is subject to the approval of your programme director and is also subject to the agreement of the lecturer(s) concerned (who would be taking on extra, untimetabled teaching to do this).

Note Four – UNDERGRADUATE RELT CODED COURSES

In addition to your assessed courses above, you may attend further MA or undergraduate RELT coded courses, subject to the permission of the course unit director. If you wish to be assessed on the subject of an undergraduate course you should ask the course unit director if they are willing to offer

additional support and assessment (normally a 6000 word essay) for you to do a Directed Reading course (RELT60611/60612) on that subject, to be taken in conjunction with attendance at the undergraduate lectures. Among the undergraduate courses available are:

RELT20551 Gnosticism in Antiquity

RELT30701 Jewish-Christian-Muslim Controversies from the Earliest Time to the Middle Ages

RELT30961 Theology and Ethics of Paul

Note Five – BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

As part of MA Biblical Studies you must “demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of either Greek or Hebrew or both to engage with Biblical texts in their original languages”. You will show this by using knowledge of either Greek or Hebrew in your handling of text from the Bible (or other contemporary texts) in at least one of your assessed essays. To help prepare for this you may wish to attend one or more of the undergraduate courses in Biblical languages and texts. As above, if you wish to be assessed on an undergraduate course you should ask the course unit director if they are willing to offer additional support and assessment (normally a 6000 word essay) for you to do a Directed Reading course (RELT60611/12) on that subject to be taken in conjunction with attendance at the undergraduate lectures. Among the undergraduate courses available are:

RELT10120 New Testament Greek

RELT10140 Biblical Hebrew

RELT20150 New Testament in Greek II: Translation, Interpretation and Manuscripts

RELT20170 Biblical Hebrew Texts I

You may also take up to 60 credits of MA course units in Classical Greek or Latin e.g. CLAH70120.

Teaching in other languages (e.g. Aramaic, Coptic and Ugaritic) may be available less formally.

MA Jewish Studies

When choosing the course units you wish to take you must ensure you choose:

- 180 credits – Full Time students
- 60 credits in the first year (including a core course) and 120 credits in the second year (including the Dissertation) – Part-time students

Helpful hints

- ✓ All courses are 30 credits unless stated otherwise
- ✓ The semester a course is taught in is identified by the last digit in the course code. A zero identifies the course unit is taught over both semesters.
- ✓ More information about each of the courses listed below can be found via the Humanities Course Unit Database: <http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/pg/>

COMPULSORY

Core course (Choose one or both of the compulsory core courses)

RELT70001 Bible and Early Judaism in Context

RELT 70561 Jews among Christians and Muslims: Introduction and Methodology in Jewish Studies

RELT60000 Dissertation (60 credits)

Optional

RELT60131 The Holocaust in History

RELT60082 Magic in the Ancient Mediterranean World

RELT60142 Religion, Politics and the Media

RELT70992 Dead Sea Scrolls

RELT71122 Darwinism and Jewish Thought

Note One – MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES COURSE UNITS

Staff in Middle Eastern Studies provide MA teaching in areas such as Islamic Studies, Rabbinic and some Modern Jewish Studies and study of Syriac Christianity (availability may vary). These are taught as Directed Reading units or language. You may take up to 60 credits of these, subject to the approval of your Programme Director and the Course Unit Director.

Note Two -FREE CHOICE

Courses are also available in other disciplines; you may take up to 30 credits from other subject areas in the University e.g. History, subject to the approval of your programme director and the course unit director.

Note Three -DIRECTED READING

You may be able to take up to 60 credits as Directed Reading course units (RELT60611/60612). This is subject to the approval of your programme director and is also subject to the agreement of the lecturer(s) concerned (who would be taking on extra, untimetabled teaching to do this).

Note Four - UNDERGRADUATE RELT CODED COURSES

In addition to your assessed courses above, you may attend further MA or undergraduate RELT coded courses, subject to the permission of the course unit director. If you wish to be assessed on the subject of an undergraduate course you should ask the course unit director if they are willing to offer additional support and assessment (normally a 6000 word essay) for you to do a Directed Reading course (RELT60611/60612) on that subject, to be taken in conjunction with attendance at the undergraduate lectures. Among the undergraduate courses available are

RELT10140 Biblical Hebrew

RELT20170 Biblical Hebrew Texts I

RELT20611 Introduction to the History of Jewish-Christian Relations

RELT21111 Problems in Theology, Philosophy and Ethics: Evil

RELT30611 Consequences of the Holocaust on Western Societies and Jewish History

RELT30701 Jewish-Christian-Muslim Controversies from the Earliest Time to the Middle Ages

Teaching in Aramaic may be available less formally.

MA Religion and Political Life

When choosing the course units you wish to take you must ensure you choose:

- 180 credits – Full Time students
- 60 credits in the first year (including a core course) and 120 credits in the second year (including the Dissertation) – Part-time students

Helpful hints

- ✓ All courses are 30 credits unless stated otherwise
- ✓ The semester a course is taught in is identified by the last digit in the course code. A zero identifies the course unit is taught over both semesters.
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COMPULSORY

RELT70901 Religion and Civil Society

RELT60000 Dissertation (60 credits)

Optional

RELT60121 Studying South Asia

RELT60131 The Holocaust in History

RELT60231 New Testament in the Roman Empire

RELT70291 Religion and Politics in Modern India: the Development of Hindu Nationalism

RELT70561 Jews among Christians and Muslims: Introduction and Methodology in Jewish Studies

SALC72111 Writing, Power, Memory: The History of the Book in the Middle Ages

RELT60042 Religious Revivals in Britain

RELT60142 Religion, Politics and the Media

RELT60342 Contemporary Society and Politics in South Asia: Reason or Religion?

RELT71122 Darwinism and Jewish Thought

RELT71132 Religion and the Media in China: Faith, Society, Politics and Law

Note One – MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES COURSE UNITS

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Note Two - FREE CHOICE

Courses are also available in other disciplines; you may take up to 30 credits from other subject areas in the University, subject to the approval of your programme director and the course unit director.

Note Three - DIRECTED READING

You may be able to take up to 60 credits as Directed Reading course units (RELT60611/60612). This is subject to the approval of your programme director and is also subject to the agreement of the lecturer(s) concerned (who would be taking on extra, untimetabled teaching to do this).

Note Four - UNDERGRADUATE RELT CODED COURSES

In addition to your assessed courses above, you may attend further MA or undergraduate RELT coded courses, subject to the permission of the course unit director. If you wish to be assessed on the subject of an undergraduate course you should ask the course unit director if they are willing to offer additional support and assessment (normally a 6000 word essay) for you to do a Directed Reading course (RELT60611/60612) on that subject, to be taken in conjunction with attendance at the undergraduate lectures. Among the undergraduate courses available are:

RELT30272 From Religion to Politics

RELT30611 Consequences of the Holocaust on Western Societies and Jewish History

RELT30672 Radical Theologies

RELT30701 Jewish-Christian-Muslim Controversies from the Earliest Time to the Middle Ages

RELT31001 The Arab World and the West

MA Religions and Theology

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Helpful hints

- ✓ All courses are 30 credits unless stated otherwise
- ✓ The semester a course is taught in is identified by the last digit in the course code. A zero identifies the course unit is taught over both semesters.
- ✓ More information about each of the courses listed below can be found via the Humanities Course Unit Database: <http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/pg/>

COMPULSORY

Choose one or more core courses from the compulsory list in addition to the Dissertation.

RELT60121 Studying South Asia

RELT70001 Bible and Early Judaism in Context

RELT70901 Religion and Civil Society

RELT70561 Jews among Christians and Muslims: Introduction and Methodology in Jewish Studies

SALC72111 Writing, Power, Memory: The History of the Book in the Middle Ages

RELT60000 PG Dissertation (Mandatory) 60 credits

Optional

RELT60131 The Holocaust in History

RELT60231 New Testament in the Roman Empire

RELT60042 Religious Revivals in Britain

RELT60082 Magic in the Ancient Mediterranean World

RELT60142 Religion, Politics and the Media

RELT60302 Trinity and Incarnation in Modern Christian Thought

RELT60342 Contemporary Society and Politics in South Asia: Reason or Religion?

RELT70062 Questions in Indian Philosophy

RELT70291 Religion and Politics in Modern India: the Development of Hindu Nationalism

RELT70992 Dead Sea Scrolls

RELT71122 Darwinism and Jewish Thought

RELT71132 Religion and the Media in China: Faith, Society, Politics and Law

Note One – MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES COURSE UNITS

Staff in Middle Eastern Studies provide MA teaching in areas such as Islamic Studies, Rabbinic and some Modern Jewish Studies and study of Syriac Christianity (availability may vary). These are taught as Directed Reading units or language. You may take up to 60 credits of these, subject to the approval of your Programme Director and the Course Unit Director.

Note Two - FREE CHOICE

Courses are also available in other disciplines; you may take up to 30 credits from other subject areas in the University, subject to the approval of your programme director and the course unit director.

Note Three - DIRECTED READING

You may be able to take up to 60 credits as Directed Reading course units (RELT60611/60612). This is subject to the approval of your programme director and is also subject to the agreement of the lecturer(s) concerned (who would be taking on extra, untimetabled teaching to do this).

Note Four - UNDERGRADUATE RELT CODED COURSES

In addition to your assessed courses above, you may attend further MA or undergraduate RELT-coded courses, subject to the permission of the course unit director. If you wish to be assessed on the subject of an undergraduate course, you should ask the course unit director if he or she is willing to offer additional support and assessment (normally a 6000 word essay) for you to do a Directed Reading course (RELT60611/60612) on that subject, to be taken in conjunction with attendance at the undergraduate lectures.

MA South Asian Studies

When choosing the course units you wish to take you must ensure you choose:

- 180 credits – Full Time students
- 60 credits in the first year (including the core course) and 120 credits in the second year (including the Dissertation) – Part-time students

Helpful hints

- ✓ All courses are 30 credits unless stated otherwise
- ✓ The semester a course is taught in is identified by the last digit in the course code. A zero identifies the course unit is taught over both semesters.
- ✓ More information about each of the courses listed below can be found via the Humanities Course Unit Database: <http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/pg/>

COMPULSORY

RELT60121 Studying South Asia

RELT60000 Dissertation (60 credits)

Optional

RELT 70291 Religion and Politics in Modern India: the Development of Hindu Nationalism

SOCY60171 Society and Culture in South Asia (15 credits)

ULUH10010* Introduction to Urdu/Hindi Language and Culture

RELT60342 Contemporary Society and Politics in South Asia: Reason or Religion?

RELT70062 Questions in Indian Philosophy

RELT71132 Religion and the Media in China: Faith, Society, Politics and Law

HIST60262 Colonial Modernity and the Public Sphere

SOCY60152 Pakistan: State, Society and Culture (15 credits)

Note One - FREE CHOICE

Courses are also available in other disciplines; you may take up to 30 credits from other subject areas in the University, subject to the approval of your programme director and the course unit director.

Note Two - DIRECTED READING

You may be able to take up to 60 credits as Directed Reading course units (RELT60611/60612). This is subject to the approval of your programme director and is also subject to the agreement of the lecturer concerned (who would be taking on extra, untimetabled teaching to do this).

Note Three - UNDERGRADUATE RELT CODED COURSES

In addition to your assessed courses above, you may attend further MA or undergraduate RELT coded courses, subject to the permission of the course unit director. If you wish to be assessed on the subject of an undergraduate course you should ask the course unit director if they are willing to

offer additional support and assessment (normally a 6000 word essay) for you to do a Directed Reading course (RELT60611/60612) on that subject, to be taken in conjunction with attendance at the undergraduate lectures. Among the undergraduate courses available are:

RELT10222 Religion in Modern South Asian History

RELT10411 The World of Buddhism

RELT10642 Introduction to Muslim Societies

RELT21221 Story Telling in Indian traditions

RELT22111 Islamic Philosophy

RELT20262 Texts, Ritual and Practice in Mahayana Buddhism

RELT20291 Religion and Conflict in Late Colonial India

RELT30122 Islamic Mystical Traditions and Texts

RELT30431 The Ethics of Killing in Buddhism : Texts and Contexts

Note Four – LANGUAGES

*This Urdu course is a 20 credit undergraduate course. To gain 30 credits at MA, you must in addition write a 2500-3000 word MA level essay on a related topic. The essay must be negotiated with Jackie Hirst. If you are interested in registering for this course unit, please see Jackie Hirst in September. In addition, other languages such as Sanskrit may be available. If you are interested please discuss this with your Programme Director.

<http://www.ulc.manchester.ac.uk/languages/leap/urdu/>

Teaching and Learning

Most taught course units are small-group seminars. You will usually be expected to undertake preparatory reading for the seminars and, periodically, to lead all or part of a session. Assessment for course units is usually by writing of a 6000-word essay. However, you should check the documentation for the particular course unit.

You will prepare a proposal for your MA dissertation in January-February. However, it is often worth taking time during the first semester to discuss topics with possible supervisors, especially since some supervisors become 'booked up' fairly early in the academic year with as many dissertations as they can handle.

If you are having difficulties with any aspect of the classes or the assessment work, you should speak as soon as possible with the course lecturer, or your Programme Director, or the Postgraduate Taught Courses Officers (Peter Oakes/Michael Hoelzl) or with the School's Student Support Office. Help on study skills is also available in courses organised through the SAGE programme.

Self-Directed Learning

In addition to the elements of organised teaching and learning described above, you are expected to undertake your own programme of self-directed learning and skills acquisition. This may involve self-directed reading, languages, computer training, attendance at research seminars in other departments, visits to local galleries and museums, voluntary work on excavations or in arts institutions, and many other forms of encounter.

You are encouraged to record and reflect upon these activities in some form or another (e.g. a dedicated notebook or on computer). Particular attention might be paid to noting down difficult or stimulating ideas that prompt you to think about Religions and Theology in new (especially unexpected) ways. It will also be useful to produce commentaries on stimulating books, visits to museums or archaeological sites etc. Such self-directed learning will help you to develop intellectual independence, confidence and creativity.

Style Guidance for Religions and Theology MA Students

You should use one of the professionally recognised citation systems that are in use in Religions and Theology publishing. The most convenient system in many cases is the 'notes and bibliography' system of the Chicago Manual of Style. This can be found in various places such as http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

Appendix 1 - The MA Research Outline

Successful completion of the Research Outline is the compulsory pre-requisite for the completion of the MA dissertation. Students are required to submit a written Research Outline (see key dates) and then present their Research Outline as a formal oral presentation followed by discussion and verbal feedback from their supervisor and peers. Presentations are arranged by the MA Programme Director or Postgraduate Officer in your discipline.

We strongly recommend that students should make contact with one or more members of the academic staff with appropriate experience in their chosen field for advice and feedback on the proposed research before submitting the written proposal. Contact details and research interests are provided in the subject area section of this handbook.

Aims:

- To help structure the second semester of the MA leading to the writing of a significant research-based dissertation
- To invite students to plan their project in a concise manner with a clear timetable and concrete attainable research objectives
- To enable students to present orally and in written form their research ideas in order to enable them to obtain rapid feedback at an early stage
- To give students the opportunity to develop skills in research design, project management and other transferable skills essential for their future career
- To help students considering further research to draft a potential funding application

Intended Outcomes:

- a well defined research question
- a clear awareness of sources available to address the question
- a clear awareness of the methodological issues that need to be addressed in the research
- a clear awareness of research planning and timetabling
- correct use of bibliographical conventions applied in the discipline

The Written Research Outline

Written Research Outlines should be submitted following the same guidelines as for other pieces of course-assessed work.

The research outline must consist of a core document of 500-750 words followed by an appendix. The core document should state clearly:

- Your reasons for undertaking this project

- The research problems or questions you intend to address
- The research context in which those problems or questions are located. In describing the context, you should refer to the current state of knowledge and any recent debate on the subject.
- The particular contribution to knowledge and understanding in this area that you hope to make. You should explain why the work is important. The fact that an area has not been studied previously is not, in itself, a reason for doing it.
- The methods and critical approaches that you plan to use to address the problems or questions you have set. We don't just need to know what you are going to work on, we need to know how you plan to go about it

In the appendix you should provide supporting information:

- A brief breakdown of the chapters or sections of the thesis (1 page maximum)
- A timetable of research and writing (1 page maximum)
- Additional training and preparation you may need, indicating any ethical issues which may arise and could require clearance from the Ethical Committee (1 page maximum)
- A working bibliography of sources that you intend to use. In the case of unpublished or rare materials you will need to state where these sources are located and how these will be accessed. For example, if you are undertaking an archaeology project, do you need a permit to access a particular site and how will this be obtained? It is sometimes helpful to put forward alternative strategies or approaches if you are aware that problems might arise. (2 pages maximum)

The Oral Presentation and Feedback

The oral presentation should be no more than 5 minutes in length and concentrate on the context of the question and clearly defining the methodology to be employed. Images and video or sound clips may be used in support of your presentation, but students are strongly discouraged from using unnecessary powerpoint or OHP slides in their presentation.

The presentation will take place in a small group as arranged by the Programme Director.

Discussion and feedback of issues arising from the Research Outline will follow the presentation. This feedback is an opportunity for students to assess the validity of their project in terms of aims and methodology and represents the beginning of supervised guidance.

Guidance for the Assessment of the Research Outline

The Research Outline is marked on a pass/refer basis: it is not given a numerical mark and in that sense does not contribute towards your overall degree result. A successful Research Outline will contain all the elements specified above, and will demonstrate satisfactorily that this is a viable project capable of being brought to completion in the time available. Successful completion of the Research Outline results in an agreement in principle to proceed to the dissertation. Students who do not achieve the agreement in principle will be allowed to resubmit the research outline up until the final submission date for semester two coursework. Re-submissions can be made at any time before that date and, in agreement with the potential supervisor, students can re-submit as many times as they wish before the final deadline. All submissions and re-submissions should be made to the Taught Programmes office.

A final fail will be recorded if the outline remains grossly inadequate on re-submission or if the student has failed to submit a research outline. Failing to resubmit the research outline will result in the student being ineligible to submit a dissertation.

Appendix 2 – Key Dates

Key Dates for Full Time Students

Semester One Interim Coursework
Tuesday 30th October 2012

Semester One Coursework
Tuesday 15th January 2013

Submission of Written Research Outline
Tuesday 19th February 2013

Semester Two Coursework
Tuesday 14th May 2013

Semester Two Coursework – with performance element
Tuesday 28th May 2013

Resubmitted Coursework
Friday 16th August 2013

MA Dissertation Submission
Monday 2nd September 2013

Key Dates for Part Time Students

NOTE FOR FIRST YEAR PART TIME STUDENTS: All submission dates in your second year will be confirmed in the 2013-14 handbook. All assessment below is required, but some only in your second year.

Semester One Interim Coursework
Tuesday 30th October 2012

Semester One Coursework
Tuesday 15th January 2013

Submission of Written Research Outline
September 2012 starters – Tuesday 19th February 2013
September 2013 starters – to be confirmed in 2013-14 handbook

Semester Two Coursework
Tuesday 14th May 2013

Semester Two Coursework – with performance element
Tuesday 28th May 2013

Resubmitted Coursework
Friday 16th August 2013

MA Dissertation Submission
September 2011 starters – Monday 2nd September 2013
September 2012 starters – to be confirmed in 2013-14 handbook

Late Submission

Any assessed coursework submitted after the deadline (5pm on the day of submission) without good cause will incur a penalty determined by the lateness of its arrival:

- **ten marks will be deducted for the first day after the deadline**
- **ten additional marks will be deducted for each day thereafter (including weekends)**

If you are registered on units outside of the School, you should ensure that you are aware of the penalties that will be imposed for late course work submission for that School. Schools may operate different penalty schemes for late submission.

Appendix 3 Marking criteria

80 - 90%	Exemplary work, highly accurate, innovatively analytical and critical, demonstrating rigorous and insightful judgement, thoroughly original approaches and an innovative and illuminating use of sources. This work indicates a student doing work in the highest range of the distinction profile and deserving to be considered for eventual publication.
75 - 80%	Excellent work, very accurate, demonstrating highly analytical style and approach with deeply insightful judgement, original critical approach and a thoroughly illuminating use of sources. This work indicates a student doing work within a mid-distinction profile and approaching publication standards.
70 - 75%	Excellent work, mainly accurate, showing clear evidence of comprehensiveness, soundness of judgement, focus, analytical powers, insight, critical depth, and (where relevant) illuminating use of sources. This work indicates a student doing work within a distinction profile.
60 - 69%	Work that is mainly accurate, based on good reading, sound in its judgements, comprehensive in coverage, effective (where relevant) in its use of sources, in charge of its own arguments, well-presented, and exhibiting, especially at the top end, a degree of depth and imagination.
50 - 59%	A Pass at Masters' level, showing a sufficient grasp of the issues and reading of a sufficient range of relevant material. In argument and presentation, the work will demonstrate accuracy, coherence, consistency some critical and analytical ability, and (where relevant) adequate use of sources, but lack depth and imagination.
40 - 49%	A Pass at Diploma level, showing a basic grasp of the issues posed, evidence of reading in relation to them, and coverage of their major aspects. The work may be descriptive in character and will lack the level of analysis and argument required as Masters' level. The presentation of the work will be consistent with academic writing conventions.

30 - 39%	The work is insufficient to pass at Diploma level, but sufficient to merit the right of resubmission. It is showing an elementary grasp of the issues posed, some evidence of reading in relation to them and some coverage, albeit incomplete of their major aspects. The work is primarily descriptive but incompletely so or crudely analytical in character and does not construct a fully cogent argument. The presentation will be partially consistent with academic writing conventions.
20 - 29%	The work is not deserving of the right of resubmission. It is not showing even elementary grasp of the issues, the reading will be limited or irrelevant. The work is neither a cogent narrative or descriptive piece of nor a structured argument. The presentation may not be consistent with academic writing conventions. There may be variations in the poor quality of standards displayed at this level.
10 - 19%	Should be reserved to work displaying ignorance of the most basic scholarly and academic conventions. Marks below 10 will be reserved for totally vacuous submissions (no submission or incoherent prose).