



## MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture

### FURTHER INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

Please read the following carefully.

#### Dates and Times

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

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

All taught modules are worth 20 credits. Students are expected to complete the one Core Module (compulsory) and five Optional Modules. With prior approval of the programme leader, students may also choose to take an Optional Module from another MA programme offered by Sarum College.

#### CORE MODULE 1

##### **Theology and Human Culture** (20 credits)

**Monday 24 – Thursday 27 October 2011**

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

#### OPTIONAL MODULES

The MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture offers an exceptionally wide range of Optional Modules. Each module runs every other year and the dates of the Optional Modules will be available two years in advance to help students plan their programme of study. For an up-to-date list of module dates, visit [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

**Available for 2011/12**

##### **Re-imagining Church in a Changing Culture** (20 credits)

**Monday 5 – Thursday 8 December 2011**

**Monday 26 – Thursday 29 November 2012**

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

world. Both the challenges facing the contemporary church, and the responses offered, will be critically examined, with particular reference to patterns of community, mission and ministry.

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

**Theology and Film (20 credits)**

**Monday 9 – Thursday 12 January 2012**

This course will explore the growing field of theology and film. Students will become conversant in the language and history of cinema, noting specifically the unique ways in which film uses technology, editing, framing, and sound to convey meaning. After a brief introduction to film studies, students will then explore the historical relationship between theology and film, with specific reference to the reception (ranging from prohibition to utilisation) of film by the Christian Churches. Students will spend considerable time looking at and studying selected films, allowing the student to develop the critical skills helpful for film interpretation and explore possible theological approaches to film criticism.

**God, Beauty and Imagination: Theological Aesthetics (20 Credits)**

**Monday 12 – Thursday 15 March 2012**

The aim of this course is to explore how God, beauty and the imagination have found expression in art, and how these themes have been reflected in theology. In so doing it will give an introduction to some major art-historical epochs and subjects and examine how artists have engaged with and have rendered Christian dogmas, such as the life, death and resurrection of Christ, the Trinity, Mary, etc. through various means from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. How to interpret works of art from a theological perspective will be a central feature in the course. Students will read and discuss relevant writings by contemporary and past theologians relating to themes in theological aesthetics, such as imagination, beauty, divine revelation, truth and meaning, and art as a *locus theologicus*.

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

**Monday 18 – Thursday 21 June 2012**

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

**Further modules:**

**Text, Interpretation and Imagination (20 Credits)**

**Monday 25 – Thursday 28 February 2013**

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

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

**Monday 8 – Thursday 11 April 2013**

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

**Reflective Practice (20 Credits) – co-validated with the MA in Faith Based Approaches to Leadership**

**Monday 9 – Thursday 12 January 2012**

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

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

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

### **Guided Reading Module (20 credits)**

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

### **Guided Artist Study Module (20 Credits)**

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

### **Research Skills Training**

3-5 October 2011

This 2 ½ day training session will provide students from across the Sarum College postgraduate academic programmes to further develop their research skills. Students will become familiar with a variety of research methodologies and techniques, become conversant in the regulations associated with the planning, research, writing, and submission of their dissertation, and engage in small group activities designed to support the initial stage of dissertation topic-selection and planning.

### **Additional Module Information**

All modules begin on Monday afternoon and then run from 9.30 am until 5.15 pm on each full day over the next three days. Students may be residential or non-residential. On the first afternoon there is an important induction session and the first class takes place on the Monday evening. On each of the following days there will be two classes in the morning and two in the afternoon, each lasting 1½ hours. Each intensive course will thus involve 20 classroom hours. In classroom sessions, learning will occur through a variety of methods, including lectures, discussion groups, and student-led seminars. During the residential portion of the course there will also be time for meeting with tutors and use of the library. There is an 80% attendance requirement at modules. Tutorial support (by visits, Skype, telephone or email) for each module will be available until the completion of the assessed written work. Students receive further support through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which will offer students access to key reading materials, discussion groups, module-specific knowledge bases, and formative assessment exercises. Each module is completed over a three month period: three weeks of pre-course reading; the intensive at Sarum College and a further two months to complete the assignments.

#### *Please note:*

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

### **How to choose your Optional Modules**

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

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

### **Attending Modules as General Study Courses (Auditing)**

All of the are available to participants who are not seeking academic credit. For this, no assessed work is needed. A separate rate of residential and non-residential fees will be available when individual courses are publicly advertised.

### **Library, Information Technology & Bookshop**

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

### **Fees and Methods of Payment for entry in 2011/12**

On accepting the offer of a place on the MA Programme, you will be asked to pay a non-refundable registration fee of £100 to secure your place.

The fee for each of the three years of the MA programme for students starting in autumn 2011 (or January 2012) is £1850 (£2700 non-EU students), so the total fee for three years excluding registration fee is £5550 (£8100 non-EU students).

Students usually complete the MA within three years. If they take longer than three years a further charge of £500 per year will be payable.

Fees are due 1<sup>st</sup> September each year (15<sup>th</sup> January for the January intake). There are three payment options available to pay in full or spread the payment of fees over the three years of the programme. If a student withdraws during the year the fees due will be either the cost of the number of individual modules/dissertation started or the cost of the number of academic years started, whichever is the greater.

The fees include: classroom teaching, supporting materials, essay and dissertation supervision, assessment of and feedback on written assignments, academic advice and support, research training, use of the Sarum and Winchester University libraries and word processing facilities, membership of the college research seminars, and administration.

The fee does not include meals or accommodation, for which a separate charge is made, which will be invoiced in advance of any module and payable four weeks before the start of the module. Modules can be taken on a residential or non-residential basis and the current prices are £147.00 (standard room) and £42.00 respectively. En-suite rooms and suites are available at extra cost but there is limited availability. The College regrets that it cannot refund meals or accommodation not taken up. These prices are reviewed at the beginning of July each year.

You may pay the fees for the programme by one of the following methods:

1. £5400 (£8000 non-EU students) paid in full **before** 1 September 2011 (15 January for a January 2012 start). Early payment attracts a £150 reduction.
2. £5550 (£8100 non-EU students) paid in full on 1 September 2011 (15 January for a January 2012 start).
3. £5550 (£8100 non-EU students) paid in three £1850 (£2700 non-EU students) annual payments due 1 September (15 January for a January 2012 start) each year (standing order authority required).
4. £5550 (£8100 non-EU students) paid in six £925 (£1350 non-EU students) payments on 1 September and 1 March of each year (15 January and 15 June for a January 2012 start) (standing order authority required).

Please make cheques payable to '**Sarum College**'. If you decide to pay by standing order you will be asked to complete a Standing Order Mandate.

### **Withdrawal from study**

If you withdraw from the course, you will be charged the full year's fees for the number of years of study that you have commenced, plus any additional modules over and above three modules in year one, six modules in year two and six modules and the dissertation in year three. The date of withdrawal will be the date of receipt of a formal notification of withdrawal by the validating university.

### **Period of study**

The fees are calculated on the basis that the Masters degree will be completed within three years of commencing the course, the Postgraduate Diploma will be completed within two years of starting the course and the Postgraduate Certificate will be completed within one year of starting the course. Students who take longer to complete their studies will be charged £500 (£750 non-EU students) per year of continuing study.

Continuation fees will be applied as follows:

- Postgraduate Certificate – continuing beyond 1 September 2012/15 January 2013.
- Postgraduate Diploma –continuing beyond 1 September 2013/15 January 2014.
- Masters – continuing beyond 30th June 2014/15 January 2015.

### **Audit Fees**

Students may attend modules in addition to those which they are studying for credit, by permission of the Programme Leader. The hospitality rates will be the usual student rates £190 (residential, en-suite) and £42 (non-residential), with an added administration fee of £20. Please note that students must give clear information on whether they are attending modules as part of their accredited study in advance of attendance. Should the module be oversubscribed, preference will be given to students taking the module for credit.

### **Application Procedure**

Application for the course is made through the written application form. Interviews are normally held in the winter and spring before the commencement of the course. Candidates will be notified by the Academic Administrator when a suitable time has been arranged. After interview the Programme Committee will consider all applications and students will be notified of their decision as soon as possible after that meeting. Owing to the demand for places, on being offered a place we require that students send us a £100 non-refundable deposit to secure their place. The course will run subject to satisfactory student recruitment.

### **Students with Disabilities and/or Special Needs**

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

### **Non-UK/EU students**

At present, Sarum College is not able to accept students from out with the UK/EU to study on any of our academic programmes, unless these students have already been granted the right to remain in the UK by the UK Border Agency. Students from outside the UK must provide evidence of their legal right to live and study in the UK prior to being accepted on this course. Sarum College is presently pursuing accreditation with the UK Border Agency to support international students and will amend this policy in the future.

