MA in Christian Spirituality
Validated by the University of Winchester

PROGRAMME INFORMATION SHEET 2020/21

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

Most students will begin the MA in October. 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 in the spring term of their second year of study, prior to beginning their dissertation.

All taught modules are worth 20 credits. Students are expected to complete the two Core Modules (compulsory) and four Optional Modules. This may include any one module from another Sarum MA programme.

For a list of module dates, please refer to the 'Academic Diary 2020-21' document.

Hospitality (all current prices are available on the college website see Fees and Schedule of Payment 2020-2021)
Students are not required to stay at Sarum College during a Module, or take up any of the meals. Note: all fees and prices will be reviewed at the beginning of July each year

The residential charge (whether en-suite or standard) covers: bed and breakfast from Monday to Thursday, lunch from Tuesday to Thursday and supper from Monday to Wednesday, plus refreshments throughout. The non-residential charge covers: supper on Monday, lunch Tuesday to Thursday, plus refreshments throughout.

As noted above, students can opt out of the hospitality element entirely and are very welcome to bring in their own meals and refreshments.

MA in Christian Spirituality – Description of Modules

CORE MODULE 1

Foundations and Forms of Christian Spirituality (20 Credits)
The module introduces students to the nature of Spirituality in the Christian tradition until the end of the eighteenth century. It examines a number of spiritual traditions within Christianity and enables students to place these in their historical and philosophical contexts. Students will become aware of the problems we face in matters of interpretation when dealing with classical spiritual texts and will be encouraged to apply a range of interpretative methods to the texts to which they will be introduced.

CORE MODULE 2

The Nature of Contemporary Spirituality (20 Credits)
The module introduces students to the nature of Spirituality in the Christian tradition from the nineteenth century to the present day. Students will investigate the proliferation of Christian spiritualities in this period and consider the impact of modernity, postmodernity, feminism and political theology on contemporary conceptions of Christian Spirituality. Students will also investigate the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of academic responses to Christian Spirituality (in relation to literature, psychology, film etc), and the extent to which these extend the taxonomy of the discipline.

OPTIONAL MODULES

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

Art Belief and Spirituality (20 credits)

This module explores the relationship between Christian art, experience, beliefs and practice, examining this relationship within a comparative, historical and contemporary perspective. The module acquaints students with the main theological, sociological and aesthetic dimensions of Christian art, heightening awareness of the links between aesthetic and spiritual experience.

Contemporary Christian Spirituality (20 credits)

The overall aim of this module is to consider various significant encounters and confrontations in contemporary Christian Spirituality. Areas examined include contemporary Christian spirituality and feminism, interreligious dialogue (Islam, Hinduism, contemporary paganism), atheism, race and environmentalism. [Please note: this module may focus more narrowly or be divided into two distinct modules prior to its next iteration]

Embodying Wisdom (20 credits)

This module introduces students to key modern philosophical and psychological thinking relevant to contemporary spirituality. The teaching focuses on modern ideas and practices of **'experience', 'self', 'discourse' and 'embodiment' that signal their close relationships** – both

positive and negative – to historic Western and Christian spirituality. Here, human selfhood appears radically conditioned by 'others' that may or may not be divine: by the body, by the unconscious, by temporality, by discourse, by desire, by gender-difference, and/or by givenness that perhaps precedes and even precludes knowledge. Behind the module also lie wider questions of whether and how sapiential and participative spiritual traditions might survive – perhaps equivocally or under multiple questioning – within contemporary living and thinking.

Mass Culture: Theological Engagement and Mass Culture (co-validated with the MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture) (20 credits)

This module considers the phenomenon of mass consumer, technological and media mediated culture as the backdrop to spirituality and 'doing' theology in our age. Students will explore and analyse new patterns and habits of leisure and lifestyle in relation to older classical ideas of the same with its inherent relation to the dynamic of spiritual life. The module will also examine ways in which many aspects of mass culture mimic religious modes of orchestrating emotion and producing identity, examining the writings of sociologists, social anthropologists, social critics and theologians that seek to address and/or interpret this situation. The module will trace the emergence of different ways of interpreting the phenomenon of the 'modern'; especially the different and diverse ways in which mass culture has been understood throughout the genesis and development of modern culture with its central reliance on science and technology. Particular attention will be paid to various key elements of the mass media and what is referred to as digital culture, as well as globalization, new developments in information technology and what has become known as trans/or post-humanism.

Medieval Spirituality (20 credits)

This module will encourage students to evaluate Western Medieval schools of Spirituality. It will examine the role of women in this period and evaluate their contribution to the Mysticism and politics of the period. Students will be encouraged to assess the impact of the Crusades on the on-going relationship of Islam and Christianity. The module will highlight the legacy of this period to the Churches in our day.

Pastoral Ministry and Christian Spiritual Direction (20 credits)

This module enables students to explore approaches to pastoral ministry and spiritual direction within the Christian tradition. It presents them with different models of pastoral care and encourages them to reflect theologically on these models, placing them in their historical context. Students will explore issues of particular concern for pastoral ministry in the contemporary context and engage with non-theological disciplines that provide pastoral care. Students will be introduced to different approaches to spiritual direction within the Christian tradition. They will consider the differences between counselling and spiritual direction at the same time as providing tools for the beneficial integration of both disciplines. The module will help students articulate models of spiritual transformation and development. *It is important to note that this module is not a training course either in spiritual direction or in counselling.*

Relocating Religion: Cultural and Spiritual Realignments (co-validated with the MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture) (20 credits)

In a so-called 'secular age' has religion and more specifically Christian faith and belief simply disappeared from public view altogether? Do modern people no longer require the 'sacred canopy' of religion to feel at home in the world? Has the idea and practice of religion become so tarnished with notions of religious fundamentalism and extremism or institutional irrelevance and corruption that by and large, in Europe at least, most people leave it to a small minority of others to be religious on their behalf? Or is it the case that spirituality and religion have simply re-located elsewhere? Has popular culture become a more convenient and comfortable location for religion than our institutional churches? Do secular people now find religion in aesthetic experiences or in consumerism? Is it the new technologies of robotics, cybernetics and artificial intelligence where people locate religious motifs and future hopes? Or is secularism itself a by-product of Christian freedom and responsibility in the world? In this new module we will examine these and a range of other questions as we seek to examine the equivocation and uncertainty that now surrounds the modern experience and practice of religion in the 21st century.

Sexuality and Spirituality (20 credits)

Why is it that issues of sex, gender and sexuality can appear marginal or eccentric to the stuff of Christian spirituality? Perhaps it seems that they raise merely a series of important though regrettable "problems", to be resolved one way or another by a spiritual outlook that would actually prefer to hasten by. Take gender exclusion. Many today spy entrenched patriarchy as an impediment in Christian and other spiritualities, and these difficulties of justice are huge, pervasive and on going. But do sex and gender also matter in and of themselves? What might gendered embodiment signify, spiritually, in a world where biological sex is not actually a universal binary (some humans are intersex) and where gender identities are complex and multiple (including some who are transgender or do not identify strongly with any gender). Meanwhile, the churches are tearing themselves apart over gay relationships, clergy and marriage. But do sexual relationships themselves manifest spirituality? Can sexual intimacy – or, again, celibacy – be a paradigm of embodied "saving grace"? Rather than concentrate on discrete hot-potato issues, this module explores human sexed, gendered and sexually desirous embodiment as the inescapable site of all human spirituality. The module queries sexed and sexual normalcy, exploring both Christian tradition and present-day critical theory to enliven assumptions that might otherwise lie like a dead hand on contemporary spiritual and Christian imagination.

Western Christian Mysticism (20 credits)

This module gives students an overview of the historical development of the Western Christian Mystical tradition, and identifies and analyses key historical figures and movements within that tradition. Students will be encouraged to examine both apophatic and cataphatic strands of the mystical tradition, and aspects of the English strand of the tradition will be explored. The distinctive contribution of the Spanish Mystics to the Western mystical tradition will be analysed and their relevance for contemporary psychology and spirituality assessed.

Guided Reading Module (20 credits)

This module provides the student with an opportunity to engage with a topic of their choice. Tutors are assigned according to expertise and guided reading is provided. The amount of tutorial time is increased as there are no lectures.

MA Students are reminded that they may also choose one module from outside of MACS in another Sarum MA, or they may be allowed to take a suitable module from an MA in another institution.

Independent Study Skills Training (not for credit but all students are expected to attend)

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

Dissertation (60 Credits)

This module allows students to research in depth, in consultation with a designated supervisor, a topic of their own choosing, documenting it appropriately and putting into practice, in a sustained piece of work, the research methods and skills they have developed. The preliminary stage of writing a proposal is supported by the Dissertation Skills Training course (see above).

Additional Module Information
The teaching component of each module begins on Monday* afternoon and then runs from 9.15 am until 5.15 pm on each full day over the next three days, finishing at 3pm on the Thursday afternoon. Students may be residential or non-residential. Each intensive course will involve 20 classroom hours. In classroom sessions, learning will occur through a variety of methods, including lectures, discussion groups, and student-led seminars. During this residential portion of the module there will also be time for meeting with tutors and use of the library. Tutorial support (by visits, video-call, 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 (SarumLearn) which will offer students access to key reading materials, discussion groups, module-specific knowledge bases, and formative assessment exercises.

Each taught module (20 Credits) is completed over a 13-week period: four weeks of pre-course reading; the week of the intensive residential at Sarum College and a further eight weeks to complete the assignment(s).

*Except in the instance of a bank holiday week, and not in the case of the Dissertation Research Skills Training

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

How to choose your Optional Modules
Please note that in addition to the Core (Compulsory) Modules, four Optional Modules are needed to complete the taught part of the MA course and progress to the Independent Study or complete your studies with a Postgraduate Diploma. These may be obtained in the following ways.

1. Choosing four of the Optional Modules offered in the Christian Spirituality programme at Sarum College.
2. Substituting one Optional Module from one of the three other MA programmes at Sarum College.

Students may only take one external Optional Module (from another of the Sarum MA programmes) and this must be agreed by the relevant Programme Leaders.

Attending Modules as General Study Courses (normally referred to as Auditing)
Students may attend modules in addition to those which they are studying for credit, by permission of the Programme Leader. 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.
Note: all fees and prices will be reviewed at the beginning of July each year

Library and Information Technology
Registered MA students will have membership of the College library for the duration of their course. They will also have access, when the College is open, to the IT facilities.

Fees and Methods of Payment
Please see the separate document 'Fees and Schedule of Payment 2020/21' for full information about fees and payment methods.

Withdrawal from Study
Students withdrawing from the course will be charged the full year's fees for the number of years of study that have been commenced, plus any additional modules over and above three modules in year 1, six modules in year 2 and six modules and the dissertation in year 3. The date of withdrawal will be the date of receipt of a formal notification of withdrawal by Sarum College.

Period of Study
The fees are calculated on the basis of 3 years of study.

If you wish to extend your period of study beyond the three years (i.e. beyond 1st September) of the MA there will be a charge per years of agreed extension.

Application Procedure
Application for the course is made through the written application form. Please refer to the Application Checklist at the back of the Application Form for full instruction on requirements. Interviews are normally held in the spring and summer before the commencement of the course. Candidates will be notified by the Academic Administrator when a suitable time has been arranged. We require a registration fee to secure a place on the programme. 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
Students from outside the EU/EEA who seek no financial support nor UK residency may be eligible to apply for postgraduate study at Sarum. Please discuss your circumstances with the Director of Academic Development.

Academic Administrator, June 2020