



Sarum College
CATHEDRAL CLOSE, SALISBURY

Exploring Theology

Living with the Bible & Belief

Exploring Theology is Sarum College's two-year flagship foundational programme, open to anyone who wishes to delve deeper into the world of theology and biblical studies outside of a formal degree programme.

It is online only, each term stands alone, and students can join for any or all of them.

“Forty years sitting in the pew
and I was never taught any of this!”



Who is the course for?

Exploring Theology students come from diverse backgrounds and can join from anywhere in the world.

Some are exploring a vocation to ministry, others are spiritual seekers who find the church doesn't always go deep enough. Some want a taster of what academic theological study might feel like.

The course is for anyone who has ever wondered:

- Where did all of the Church's doctrines and theologies come from?
- What does the Bible have to say to me today, especially when there is so much division and disagreement about it?
- What have various church disagreements over the centuries been about? Are they still important?
- How do people make sense of God in a world of suffering and violence?
- What is liberation theology and why are there so many different types?
- What are feminist, black, and post-colonial theologies saying and why?
- How am I called to live as a person of faith in this world?



I cannot emphasise enough how much this course is helping me challenge, develop and engage with theologies, and with God, in a much deeper way than I have ever had.

**tough
questions,
great
conversations
& no easy
answers.**



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How does the course work?

Exploring Theology is a two-year course, but it is designed so that students can join at any time.

Year A focuses on Exploring the Bible, serving to equip students with knowledge and tools to read and encounter the scriptures faithfully and fruitfully in their own lives.

Year A has three terms:

- Exploring the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
- Exploring the New Testament
- Living with the Bible

Year B focuses on Exploring Christian Belief, serving to help students see the bigger picture of developments and themes within the Christian tradition.

Year B also has three terms:

- Exploring Christian History of Belief
- Exploring Modern Developments in Theological Conversations
- Living out the Christian Faith

Each term is ten sessions delivered online via zoom on Tuesday evenings from seven to nine. Each week's lecturer is selected for their specific expertise, with Sarum's Programme Director providing facilitation and continuity. Sessions consist of a lecture, a break, time for questions and discussion, then an immersive discussion based on a pre-set biblical or primary source text that illuminates the week's theme.

All reading and session details are available on the College's online learning platform, SarumLearn, which is accessible to registered students on a termly basis. Reading is assigned for each session and core texts are identified for students who wish to study further.

All sessions are recorded for those who are unable to join live.



“ I have taken the opportunity to complete the optional written assignments each term, and as someone who has not done any previous work in academic theology, this has given me the confidence to know that I could complete a degree.

Programme Academic Staff

Alison Webster
Programme Leader

Sarum College Library

The library stock covers philosophy, theology, ethics, spirituality, liturgy, church history, world religions and culture. There are three rooms with space to study, write and read.

“ I feel biblically and theologically better equipped to undertake ministry training, and feel that these courses will be something I return to frequently and from which I will continue to learn and grow.

Ways to join and costs

The cost is £95 per term; £190 if you write essays.

The essay writing option

If you opt to write the essays, you will receive an Assignments Handbook that details essay options, resources, guidance and marking criteria.

- Membership of Sarum Library for the whole academic year (£30 for others on Exploring Theology)
- Marginal and summative comments on each essay, and a mark to first-year undergraduate marking criteria
- One-to-one tutorial (30 minutes)
- Two essay-writing skills sessions

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