



UNIVERSITY
of
OTAGO
Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo
NEW ZEALAND

Department of Theology and Religion
University of Otago

**Course on Church in Mission: Theology in Changing Cultures
(PAST320/MINS412)**

by Rev Dr Doug Gay and Rev Dr Steve Taylor

From 22-26 January, 2017, Doug Gay of the University of Glasgow, and Steve Taylor of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership will teach an intensive course in Dunedin entitled: *Church in Mission: Theology in Changing Cultures*. The course is jointly offered by the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago, and the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership.

The paper offers a theologically rigorous and culturally informed understanding of re-forming Christian communal identity. It will bring together perspectives of global theology, contemporary cultures and ecclesial study in a critical and constructive dialogue.

Doug Gay joined Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow in October 2005 after PhD studies in New College, Edinburgh under Will Storrar and David Fergusson. He holds an MA degree in Modern History and International Politics from the University of St Andrews and a BD from the University of Glasgow. Doug is an ordained minister who trained for ministry in the Church of Scotland and worked as a Church of Scotland minister for two years, before spending six years working in Hackney, East London as a minister of the United Reformed Church. He has worked as a religious columnist for *The Times* and is also active as a hymnwriter and liturgist.

Steve Taylor is Principal of Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership. He holds a PhD from University of Otago and an MTheol degree from University of Auckland. He has been a church planter and church minister for 16 years, with a particular focus on innovative and emerging forms of church. He has previously lectured for Laidlaw College, Uniting College for Leadership and Theology and Flinders University and as an Adjunct Lecturer at Carey Baptist College, Fuller Theological Seminary, Tabor College, University of Otago and Charles Sturt University. He is a film reviewer for Touchstone and columnist for Zadok, is known for creative worship and gained a Flinders University Vice-Chancellors Excellence in Teaching Award in 2015.

For further information about Doug go to:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/staff/douglasgay/>

For further information about Steve go to:

<http://knoxcentre.ac.nz/about-us/staff>

The course will have eight modules:

- 1) Being church in context: Theology
- 2) Being church in context: Culture
- 3) Mapping cultural hermeneutics
- 4) Critical voices 1: Church in resistance
- 5) Critical voices 2: Church in innovation
- 6) Critical voices 3: Church in indigeneity
- 7) Leading change: Agency
- 8) Leading change: Systems

The course can be undertaken in two ways:

- You can enrol with the Department of Theology and Religion, and take the course as either PAST 320 or MINS 412. The former can be credited to a BTheol or Diploma for Graduates, the latter for a Postgraduate Diploma of Ministry or a Master of Ministry, or for the Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma in Chaplaincy or the Master of Chaplaincy, or the paper can be taken as a ‘Certificate of Proficiency’ and credited to a qualification at a later point. The cost is yet to be set, but the cost for PAST 320 in 2017 is \$852 (+ sundry fees) and for MINS 412 is \$1,287 (+ sundry fees) and fees will increase a little in 2018. To enrol go to www.otago.ac.nz and click on ‘Study at Otago Apply Online’.

This is a Semester 1 paper – with assessment from February to May – but all the teaching occurs in 22-26 January, 2018.

For further details contact Paul Trebilco, Department of Theology and Religion
paul.trebilco@otago.ac.nz or 03 4798 798

OR

- You can attend the course as an audit student by contacting the [Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership](#). This will cost \$500, with further Ministers Study Grant subsidies available for PCANZ ministers. Under this option, you would not do any assessment, and the paper would not be credited to a qualification, but it would count as ongoing professional development for PCANZ.

To register for this option, contact: [The Registrar, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership; registrar@knoxcollege.ac.nz](#); 03 473 0783

The course can be undertaken in two locations:

- In Dunedin, at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, with Doug and Steve face-to-face and a face-to-face tutor to provide interaction and contextual reflection.
- In Auckland, with Doug and Steve streamed in via video and a face-to-face tutor to provide interaction and contextual reflection.

For ministers of the PCANZ who are in Good Standing and have appropriate Presbytery approval concerning study leave, study grants amounting to 50% of course fees can be applied for at application.

For Korean speakers, the use of a tutor fluent in English and Korean is being investigated.

More details on Course Content

Being church in context: Theology

An introduction to the topic, using a theological lens to theorise the relationship between church and context. An examination of the forms by which the church is visible in different global contexts. Case studies will emphasise the diversity of the global expressions, both synchronic and diachronic, of the church in the complexity of ecclesial reform.

Being church in context: Culture

The assumption is that the church exists concretely in time and space. This brings into focus a variety cultural lens in helping theorise the relationship between church and context. Literature from ecclesiology and ethnography will be introduced.

Mapping cultural hermeneutics

An examination of a range of tools by which culture might be exegeted and the church as visible might be understood. The value of cultural studies and the role of empirical approaches to human research will be outlined.

Critical voices 1: Church in resistance

At times in history, a key role of the church has understood itself as needing to resist and subvert culture. A set of case studies will be used to uncover the sociological and theological factors at play in order to clarify the potential and pitfalls of the church as resistance.

Critical voices 2: Church in innovation

At times in history, the church has been encouraged to understand innovation as essential to identity. Case studies of the church entering new contexts will be examined, in order to appreciate strengths and weaknesses of ecclesial innovation.

Critical voices 3: Church in indigeneity

The interaction between Christianity and indigenous cultures has provided rich insight. Case studies, with particular attention to New Zealand and the Pacific Rim will be examined in clarifying the impact of cross-cultural exchange in liminal spaces.

Leading change: Agency

Participating in ecclesial reform and reimagination raises individual identity questions, including for those in ministry and leadership roles. Key spiritual practices and frameworks will be examined, with time for individual integration.

Leading change: Systems

This module will examine the impact of ecclesial reform and reimagination on the church as concrete. It will pay attention to the impact of change on systems and communal networks and offer guidance to those in ministry and leadership roles.