

Postgraduate Certificate in Theology (PGCertTh)

level 8, 60 credits



Flexible Study Options

Postgraduate taught courses involve block-mode lectures, allowing for those outside of the Auckland region to take part. If a student's situation prevents them from being able to come to campus to attend in-person, they can seek approval from the Postgraduate Lead to attend the lectures via zoom.

**Note that, apart from R351, Postgraduate courses do not have a Distance Learning option - live engagement in the lectures is a necessary part of postgraduate study at Laidlaw.*

The PGCertTh caters for:

- Those who have successfully completed a recognised undergraduate degree in theology or Christian ministries or have qualifications which, in the judgement of the Postgraduate Committee (PGC), are of an equivalent standard. A grade point average of 7.0 (B) in courses of the qualifying undergraduate programme equivalent to NZQA Levels 6 and 7 is required.
- Those who hold a recognised Bachelor's level degree in a discipline other than theology who have successfully completed a bridging programme of theological study such as those provided by Laidlaw College and other theological institutions or as approved by the PGC. Bridging requirements may be satisfied wholly or partly by credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning.

Programme Requirements

The PGCertTh is a one semester full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate certificate programme. It is made up of two Level 8 courses of 30 credits each.

Courses

Any two 30-credit taught courses at Level 8.

2024 Fees

2024 fees will be confirmed in October 2023.

On completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Theology Laidlaw College graduates will:

1. Evaluate critically a wide spectrum of literature in each of the coursework areas and in the areas of the research undertaken.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the issues of debate in each of these areas.
3. Give a fair and informed account of representative points of view in each subject area.
4. Utilise sound hermeneutical principles in contextualising biblical theology within the subject area studies.
5. Demonstrate advanced skills of research, critical analysis and constructive synthesis and application so as to make a significant contribution to knowledge in their area of specialisation.
6. Reflect on the professional, ethical, and relational implications of their study for ministry in the modern world.



Laidlaw Postgraduate Courses 2024

Semester One 2024

R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

Dr Terry Pouono and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden
20-23 February | 9am - 5pm
2-5 April | Wed-Thurs 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 1:30pm
Writer's Workshop (Optional but highly recommended)
3 May | 9am - 5pm

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting-edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

R223.830 THEOLOGY AND MEDIA

Dr Stephen Garner
4-8 March | 9.30am - 12.30pm
13-17 May | 9.30am - 12.30pm

This course critically examines key areas of religious communication including the coverage of religion by mass media, how religious communities interact with the media, and how mass media shape perceptions of religion. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the interaction between Christianity and media, in the complex cultural landscapes that exist within Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

R512.830 FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY SUPERVISION

Rev. Dr David Crawley and Rev. Dr Karen Kemp
13 - 15 March | 9.30am - 4.30pm
6-10 May | 9.30am - 4.30pm

This is the first of two courses which together comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). It examines the nature and purpose of professional supervision, including its importance in people-related ministries. Several theoretical approaches to supervision will be evaluated and participants will reflect critically on theological, ethical, and cultural dimensions of offering supervision in their own contexts.

Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PG CertTh (Ministry Supervision). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.

R514.830 THE ETHICS OF EMBODIMENT*

Rev. Dr Myk Habets
12-18 April | 9.30am - 4.30pm

Unlock the complexities of bio-medical ethics from robust Christian foundations in our thought-provoking and captivating course designed to explore the most pressing moral dilemmas of our time. In a rapidly advancing medical landscape, it's crucial for professionals, pastors, and individuals alike to grapple with the ethical challenges surrounding issues such as euthanasia, abortion, organ donation, end-of-life decisions, disability, public policy, and more.

R154.830 ROMANS AND THE MISSION OF GOD

Rev. Dr Mark Keown
29 April - 3 May | 9.30am - 4.30pm

This course explores Paul's letter to the Romans from a missional perspective. After considering a missional hermeneutic and engaging with critical scholarship on Romans, the letter will be located socially and historically in the mission of God and that of the Apostle. Consideration will be given to the genre and literary strategies of Romans in relation to the theme of "the gospel" and other themes. Paul's gospel behind and in the letter will be explored. Drawing on Romans, a range of missional themes will be investigated including the cosmic scope of mission and its completion, proclamation, the gospel as the power of salvation, missional agency, the miraculous, social justice, ecological mission, social transformation, patronage and hospitality, the sovereignty of God and human volition, prayer, the State, culture, Israel, theology, and apologetics

R801.830 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR EDUCATION IN AOTEAROA

Sam Burrows
17 - 19 April | 9.30am - 4.30pm

In this course students will engage in biblical theology and make links to the cultural landscapes in the educational context of Aotearoa. The course will provide an opportunity to engage in discussion around Christian theology and how it relates to the vocation of teaching, Christian education, and this current cultural moment. The cultural influences and formation of Christian teachers and their spirituality will also be a focus of the course.

*pending NZQA approval

Semester Two 2024

R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

Dr Terry Pouono and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden
By distance throughout the Semester.

See description from Semester One.

R202.830 GOD'S WORLD: THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE IN CONVERSATION

Dr Greg Liston
25-26 July | 9.30am - 4.30pm
16-20 Sept | 9.30am - 4.30pm

This course engages in a constructive conversation between science and the Christian faith. Drawing on historical and contemporary perspectives, this course reflects critically on the theological and scientific inquiry and the nature of dialogue between science and theology. Key topics explored include models of science-religion interaction; creation and cosmology; biology, evolution and creationism; human nature, freedom and determinism; the implications of natural theology; and the ethical implications arising from theological and scientific beliefs in conversation. Students will be encouraged to develop a nuanced analysis of how scientific and theological truths can be critically integrated and to apply this understanding to a topic of contemporary significance.

R513.830 DEVELOPING A MINISTRY SUPERVISION PRACTICE

Rev. Dr David Crawley and Rev. Dr Karen Kemp
31 July - 2 Aug | 9.30am - 4.30pm
11-13 Sept | 9.30am - 4.30pm
Pre-requisite: R512.830

This is the second of two courses which comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). Through the integration of theory, practice, and theology, it enables practitioners to develop a framework for supervision appropriate to their own cultural and professional contexts, and to engage in critically reflective practice.

Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PGCertTh (Ministry Supervision). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.

R115.830 INTERPERSONAL FORGIVENESS IN THE BIBLE AND THE WORLD

Dr Richard Neville
5-9 Aug | 9.30am - 4.30pm
21-25 Oct | 9.30am - 4.30pm

Interpersonal forgiveness is one of the most profound ethical teachings bequeathed to us, and yet it has received surprisingly little attention from biblical scholars. This course is an opportunity to explore the biblical teaching on forgiveness in a focused manner. The engine room of the course will be a careful reading of texts from the Old and New Testaments. We will sharpen our work in the text by setting it in the context of other biblical themes, and by bringing it into dialogue with insights from other disciplines and with the realities of true-life stories of forgiveness.

R508.830 REFLECTIVE PRACTICE FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Dr Maja Whitaker and Rev. Dr Graeme Flett
19-23 August | 9:30am - 4:30pm

This course explores the postures and practices that allow people in ministry to flourish in their ministry context. Students will learn to critically evaluate their ministry environment both culturally and contextually, to develop practices of discernment and habits of mind that produce resilience over the long-term, and to understand what they bring to their ministry role from their own personality, context and as a participant in community. and all learning is grounded in the student's own ministry context.

R510.830 ADVANCED PREACHING

Reuben Munn
26-30 August | 9:30am - 4:30pm

This course explores the postures and practices that allow people in ministry to flourish in their ministry context. Students will learn to critically evaluate their ministry environment both culturally and contextually, to develop practices of discernment and habits of mind that produce resilience over the long-term, and to understand what they bring to their ministry role from their own personality, context and as a participant in community.

Semester Two 2024 continued

R802.830 THEOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO ISSUES IN EDUCATION IN AOTEAROA

Sam Burrows

2-4 October | 9:30am - 4:30pm

Pre-requisite: R801.830

In this course students will engage with a selection of current issues and challenges experienced in educational contexts in Aotearoa. This course builds upon the Theological Foundations for Education in Aotearoa course, and pays close attention to the ways culture, context, and theology influences teaching in Aotearoa today.

UPDATED 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?

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