BS9031W  Theologies and Practices of Love

Offered:  2017: Semester 1  (Also offered online – see BS9731W)

This unit will explore the biblical theologies of love, and their ethical implications, within the cultural contexts of the ancient world. The focus will be on the themes of love of neighbour and enemy, sexuality and intimacy, election and covenant. The relevance of these themes within modern and postmodern societies will also be discussed, with some reference to contemporary visual arts and music.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Interpret selected texts from both biblical testaments in relation to their cultural context.
2. Evaluate critically the literature on the biblical love traditions.
3. Analyse the hermeneutical and ethical relevance of biblical love traditions in relation to the student’s own cultural context.
4. Critically evaluate a range of hermeneutical models that inform loving social practices.

Prerequisites:  30 points in Field B

Class Time:  Three hours per week

Assessment:  One paper (1,500 words) (25%)
             Critical reviews (totaling 1,500 words) (25%)
             Essay (3,000 words) (50%)

Faculty:  Keith Dyer, Mark Brett

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase