DS9002W Patterns in the Practice of Christianity

Offered: 2017: Semester 2
[Unit offered alternatively as CH9002W]

This unit will explore ways in which historical people learned to shape their lives around Christian ideas, attitudes and values. The main focus of study will be a range of classic manuals of devotion in the series Classics of Western Spirituality, but other historical sources, including sermons, liturgies, visual images and hymns will be briefly noted.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Recognise and evaluate the kinds of historical evidence available for discovering how historical people shaped their lives as Christians;
2. Employ appropriate hermeneutical methods for reading and evaluating historical devotional manuals;
3. Assess the role of visual images in shaping historical Christians’ devotional practices;
4. Determine the relevance of devotional manuals and traditional Christian practices for contemporary expressions of the Christian faith;
5. Demonstrate a capacity to research a specific topic in a critically rigorous, sustained and self-direct manner.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment: Two seminar papers (1,500 words each) (50%)
One essay (3,000 words) (50%)

Faculty: Marita Munro

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase