

**Humanities Division
Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion**

Approved at the meeting of 15 June 2017

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Philosophy in Theology

Brief note about nature of change: Rewording of regulations to clarify content of course and essay requirements for Ecclesiastical History.

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2017

For first examination from 2017-18

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2016-17 (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mophilintheo/>)

Detail of change

New text underlined, deleted text struck-through

1.13 **IV. Ecclesiastical History**, specialising in one of five ~~fields~~ historical periods:

1.14 ~~The Early Church AD 200-476~~ AD 200-600

1.15 ~~The Western Church AD 476-1050~~ AD 400-1100

1.16 ~~The Western Church AD 1000-1400~~ AD 1000-1500

1.17 ~~European Christianity AD 1400-1800~~ AD 1400-1800

1.18 ~~European Christianity AD 1800-2000~~ AD 1800-the present

[...]

1.103 **IV. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY**

1.104 **A.** There will be two general papers, assessed *either* by two written exams, *or* by one written examination and three essays (up to 5,000 words each).

1.105 **1. A General paper on the Nature and Practice of Ecclesiastical History.** Candidates will be expected to discuss the nature of ecclesiastical history as a sub-discipline within History through study of the writing of the history of the Church from the Early Church to the modern day and investigation of shifts in historical method, with particular reference to methodological debates within History since the mid-nineteenth century.

1.106 **2. A General paper** on *one* of the following historical periods, assessed *either* by unseen examination *or* by three essays (up to 5,000 words each):

1.107 **(a) ~~The Early Church, A.D. 200-476~~** AD 200-600

1.108 **(b) ~~The Western Church, A.D. 476-1050~~** AD 400-1100

1.109 **(c) ~~The Western Church, A.D. 1000-1400~~** AD 1000-1500

1.110 **(d) ~~European Christianity A.D. 1400-1800~~** AD 1400-1800

1.111 **(e) ~~European Christianity A.D. 1800-2000~~** AD 1800-the present

1.112

1.113 **B.** Candidates will write *either* one long essay (up to 15,000 words) *or* three short essays (up to 5,000 words each) on a topic or topics in ecclesiastical history, chosen by each candidate in liaison with the supervisor. Students may choose to write their long essay or one or more of their short essays on a topic which falls outside their primary period of study, provided that they obtain the prior written permission of their supervisor and the course coordinator.

1.114 **C.** All candidates offer a dissertation of up to 30,000 words. The topics of the essays and the dissertation will be chosen by the candidate in liaison with the supervisor. The candidate's progress will be supported by tutorials with the supervisor.

Explanatory Notes

The regulations for the MPhil in Theology previously required candidates studying Ecclesiastical History to specialize in one of five fields. It was agreed to extend the dates of several of the historical periods offered, remove any geographical reference and permit students to write their long essay or one or more of their short essays on a topic that falls outside of their primary area of study, given the written permission of their supervisor and the course coordinator. The proposed changes are designed to clarify the content of the Ecclesiastical History course and essay requirements, and are similar to those agreed previously for the MSt in Theology (Ecclesiastical History)