



## MA TASTER MODULE FACT SHEET

### What is St Augustine's College of Theology?

St Augustine's is the Church of England's longest-standing non-residential theological college. Since our beginnings in 1959, we have grown to become the South East's provider of choice for contextually-based, non-residential education, preparation and formation of licensed lay and ordained ministers. Alongside those studying for ordination and lay qualifications we have a thriving community of students studying theology for the sheer joy of following high quality teaching programmes in Christian faith and practice.

Our adventurous community of learning celebrates a diversity of Christian tradition and expression. We welcome anyone seeking an accessible, yet challenging, education in theology. Our students come from varied backgrounds, including other denominations as well as all branches of the Church of England.

We are dispersed across the South East, embedded within our sponsoring dioceses and enriched by the Benedictine environment of our centre at Malling Abbey.

### What are the MA Taster Module Options?

At St Augustine's we believe we should make theological learning as accessible as possible. If you are interested in pursuing theological studies at postgraduate level, but joining a full MA programme feels like a big step, the taster module gives you an opportunity to test your appetite and aptitude for academic study without committing to a full programme at this point.

Our taster module allows you, over one term, to take a single 20-credit module from our MA programme in Theology, Ministry and Mission. The main MA taster module available in the Spring Term 2022 (mid-March to early June) is **Advanced Study of a Christian Figure**.

This module focuses on one major figure from the Christian tradition and this term the focus will be on **St John of the Cross**. The module will include detailed attention to the historical context within which St John of the Cross lived and its importance for his life and work; critical analysis of selected theological themes from St John's work within the context of his life; exploration of the nature of and reasons for the enduring significance of his contribution to the Christian tradition; and examination of the ways in which his work informs the life and mission of the Church today. See introductory video from the tutor, Sam Hole:

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/content/uploads/2022/02/SAM-HOLE-2-1.mp4>

This module will also be useful if you are interested in Christian Spirituality, giving you a flavour of the **Christian Spirituality route** through our MA programme.

Other MA courses are available, too, as taster modules:

- Advanced Topic in Christian Doctrine (focus on problem of evil)
- Advanced Old Testament Studies

If you are interested in either of these, do get in touch and we'll send you more information.

### **What are the entry requirements for the MA Taster Module?**

The same requirements apply as for our MA and other postgraduate programmes. See <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/study-here/entry-requirements/>.

Note that for the Christian Doctrine and Old Testament modules listed above, a good grounding in Christian Doctrine and Biblical Studies (resp.) at undergraduate level is required.

### **Who will be teaching the courses?**

The course lecturer for 'Advanced Study of a Christian Figure' (St John of the Cross) is Sam Hole, one of the tutors at St Augustine's. You can find out about Sam's academic background, publications and research interests by reading his staff profile here:

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/staff/sam-hole/>

### **Where and when?**

The 2022 teaching sessions for 'Advanced Study of a Christian Figure' (St John of the Cross) will be delivered on four Fridays and one Wednesday, at our **Malling Abbey** teaching centre:

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May
- *Wednesday* 1<sup>st</sup> June (alteration due to Bank Holiday 3<sup>rd</sup> June)

The timings are **10.30am – 4pm**. This includes breaks throughout the day, as well as College worship at the start

Find out more about our locations: <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/locations/>

### **How much study time is involved?**

You should expect to devote at least 10 hours of independent study per week.

### **Library resources**

We have two libraries: one at Trinity House, Southwark and one at our West Malling centre. Note borrowing books will need to be done in person. If you aren't intending to use our libraries it is vital you find other sources to get the books you need.

### **How is the module assessed?**

In order to complete the module you will be expected to submit a written assignment of 6,000 words. The deadline for submitting the assignment is **1pm, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**.

### **Will completing the MA Taster Module give me an academic qualification?**

Completing the taster module alone doesn't give you an academic qualification. However, it is a module which normally forms part of our MA programme. If you pass the assignments for the module and decide to continue your studies, you will be able to enrol on the MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission, and the module you have completed will count towards the MA, accredited by Durham University.

### **What happens after I finish the module?**

It's up to you! You can choose to stop there, or, subject to passing the taster module assignments, you can enrol into our MA programme, as described above. If you enrol, your completed Taster module will count towards that programme.

### **What does the MA programme then involve?**

Normally, the academic year involves three taught modules in Year 1 and Year 2, with an MA Dissertation in Year 3. (You also have the option to study full-time.) For more information about the MA programme, see: <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-studies/>

### **Do you have a full prospectus of all your courses?**

You can view and download the full prospectus here: <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/st-augustines-prospectus-2022-23/>

### **How much does it cost to take the MA Taster Module?**

The fee for the taster module is £500, payable before you begin your studies in March. Find out more about fees and finance here: <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/study-here/fees-and-finance/>

### **Do you offer any financial support towards the cost of studying the module?**

As part of our commitment to making theological studies accessible to all, we have established the Tattersall Fund, which provides bursaries in support of students whose personal circumstances mean that finance may be a barrier to study.

Applying for a bursary to help towards the cost of fees, books or travel is simple, and non-intrusive. Find out more about bursaries and how to apply here:

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/content/uploads/2020/04/Bursary-fund-April-2020-FINAL.pdf>

### **How do I apply for the MA Taster Module?**

Applying is simple. Just follow this link to find the application form:

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/courses/biblical-studies/>

Or contact us if you would like more information, or to discuss the course:

<https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/contact/>