



Malyon

A ministry of Queensland Baptists

Bachelor of Ministry/Master of Ministry

RM091D

Research Methods for Ministry

Semester 2, 2017

Malyon College
is an approved institution of the
Australian College of Theology

RM091D is offered by Malyon College as part of the *Master of Ministry* or *Bachelor of Ministry* authorized for distance and contact delivery by the college, which is an accredited award of the Australian College of Theology (ACT).

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About Malyon College

At Malyon we recognise that the world is changing. These are times of great challenge and opportunity. Our commitment is to raising up a generation of influential Christians who have a strong biblical base, skills in leadership and ministry, and a heart for God.

We have been training Christian leaders for over 100 years, and we've learnt a few things about theological training. Our graduates are serving all over the world as pastors, cross-cultural workers, workplace leaders, chaplains, church leaders and theological faculty.

Malyon offers full-time and part-time study options through lecture, intensive and distance modes. We have excellent resources for students including a large library, wireless internet and 24 hour access to the campus. All our awards are accredited through the Australian College of Theology.

About The Australian College of Theology

The ACT was established under the auspices of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in 1891. The ACT is a company limited by guarantee governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. The Anglican Primate of Australia presides as the chairman of meetings of the company which consists of 54 persons (in 2010). The ACT is an Australasian provider of state accredited higher education courses leading to awards in theology and other disciplines related to Christian ministry. The ACT operates as an ecumenical consortium of some 2,500 students enrolled in 19 Bible and theological colleges approved to teach the awards of the ACT. These awards range from two-year diplomas, three-year undergraduate and coursework masters degrees to masters and doctoral research degrees.

The ACT has a centrally devised and managed curriculum and a quality assurance process that are applied across the whole network of affiliated colleges. The day-to-day educational system is managed by the Dean from the ACT office in Sydney. Academic governance is the responsibility of the Academic Board which oversees all academic activities of the College. The standing committees of the Academic Board share this responsibility by monitoring the quality of delivery and resourcing, developing policy, and reviewing the course structure for research, coursework and diploma courses. The membership of the Academic Board and its committees is comprised mostly of faculty members of affiliated colleges. A number of senior university academics are represented to help ensure that ACT practice (especially in the outcome of the consideration of research examiner's reports and general academic policy) remains comparable with the standards of and best practice in the university sector.

As a HEP under the Higher Education Support Act, the College was required to undergo a quality audit conducted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). The AUQA Audit Report was publicly released on the AUQA website in February 2007.

In 2010 the company consists of 54 members composed in the following way:

- (1) the Anglican Primate of Australia and the Dean of the ACT,
- (2) the principals of 10 Anglican Theological Colleges,
- (3) 21 persons elected by the House of Bishops of the General Synod,
- (4) the principals of 11 affiliated colleges approved to deliver the research degrees of the ACT,
- (5) 5 graduates holding an ACT research degree,
- (6) 5 graduates holding any other degree of the ACT.

Unit Details

Unit Description

Purpose:

The vision of Malyon College is to develop Christians of influence. One of the ways Christians can significantly influence others is to accept a call to pastoral leadership ministry. This unit is one of a range of units which aim to help students to be equipped influencers of others while functioning in church leadership.

Ministry practitioners need an awareness of the sources and content of the Christian story and message but also the knowledge and skills to be able apply and practice this story and message in the contemporary world. In order to be able to i) apply and practice this story and message and ii) evaluate the effectiveness of their ministry activity, they need to be able to understand and respond to the context into which they seek to minister and learn from contexts broader than their own. This unit will help students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in social scientific research in order to better understand and address the context in which they minister and to learn from other contexts.

Aims:

This unit aims to introduce students to social scientific research methods so they can use them within the framework of Practical Theology in their ministry context. The unit introduces students to contemporary approaches to qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, with a particular focus on those that are most often used in research in ministry. It provides students with tools to select and apply those methodologies in the formulation of a research proposal and evaluation of ministry activity. Students will be introduced to the skills, competencies and technical methods that are needed to conduct and present research, including identifying a research topic, designing a research process, and obtaining ethics clearances.

Credit Points

This unit is valued at 4 credit points as part of the BMin or MMin course.

Co- and Pre-Requisites

At least 64cps of study, including at least 8cps Old Testament Core, 8cps New Testament Core and 8cps Theology.

Exclusions

None.

Unit Content

1. Introduction to Practical Theology: Various models: Browning, Osmer etc.
2. Social scientific research methodologies: Grounded Theory; Case Study; Practitioner Action Research etc.
3. Social scientific research methods: Sampling, document analysis, interview, focus groups, observation, surveys etc.
4. Developing a research proposal: Defining the research problem, the research question, methodology, methods; Ethics clearances.
5. Interpretation of social scientific data: validity, generalisation, coding, descriptive statistics etc;
6. Reporting social scientific research: Presenting using Excel, PowerPoint and written reports etc.

Unit Outcomes

At the end of the unit students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

Know and understand:

- a) The philosophy and method of Practical Theology
- b) A variety of social scientific research methodologies and their associated research methods
- c) The nature, purpose, ethical responsibilities and limitations of social scientific research

Skills:

Be able to:

- d) Integrate the perspectives of Practical Theology with the methods of social scientific research
- e) Determine the appropriateness of research methods for investigating different types of questions
- f) Apply this knowledge and understanding by designing an original research project or a review of a ministry initiative

Application:

Be in a position to:

- g) Design a proposal for original research in some aspect of the practice of ministry
- h) Interpret and report the findings of social scientific research in a ministry context

Workload Requirement

A unit will generally require about 130 hours over 13 weeks/modules. Each week students will be required to work through a Module Learning Guide. These guides will outline the learning activities you need to complete and point you to the relevant sources.

For each module you will be required to make a forum post or submit an assessment piece. Forums are not assessable but are formative (they help you complete the assessment tasks) and are a requirement of the unit. They should normally be done weekly, but if you need more flexibility in completing the tasks, please contact the lecturer.

Students will also be able to participate in 2-3 webinars during the course of the semester.

Required Resources

Textbook: Guthrie, Gerard. 2010. *Basic Research Methods: An entry to social science research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

NOTE: This textbook is available as an e-book through the [Malyon College Library](#).

(If you would like to buy the book for yourself we recommend using the [Book Depository](#) but allow at least 10-12 business days for delivery.)

You will also need access to reference books and journals to complete the unit. There will be quite a few resources on the Moodle site that should provide an excellent start, but you will still have to read more widely. The Malyon College Library has an extensive range of e-books and journals available through the EBSCO database. Books can also be mailed to you on request.

Unit Schedule

Module	Week Beginning	Topic	Textbook Reading
1	17 Jul	An Introduction to Practical Theology	
Forum Activity 1 due 24 Jul			
2	24 Jul	Social Science Research Methodologies	Guthrie 4
Forum Activity 2 due 31 Jul			
3	31 Jul	Integrating Social Science and Practical Theology	
Forum Activity 3 Due 7 Aug			
4	7 Aug	Defining the Research Problem	Guthrie 1
Forum Activities 4a and 4b due 14 Aug			
5	14 Aug	The Literature Survey #1	Guthrie 3
6	21 Aug	The Literature Survey #2	
7	28 Aug	Social Science Research #1: Sampling, Limitations and Triangulation	Guthrie 5
8	4 Sep	Social Science Research #2: Methods – Available data, Observation, Interviews & Focus Groups.	Guthrie 9, 10, 11
9	11 Sep	Social Science Research #3: Methods – Questionnaires & Researching Congregations.	Guthrie 12
S/W	18 Sep	Study Week	
Forum Activities 5, 6, 7a and 7b Due 25 Sept			
S/W	25 Sep	Study Week	
Assessment Requirement 1 Due 2 Oct			
Forum Activity 8 Due 2 Oct			
10	2 Oct	Research Ethics	Guthrie 2
Forum Activity 9 & 10 Due 9 Oct			
11	9 Oct	Interpretation of Social Scientific Data	Guthrie 15, 16
12	16 Oct	Research Action	Guthrie 17, 18, 19
Requirement 2 (Research Proposal) Due 23 Oct			
13	23 Oct	Research Proposal Presentations	
S/W	30 Oct	Study Week	
Requirement 3 (Proposal Presentation) Due 30 Oct			

Unit Preparer



Ian Hussey is married to Lynette and they have two daughters. Between 1993 and 2010 Ian was solo/Senior Pastor of Nundah/North-East Baptist church during which time the church grew from 35 to 500 people, including people of 15 different nationalities. Ian commenced at Malyon College in 2012 and is the Director of Postgraduate Studies and the Online Content Developer. He also teaches preaching, pastoral leadership and New Testament survey.

Ian is part of Windsor Road Baptist Church, an international church in the inner north of Brisbane and has taught conversational English as a cross-cultural outreach for over 15 years. He has degrees in science, education, theology and management and a PhD on the topic: "The engagement of newcomers in church attendance." His research interests include church vitality and theological education. Prior to pastoral ministry he was a school teacher in NSW and Queensland. His interests include music, reading novels and swimming.

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Unit Assessment

Assessment Instructions

In completing assessments, students should note that:

1. The College requirements for the writing and submission of assignments are to be adhered to at all times, as marks will be deducted for incorrect and poor presentation. Of particular importance is that the official College title page is to be used, and that the word length be indicated.
2. The Student Assignment Guide available on the Moodle site; it should be studied, both when starting out and at the beginning of each academic year as adjustments or changes may be made from time-to-time.
3. The **due date** is non-negotiable; in exceptional circumstances students are to adhere to College protocol for requesting permission for late submission. ***Penalties for late submission are set at 3% per day.*** The Assignment Writing Guide contains details of the protocols to be followed.
4. With respect to length, students are permitted to write at a length of 10% either side of the stated length; for example, a 1000-word assignment should be within a 900-1100-word length. Students will be penalized 1% per 100 words, or part thereof, under or over the stipulated length.
5. With respect to the List of References, a specific number of references will not be set; however, students should note the guidelines indicated for the specific assessment requirement. However, students should note that:
 - a. Bibles (including study Bibles), basic dictionaries and devotional guides are not regarded as academic references.
 - b. Web resources should generally not number more than half the required number of references, and should be used with caution.

Grade Criteria

The marking scale used for all ACT instruments is as follows:

High Distinction (HD)	= 85-100%
Distinction (D)	= 75-84%
Credit (C)	= 65-74%
High Pass (P+)	= 58-64%
Pass (P)	= 50-57%
Fail (F)	= 0-49%

Units at advanced level build upon foundational studies. Critical issues raised by a broad range of contemporary scholars are introduced and evaluated; primary sources are analysed in depth; and the critical and evaluative faculties of the students are developed in dialogue with scholarly literature.

Pass

- ✓ Demonstrates ability in engaging the primary sources, is beginning to understand their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Demonstrates emerging skills in the task of critically evaluating a range of scholarly viewpoints.

Credit

- ✓ Demonstrates pronounced ability in engaging primary sources and understands their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a sound grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Shows an ability to evaluate critically a range of scholarly viewpoints with empathy.

Distinction

- ✓ Demonstrates pronounced ability in the analysis of primary sources and understands their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a confident grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Exhibits an ability to evaluate and assess empathetically a range of scholarly viewpoints that suggests the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level.

High Distinction

- ✓ Demonstrates superior ability in the analysis and critique of primary sources and ideas and understands their setting and historical context.
- ✓ Evidences a confident grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
- ✓ Exhibits superior ability in assessing and reporting on a range of scholarly viewpoints empathetically that exhibits the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level

Assessment Requirements

This is a Pass/ Fail unit and is not moderated.

Requirement 1: Essay

Describe how human subject research contributes to the practice of Practical Theology in a ministry context:

- a) Define and discuss a definition of Practical Theology (500 words)
- b) Describe how social scientific methodologies can validly contribute to the practice of Practical Theology in a ministry context (500 words).

The **key assessment criteria** for this requirement are as follows:

How well the student demonstrates:

1. An understanding of the discipline of Practical Theology
2. An understanding of the nature of social scientific research methodologies
3. The ability to justify the use of social scientific research methods in a ministry context.
4. The ability to write concisely and clearly.
5. The ability to synthesise diverse ideas into a coherent argument.
6. The ability to draw motivated and reasonable conclusions.

Length: 1000 words/20 hours

References: 3 or more

Learning outcomes a, c, d

15% of assessment

Requirement 2: Research Proposal

Write a Research Proposal for a hypothetical research project. Include the following:

1. Introduction (200 words)
 - a. Explain your interest in the topic
2. The Research Problem (800 words)
 - a. Background and Problem Definition
 - b. The Research Question and Subordinate Questions
 - c. Justification for the Hypothesis (if applicable)
 - d. The Value of the Research
3. Literature Survey (1500 words)
4. Research Methods (1000 words)
 - a. Methodology
 - b. Methods
 - c. Sample
5. Ethical Issues (500 words)

The **key assessment criteria** for this requirement are as follows:

1. Informed discussion of the background to the research problem.
2. Articulation of a clear and researchable research question.
3. Convincing argument for the importance and need to complete the research.
4. Empathetic reporting of a broad range of scholarship related to the research topic.
5. Identification and description of the research methods to be used in the proposed research.
6. Critical evaluation of the research methods to be used in the proposed research.
7. Discussion of why the chosen research methods are appropriate for the research.
8. Discussion of the ethical issues related to the proposed research and how they will be addressed.

Length: 4000 words / 90 hours
Learning outcomes b, c, e, f, g, h
70% of Assessment
References: 15+

Requirement 3: Research Proposal Presentation

Prepare, deliver and video record a 20 minute research proposal defense for your research proposal.

NOTE: For this assessment requirement, students should aim to generate a 2000 word (equivalent to 20 minutes) summary of the research proposal generated in Assessment Requirement 2. They should also generate a 20 slide (approx.) PowerPoint presentation to go with the presentation. Both the transcript and the PowerPoint Presentation should be submitted with the video recording of the presentation.

The **key assessment criteria** for this requirement are as follows:

1. Production of a concise and understandable presentation of the research proposal.
2. Generation of a quality PowerPoint to accompany the presentation.
3. A watchable video of the proposal presentation.

Length: 1000 words (Nominally)/ 20 hours

15% of assessment

References: Nil

Learning Outcomes: g, h

Unit Contribution to Graduate Attributes

Developing Christians of Influence

“Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jeremiah 3:15)

	1.	2.	3.	4.
Graduate Attribute 1: Personal Formation (Shepherds with God’s heart)				
a. grows a mature relationship with God		✓		
b. seeks and builds healthy relationships	✓			
c. is self-aware and maintains self-care	✓			
d. is secure in God’s call but wanting and able to learn and grow				✓
e. committed to living with God-dependence and character			✓	
Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Formation (Knowledge and understanding of God’s heart)				
a. knows and trusts the Bible	✓			
b. understands the context of diverse theological ideas	✓			
c. forms a thoughtful, biblical, personal theology	✓			
d. reflects theologically and applies the Bible to real life	✓			
e. committed to helping others know and live God’s way			✓	
Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Formation (Knowledgeable and wise shepherds)				
a. understands how to have godly influence	✓			
b. possesses skills needed for chosen ministry path	✓			
c. able to adapt to and minister in a range of ministry contexts	✓			
d. able to work with and lead a team	✓			
e. committed to serving, evangelising and mentoring others			✓	
Scale: 1. A major thrust of this unit 2. A contribution that this unit should make 3. A possible function of this unit, but not targeted 4. An unlikely product of this unit				

Note: Graduates who have not completed the curricular and non-curricular ministry aspects of Malyon’s courses will tend to be most developed in Graduate Attribute 2.

ACT Policies and Procedures

Key Policies

Students should take note of the following ACT policies:

1. Unit Moderation Policy.
2. Academic Misconduct Policy.
3. Academic Appeals Policy.

Accessing Documents

These and other policy documents are publically available in the following handbooks, through links on ACT's home page (www.acttheology.edu.au):

1. Undergraduate Handbook.
2. Postgraduate Handbook.
3. Student Policy Handbook.
4. International Student Handbook.
5. Distance Education Handbook.

These should be read in conjunction with the 'Recent Updates' link found on the ACT website.