



# Malyon

A ministry of Queensland Baptists

**Bachelor of Theology (Honours)**

**Master of Theology**

**Master of Arts (Theology)**

## **RM095D-4/6**

# **Introduction to Research Methods (Non-Human Subject)**

**Semester 1 & 2, 2017**

**Malyon College**

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

RM095D-4/6 is offered by Malyon College as 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

The purpose of this unit is to assist candidates to plan and design a research project/thesis in the areas of Biblical studies, theology and Church history. It aims to introduce candidates to the discipline of research methods, including developing and undertaking a research project.

Although a requirement of the BTh (Honours) course this unit also serves as a creditable introduction to research methods for Bible Languages (LA), Old Testament (OT), New Testament (NT), Theology (TH) or Church History (CH) research projects/theses in the MA (Theol) and M.Div. It also serves as the non-creditable introduction to research methods for the MTh.

The BTh Honours course is composed as follows:

Unit Level: 700

Overall cps: 36

Length: 1-year F/T or P/T equivalent up to 3 years

- Coursework: 24 cps
  - Research Methods (6 cps) RM091 or RM095
  - 18cps of 6cp units including at least 12cps in the student's designated field of research
- Research: thesis of 16,000 words (12 cps) \*\*796.

### Credit Points

This unit is offered as a 4cps and 6cps unit. It is valued at 6 credit points as part of the BTh (Honours) course. Students completing a MA or MTh who already have an MDiv enrol in this unit at the 4cps level. Students completing a MA or MTh who do not already have a Masters degree enrol in the 6cps version of the unit.

### Co- and Pre-Requisites

None

### Exclusions

None

## Unit Content

1. The philosophy of research
  - a. The place and value of student research in higher education
  - b. The purpose of research
  - c. Epistemological issues in research
  - d. Paradigms in research
  - e. Integrity in research: awareness of ethical issues and honesty with evidence
  - f. Issues of personal motivation for beginning and sustaining research
2. The resources of research
  - a. Resources in the college: staff, library, peer interaction
  - b. Resources beyond the college
  - c. Learning to use the tools and access the sources for efficient research
  - d. Literature reviews: library and other electronic resources
3. Administration of research
  - a. The candidate-supervisor relationship
  - b. Supervisor's role and responsibilities
  - c. Candidate's role and responsibilities
  - d. Compatibility, styles of supervision and dispute resolution
4. Project Management
  - a. Time path of research
  - b. Scoping
  - c. Sketching argument and structure
  - d. Developing work programs
  - e. Establishing a schedule for the production of written materials; parts of the whole paper of a thesis/project;
5. Focus and Production
  - a. Formulating a proposal: defining the topic; setting realistic, achievable goals; benefits
  - b. Final form of the thesis/project: revision of style and accuracy of writing; consistency in use of conventions; supervisor's final approval; research writing for critique and publication.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:	Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
<p>A: Knowledge and Understanding            Know and understand:</p> <p>A1 The nature of research and related debates relating to its purpose, value, ethics, paradigms and epistemology.</p> <p>A2 Critique the research methods most often used in a candidate's proposed field of research.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2</p>
<p>B: Skills            Be able to:</p> <p>B1 Identify a researchable topic and articulate the research question, or hypothesis being explored.</p> <p>B2 Articulate the conceptualization underpinning the research proposal</p> <p>B3 Develop a research plan that demonstrates capacity to manage the research project</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p>
<p>C: Application            Be in a position to:</p> <p>C1 Write a clearly set out research proposal that can be completed within the minimum time allowable.</p> <p>C2 Satisfactorily complete an Ethics Protocol where human subject participant is required.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9</p>

## Workload Requirement

A unit will generally require about 130 hours.

## Required Resources

This unit is a self-paced distance unit. You will be required to work through the Learning Guide within one semester. You will need access to reference books and journals to complete the work. 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 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 2011 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. Ian's MTh was on "the soteriological use of *καλεο* by Luke and Paul" and his PhD was on the topic: "The engagement of newcomers in church attendance." His other research interests include church vitality and spiritual formation. 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 current Assignment Style and Writing Guides are available to all students 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. 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.
4. 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. Electronic sources 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: Research Process

Write an essay discussing the following aspects of your research process:

- a) The nature and importance of your relationship with your supervisor (500 words)
- b) The ethical issues related to research (500 words)
- c) The key principles related to academic writing (500 words)
- d) Your proposed research timetable and practices that will enable you to devote adequate time to your research (500 words).

Learning outcomes addressed: A1, B3

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

How well the student demonstrates:

1. Discussion of important issues related to the student-supervisor relationship
2. Discussion of important issues related to the ethics of research
3. Discussion of important issues related to academic writing
4. Presentation of a well thought out research plan

***Length: 2000 words/30 hours***

***References: 2 or more***

***Pass/fail***

## Requirement 2: Theological Research Framework (6cps\* Students Only)

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Read the following sections of Osborne's (2006) *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*:

- The Introduction.
- Part 1: Read all 5 chapters.
- Part 2: Read the chapters related to the genre(s) you are researching.
- Part 3: Read Chapter 15 on Biblical Theology and Appendix 1.
- If your research is in systematic theology you need to read Chapter 16.

Based on your reading identify and discuss the hermeneutical principles relevant to your research topic.

Learning outcomes addressed: A1, A2, B3.

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

1. Engagement with Osborne's (2006) *The Hermeneutical Spiral*
2. Identification and discussion of the hermeneutical principles relevant to the student's research topic
3. Adaptation of the book's content to the student's research topic

***Length: 2000 words / 30 hours***

***References: 1***

***Pass/Fail***

## Requirement 3: Research Proposal

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Write a Research Proposal for your proposed research. Include the following:

1. Introduction (500 words)
    - Explain your interest in the topic
  2. The Research Problem (1000 words)
    - Background and Problem Definition
    - The Research Question and Subordinate Questions
    - Justification for the Hypothesis (if applicable)
    - The Value of the Research
    - Delimitations & Presuppositions of the Research
  3. Literature Survey (1000 words)
  4. Research Methodology (1000 words)
  5. Research Plan (500 words)
- (Learning outcomes A2, B1, B2, B3, C1)

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. Critical interaction with a broad range of scholarship related to the research topic.
6. Synthesis of broad range of scholarship into a coherent narrative related to the research topic.
7. Identification of the broader issues related to Biblical and theological research.
8. Identification and description of the research method to be used in the proposed research.
9. Critical evaluation of the research method to be used in the proposed research.
10. Discussion of why the chosen research method is appropriate for the research.
11. Presentation of sensible research plan.

***Length: 4000 words / 60 hours***

***References: 25+***

***Pass/Fail***

## 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.
<b>Graduate Attribute 1: Personal Formation (Shepherds with God’s heart)</b>				
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			✓	
<b>Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Formation (Knowledge and understanding of God’s heart)</b>				
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			✓	
<b>Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Formation (Knowledgeable and wise shepherds)</b>				
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](http://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.