

# MALYON COLLEGE ACT MASTER OF ARTS UNITS 2010

## SEMESTER 1

### **EVANGELICAL SOCIAL ETHICS:**

**Foundations, Responsibilities and Opportunities**  
**Lecturer: Rev Dr David Parker      MA(Theol) Unit**  
**Intensive: Mar 22-26**

We are living in times when there are a great many major ethical issues in the public arena, ranging from bio-ethics to environmental concerns, international justice, economic policy and political integrity. Yet often Christians and the churches are focused mainly on issues of personal and private moral concern, leaving other voices take the lead in influencing public opinion and values. Yet the Christian message has a vision for what human life can be and how it may be lived out in practice in society as well as personally and in the family or church. This intensive unit in the area of Social Ethics will look at that message and its vision, examining its biblical foundations and historical expressions. It will seek to identify the responsibilities that the Christian community has in the world today and the opportunities that are open to us to show how God's plan for people can be worked out in the public arena. It will involve pre-reading (including some reports for class presentation), extensive class participation, interactive-research, biblical and theological analysis, and a detailed post-course essay.

**David Parker** has been involved in theological education locally and globally for more than thirty years, teaching theology, New Testament, Ethics and Worship, and publishing in these fields. He is an ordained Baptist minister who has served as a pastor, theological educator, and most recently as Executive Director of the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission which involved extensive travel to many parts of the world visiting seminaries, consultation, participation in conferences and study units, and editorial work on the Commission's print and electronic publications. He is also a member of the Baptist World Alliance Heritage and Identity Commission and takes care of the Baptist Church Archives, Queensland. He is the author and editor of many books and articles in the fields of Baptist Studies, including the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary history of Baptists in Queensland.

### **LIFELONG LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**Lecturer: Rev Dr Brian Harris      MA(Min) Unit**  
**Intensive: Apr 12-16**

Leadership is not a point to be reached but a journey that passes through stages and terrains. This unit analyses and theologically evaluates some of the key

concepts related to personal lifelong leadership development with special reference to Robert Clinton's Leadership Emergence Theory. Using biblical, historical and contemporary leadership case studies, students will be helped to explore their own leadership thinking through such issues as their personal spiritual formation and development, intentionality and decision making in leadership, the reproducing of leaders and leaving a legacy.

**Brian Harris** is the principal of Vose Seminary in Western Australia and is also the Senior Pastor of Carey Community Baptist Church in Perth, an innovative missional church with an outreach to over 1000 families. Married to Rosemary and with 3 children, Brian says that he is a South African by birth, a New Zealander by nationality and an Australian by residence. He has successfully been involved in both pastoral ministry and theological education in each of these countries. His PhD is from the University of Auckland where his research focused on the theological method of Stanley Grenz and its relevance for evangelical churches in a postmodern era. In addition to teaching this leadership unit at Malyon, he teaches leadership at both Vose Seminary (Perth) and Southland College (Sydney).

### **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

**Lecturer - Rev Dr John Sweetman      MA(Min) Unit**  
**Distance only**

There's a lot of talk about Christian leadership these days. Everyone has their view on what a leader should be doing. This unit provides an overview of current thinking on leadership and management (from biblical, Christian and secular sources) with a view to discerning what God is calling his shepherds to be and do in influencing others and developing effective structures in church and Christian organisations. There's also the opportunity to reflect on your leadership development and style and to develop your own leadership and management skills.

**John Sweetman** is the principal of Malyon College. He has led small and larger churches and Christian organisations and has a huge passion for developing the next generation of Christian leaders. His doctoral thesis focused on the development of leaders by mentoring and he is heavily involved in mentoring younger pastors, including pastors at his own church - City Life. His latest project is initiating and resourcing leadership development networks among younger Christian leaders.

## SEMESTER 2

### ENCOUNTERING JESUS:

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#### Dramatic Engagement in the Fourth Gospel.

Lecturer: Dr Les Ball

MA(Theol) Unit

Intensive: Aug 9-13

An encounter with Jesus is the most life-defining experience imaginable. The Fourth Gospel is dominated by dramatic encounters between Jesus and people, Jesus and cultures, Jesus and ideologies – and all have been left with the indelible mark of engagement. This unit will comprise a theological/thematic study of the Fourth Gospel, incorporating contemporary literary techniques of hermeneutics. Thus it will go beyond (but at the same time assume) the traditional scope of historical-critical exegesis and generate a larger perspective on the cosmic encounters that make the Gospel so rich and yet so provocative. While specific themes may vary, typical topics to be canvassed include:

- The Who/What/How of encountering Jesus
- (True) Worship in John's Gospel
- (Anti-)Judaism in John's Gospel
- Symbolism in John's Gospel
- Johannine Christology: Supersessionist or Transcendent?

**Les Ball** says, "As a secondary school head of English and occasional university tutor in English Literature, my main interests were teaching poetry and producing drama. Since the late 1980s, I have been teaching, mainly at BCQ and Malyon, both Church History and New Testament. My first PhD studies were in Church History, but in the late 90s I commenced a second PhD in John's Gospel. At first, this was an historical-critical study, but after a watershed experience, it changed radically to a literary study. In 2003, I presented a rather daring paper at an international conference on John's Gospel in St Andrew's University, Scotland, which put a case for re-interpreting the anti-Judaism issue in John from a literary perspective rather than its traditional historical approach. While this approach agitated some in the established academy, I personally found it liberating and, with the encouragement especially of a number of American seminarians present, I decided to change my course of study to the English Department of Sydney University. My appointment as Dean of Brisbane College of Theology put the study on hold for a few years, but now I have the chance to resume it. Hopefully, the book will be out in a couple of years!"

### CONTEMPORARY BIBLICAL PREACHING

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Lecturer: Rev Dr John Sweetman

MA(Min) Unit

Intensive: Aug 16-20, and Distance

Preachers are confronted with a rapidly changing world. The question we are faced with is, "Should preaching change or not?" In this unit we look at changes in preaching structure, biblical interpretation, and listeners' culture, and explore how these changes may impact our preaching. We

experiment with a range of approaches, but the goal is to develop a biblical sermon preparation and delivery practice that is informed by contemporary preaching issues. (By the way, there is no preaching in front of the class.)

**John Sweetman** is the principal of Malyon College. He has been a preacher himself for 40 years and has studied preaching under Haddon Robinson and Paul Borden in his doctoral program. He has a strong interest in preaching structure and has recently written an article in an American homiletics journal on a foundational form of preaching called "preaching in scenes." He has also published an article on "interactive preaching" in *Preaching Magazine*.

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES

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#### (BAPTIST)

Lecturer: Rev Dr D Morcom MA(Theol) & MA(Min) Unit

Intensive: Aug 23-27

Denominational History and Principles (Baptist) is a requirement for ordination within the Baptist Union of Queensland. But that doesn't mean it has to be boring! This unit surveys the fascinating – never dull – history of the people known as Baptists, and examines the principles that make Baptists "Baptist". In an era of increasing inter-church cooperation and impatience with artificial barriers between Christians, studying a unit like this could seem to be a step in a backward direction. On the contrary! Many of the values for which our Baptist forebears lived – and in some cases died – can serve as Baptists' gifts to the wider Christian community. The "Baptist Principles" segment on the unit focuses on what I have come to view as THE foundational Baptist principle, the direct Lordship of Christ, and what that looks like as it is worked out in the corporate and personal lives of God's people.

The unit involves pre-reading, preparation of a seminar paper for class presentation during the intensive, and a major post-intensive research paper.

**"D" (Donald) Morcom** says, "Although born into a Baptist home and wonderfully enriched by Christians from other traditions, I have become a Baptist by personal conviction over the years. My experience includes being the son of a Baptist pastor and missionary, and having significant and lengthy engagement with Baptists in Australia, South Africa, the United States and Britain. My education includes LTh (Hons) (Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa, Johannesburg), BA (University of South Africa, Pretoria), and MDiv and PhD (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, USA). At Malyon, in addition to the Denominational History and Principles unit, I teach Greek, New Testament and Church History, and serve as Vice Principal. I am a passionate Christ-follower who also enjoys photography, my iPhone, a good book, a good movie and a good walk with my golden Labrador. I am married to Jackie, and am the father of three grown children.