

Expert Available

27-Oct 2020

## Reading for Renewal: new short courses at ACU

How we read the Bible has changed over time. There's a new opportunity to understand how and why through a series of short courses at Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Four weekly hour-long sessions with internationally renowned scholars based at ACU will explore the processes of meaning-making that inspired both the development of and divergence within the Bible.

Students will learn about how different environments and emotions, experiences and expectations that compelled change, how the past influences the present, and how hope for the future is inherent in the interpretative process.

*Reading for Renewal: Revelation, Revolution and the Reception of the Bible* is offered free of charge and can be completed for ongoing accreditation to teach in Catholic schools.

In the session *Biblical memory between repetition and liberation*, Dr Jonathan Zecher will explore how our memory not only reshapes the past but also affects how we can understand the present and the future using the work of Welsh poet David Jones.

Dr Emmanuel Nathan will present *Parsing Shalom: Peace and Wellbeing in a Context of Crisis* using the Biblical story of the raising of the Shunammite woman's son by the prophet Elisha. He will look at the various ways of understanding the Shunamite woman's response of "Shalom" and how the way that word is interpreted affects our understanding of the woman's anguish and her agency.

Drawing on ancient Jewish Writings, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, Dr Gareth Warne will explore the relationship between history, prophecy, and moments of crisis in early Jewish and Christian thought. *Looking back and looking forward: history, prophecy and apocalypticism in ancient Jewish and Christian thought* will examine how ancient ways of thinking continue to be relevant today.

In the Advent build-up to Christmas, Dr Kylie Crabbe will consider how early Christians reimagined the nature of time. *Time and hope for early Christians* will look at what was new about the Christian understanding of time and what was drawn on the understandings of time in their cultural context. This session will draw on literature from early Jewish writers, Virgil's *Aeneid*, and Luke's Gospel.

The sessions will be held online on Wednesday 11, 18 and 25 November and 2 December from 6pm to 7pm. Registrations by 9 November at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/faculties-directorates-and-staff/faculty-of-theology-and-philosophy/short-courses/short-course-in-theology-series>

**The course presenters are available for interview.**

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