

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	S7102
Unit Name	Introduction to Christian Spirituality
Unit Weighting	9
Type of Unit	Foundational
Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions	Nil
Academic Staff	David Ranson Theol.M (MCD, 1998), PhD (ACU, 2009), Senior Lecturer
Curriculum Objectives	This course unit develops a comprehensive introduction to, and overview of, the topic of Christian Spirituality focussing on its biblical, theological and historical premises and practice from a denominational perspective.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Elucidate a clear understanding of what is meant by the term 'spirituality'; 2) Identify the historical and cultural influences upon the development of Christian spirituality; 3) Distinguish the nature of Christian Spirituality and sketch its primary characteristics; 4) Evaluate various kinds of spiritual disciplines or practices within the Christian tradition against their biblical and theological foundations; 5) Apply insights from a variety of expressions in Christian spirituality to their own spiritual formation and practice.
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	The specificity of the Christian Spiritual pathway.
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Influences on the Origins of Christian Spirituality 2. Christian Spirituality as Discipleship of Christ 3. Trinitarian Trajectory of Christian Spirituality 4. The Paschal Reality of Christian Spirituality: Cross and Resurrection 5. Practices of Conversion and Transformation 6. The Role of the Christian Community in Christian Spiritual Life and Practice 7. Missionary Aspects of Christian Spirituality
Learning Activities	Lectures, Tutorials, Student Presentations
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	Nil
Assessment Profile	In this unit, the assessment tasks will involve students: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engaging various historical and contemporary reflections and perspectives on the dimensions of Christian Spirituality in light of the students own experience and practice (e.g. in a Portfolio of Reaction Papers) (Outcomes 2 and 5) 2) Researching and exploring a significant theme in the practice of Christian Spirituality from a biblical, historical and contemporary perspective (e.g. in a Major Essay) (Outcomes 3 and 4) 3) Reflecting in a personal way on cultural and contemporary perspectives on spirituality (e.g. in a Personal Evaluation) (Outcome 1)
Representative References	

- 1) Downey, Michael. *Understanding Christian Spirituality*. New York: Paulist Press, 1997.
- 2) Dreyer, Elizabeth and Mark J. Burrows. *Minding the Spirit: The study of Christian spirituality*. Washington, D.C.: John Hopkins University, 2003.
- 3) Greenman, Jeffrey P. and George Kalantzis, *Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in Theological Perspective*. IVP Academic, 2009.
- 4) Holder, Arthur. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011
- 5) Howells, Edward and Peter Tyler (eds). *Sources of Transformation: Revitalizing Christian Spirituality*, New York: Continuum, 2010
- 6) Liebert, Elizabeth and Bruce Lescher, *Exploring Christian Spirituality: Essays in Honor of Sandra M. Schneiders*. Paulist Press, 2006.
- 7) McGinn, Bernard, *The Presence of God: A history of western Christian mysticism*. New York: Crossroad, 1991
- 8) McIntosh, Mark Allen, *Mystical Theology: The integrity of spirituality and theology*. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 1998.
- 9) Perrin, David, B. *Studying Christian Spirituality*. New York and London: Routledge, 2007.
- 10) Philibert, Paul J. *The Priesthood of the Faithful: key to a living church*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2005.
- 11) Scorgie, Glen G. *A Little Guide to Christian Spirituality*. Zondervan, 2007.
- 12) Sheldrake, Philip (ed). *The New Westminster Dictionary of Christian spirituality*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.