



Weekly Divinity UG Newsletter: Being Divine

Welcome!



Here's wishing you a wonderful academic year! Here's looking forward to an exciting semester too, with lots of events and opportunities on offer in addition to our main subject studies. I am looking forward to meeting you too!

This week's newsletter with exciting events and news!

(King's College: photograph by Amy Bender)

What's on this week:

Week 1 (w/c: 28th September):

Thursday/ Friday: Drop In Session - Orientation and Study Abroad - exploring opportunities on studying abroad and the Erasmus programme.

Theology and Religion Flexible Learning Programme (distance):

Dr Rev. Dr Ken Jeffrey is the coordinator of the TRFLP and is available each week during an online office hour, by appointment (email ksjeffrey@abdn.ac.uk), from 7 October to 9 December, except 18 November and 2 December 2020.

Moving forward – Divinity course options:

Course options 2020-2021:

There are fantastic courses on offer for next academic session! Details for next academic year's courses are available here: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/divinity-religious-studies/courses-20-21-1969.php>



Faculty and UG Workshops and Events:

Every Thursday (Online) and Friday (Campus), there will be a series of events on offer including careers advice, an introduction to ancient languages and culture, academic skills and student-led topic debates.

[The topics for the Thursday \(@5.00pm Online\) and Friday \(10am-11am Divinity Library\) sessions are as follows:](#)

Week 1 (w/c: 28th September):

Thursday/ Friday: Drop In Session - Orientation and Study Abroad - exploring opportunities on studying abroad and the Erasmus programme.

Week 2 (w/c: 5th October):

- **Thursday: Hot Topic Debate** - Sam Newington will host a debate on *Theology, Ecology and Climate*

- **Friday: Divine Dialogue** - Professor Tom Greggs will offer a welcome to the academic year.

Week 3 (w/c: 12th October):

- **Thursday / Friday: Drop In Session - Academic Skills** - Sam Newington will lead a session on preparing for assessments and reflective learning approach.

Week 4 (w/c: 19th October):

- **Thursday / Friday: Magic, Mysteries and Superstition in the Ancient World** - This session will look at magic and spells in Ancient Greece.

Week 5 (w/c: 26th October):

- **Thursday / Friday: Drop In session - Careers** - This session will offer careers guidance, and insights into volunteering and CV development.

Week 6 (w/c: 2nd November):

- **Wednesday: Divine Dialogue Online Series: Women, Academia and the Church** hosted by Dr Katie Cross

- **Thursday / Friday: Magic, Mysteries and Superstition in the Ancient World** - This session will explore ancient mystery religions and mystical experience.

Week 7 (w/c: 9th November):

- **Wednesday: Online Informal Coffee Morning @ 10am** - Catch up and queries

- **Thursday / Friday: Hot Topics Debate - Religion, Sin and Salvation**



Week 8 (w/c: 16th November):

- **Wednesday@ 10am: Online Informal Coffee Morning** - Catch up and queries
- **Thursday / Friday: Drop In Session - Academic skills** – Academic development and reflective learning approaches.

Week 9 (w/c: 23rd November):

- **Wednesday: Online Informal Coffee Morning @10am** Catch up and queries
- **Thursday / Friday: Drop In Session** - Student Voice

Week 10 (w/c: 30th November):

Thursday / Friday: Magic, Mysteries and Superstition in the Ancient World -
Magic and Christianity

Week 11 (w/c: 7th December):

- **Wednesday: Divine Dialogue Online Series: Science, Faith and (dis)Belief**
hosted by TBC
- **Thursday / Friday: Drop In Session - Employability Enhancement** - looking at
ways to enhance career development and funding opportunities.

Being Divine Online Series:

In addition, on the first Wednesday of each month (except in October 2020) there will be a *Divine Dialogue Online Series*; which will introduce top topic debates discussed by academics, undergraduates and postgraduate researchers.

To access the online events:

- Log into myaberdeen
- Click on 'Organisations'
- Click onto 'Divinity, History and Philosophy Student Information Undergraduates'
- Click on Divinity folder - here you will find the access link to Events and further information

To attend campus events:

To attend the campus events, you will need to send an attendance request to Dr Sam Newington (s.newington@abdn.ac.uk) and enrol via the following link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/divinity-outreach-group-fridays-10am-11am-tickets-122122352243> .



SOPHIA – Women’s Network: A message from Dr Katie Cross

We’re delighted to bring you details of our upcoming Sophia (DRS Women’s Network) sessions for this term.

Staff, undergraduates, and postgraduates are all welcome to attend, and we warmly invite distance students to join us too. This term, all of our meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams. Search for “Sophia (DRS Women’s Network)” or contact me (k.cross@abdn.ac.uk) if you’d like to be added to the Teams space.

Tuesday 6th October: Welcome back social 3.00-4.30pm

A chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones! We will be discussing upcoming sessions and ideas for this year. Bring your own coffee/tea!

Tuesday 20th October: Kait Dugan 3.00-4.30pm

We will be joined by Kait Dugan, Managing Director of the Center for Barth Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and current PhD student (by distance) at the University of Aberdeen.

Wednesday 4th November: Divine Dialogue Online Series- Women in the church 5pm-6pm

Dr. Katie Cross will be joined by Dorothy Plummer (UG), Cody Crawshaw (PGT), and Melissa Tan (PGR) for an informal panel discussion on women in the church and theology. This event will take place on Blackboard as part of the Undergraduate programme of events for this half session- for more information, please contact Sam Newington (s.newington@abdn.ac.uk).

Tuesday 17th Nov: Prof Louise Lawrence 3.00-4.30pm

Professor Louise Lawrence, Associate Professor in New Testament Studies at the University of Exeter, will be our guest for this session.

Tuesday 8th Dec: Christmas social

(Details to follow)

As always, if you have any other questions about Sophia, please don’t hesitate to contact myself or Dr. Katy Hockey (katherine.hockey@abdn.ac.uk).

With best wishes for the coming term,

*Dr. Katie Cross
Sophia co-convenor*



Careers and Employability:

Here are some wonderful resources from the Careers Service which you will find very useful at each level of study:

- Level 1: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/kmenKUf4zsJpxOaezD-GsoqWxEhxwmlw>
- Level 2: https://rise.articulate.com/share/YRRqnVUvJ3aD06eCs_a6ornG2GK7do5
- Level 3: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/wz8y8Q3G1king45VaaTd2qaRRliSwTMs>
- Level 4: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/DwFt-kbFV2n8y06oPR5qrmkYWuMVsltR>
- PGT: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/rer2s0YBHYgux5B4qT2H-6-nPvmBHAXg>

Ancient Language Reading Groups:

Classical Latin:

Meeting every Wednesday (except weeks 4, 6 and 11) @ 3pm-4pm from Week 2 via Teams. This semester we will focus on a variety of extracts drawn from Virgil, Horace and Lucretius.

The sessions will be a blend of language develop, translation and discussions about the historical and cultural significance of the texts too.

For further details and to sign up, please contact Sam Newington (s.newington@abdn.ac.uk)

Ancient Greek:

There are 2 reading groups on offer this semester: i. Classical Greek and, ii. New Testament.

Classical Greek:

Meeting every Wednesday (except weeks 4, 6 and 11) @ 2pm-3pm from Week 2 via Teams. This semester we will focus on Euripides' *Hippolytus*. The sessions will be an ideal opportunity to develop language and grammar, translation and vibrant discussions on the cultural and historical aspects of the text.

For further details and to sign up, please contact Sam Newington (s.newington@abdn.ac.uk)



New Testament Greek:

NT Greek Reading Group
 University of Aberdeen
 First Half-Session 20/21 – Online



Wednesdays, 9:00–10:00a (UK Time)

| Date | Text |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 30 September | 1 John 2:18–28 |
| 7 October | |
| 14 October | 1 Peter 3:18–4:6 |
| 21 October | |
| 28 October | 2 Peter 3:4–14 |
| 4 November | |
| 11 November | Hebrews 9:17–28 |
| 18 November | |
| 25 November | Jude 5–15 |
| 2 December | |
| 9 December | James 5:7–8, 13–16 |

Teacher: Dr J. Thomas Hewitt
 Time: Wednesdays, 10a–11a, starting 30 Sept
 Location: Online – MS Teams (RSVP required)
 Contact: jthomas.hewitt@abdn.ac.uk

This term we will be working with a selection of texts from the later epistles of the New Testament. These texts may strike modern readers as unusual, either because they are hard to interpret, are culturally foreign, or contain an apocalyptic depiction of the heavenly realm. We will therefore encounter some exciting and generally under-explored corners of the New Testament as we also sharpen our linguistic skills.

It is recommended that participants have taken at least one term of Greek. However, students who are simply interested in listening are welcome to join. Students are also welcome to attend only for weeks that are of particular interest to them. Whether you plan to be a regular participant or to attend only on occasion, you must RSVP via email to Dr Hewitt (jthomas.hewitt@abdn.ac.uk) to receive a link to the virtual meeting space.



TRSS – Message from the Society:

TRSS News and updates:

*This term, **ALL** TRSS events will be online. Undergraduates, postgraduates, staff members and mature students are all more than welcome to come along and join in the fun!*

AUSA is currently sorting TRSS's access to Microsoft Teams. So, check out TRSS's Facebook group for further event information and stay posted for the links to the events, which will be made available on the Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2272399396416039>

Future Events:

Week 2 : Thursday 1st October (7-8:30pm)- TRSS Wine Night:

Pour yourself a glass of wine or, four! TRSS's Wine Night is an excellent opportunity to socialize and meet other members of the society.

Week 3: Thursday 8th October (7-8pm)- TRSS Pizza Night

Whether you choose to treat yourself to a Domino's, make your own or get a frozen ASDA special- we won't judge. Bring your own pizza and join us for a natter.

Week 4: Thursday 15th October (7:30-8:30pm)- TRSS Pub Quiz

All rounds will have a religion-based twist! Each team should consist of 2-3 people. Please email TRSS with the names of your teammates and your team name by Wednesday the 14th at 6pm. If you are new to DRS or struggling to find teammates, do not worry! Send us an email letting us know you would like to attend, and we will be able to team you up with others on the night!

Best wishes,

Caitlin, Cody and the TRSS Team

If you are interested in becoming a member or finding out more about TRSS and the events we organise, here is the link to our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2272399396416039/>

If you do not have Facebook and are interested in joining TRSS, you can email us at:

TRSSABDN@outlook.com



Support:

There is a range of support on offer here at the Department of Divinity and University of Aberdeen:

Divinity Support and queries: Dr Sam Newington (s.newington@abdn.ac.uk)

Chaplaincy: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/chaplaincy/>

Student Support: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/>

Coronavirus FAQ: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/coronavirus/fags-9773.php>

AUSA: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/support/>

Semester News:

Throughout the semester, I will post here your interesting news and updates! If you would like to contribute towards the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me. It'd be great to hear from you!

Here's to a wonderful semester and all very best wishes,

Sam (Dr Newington)