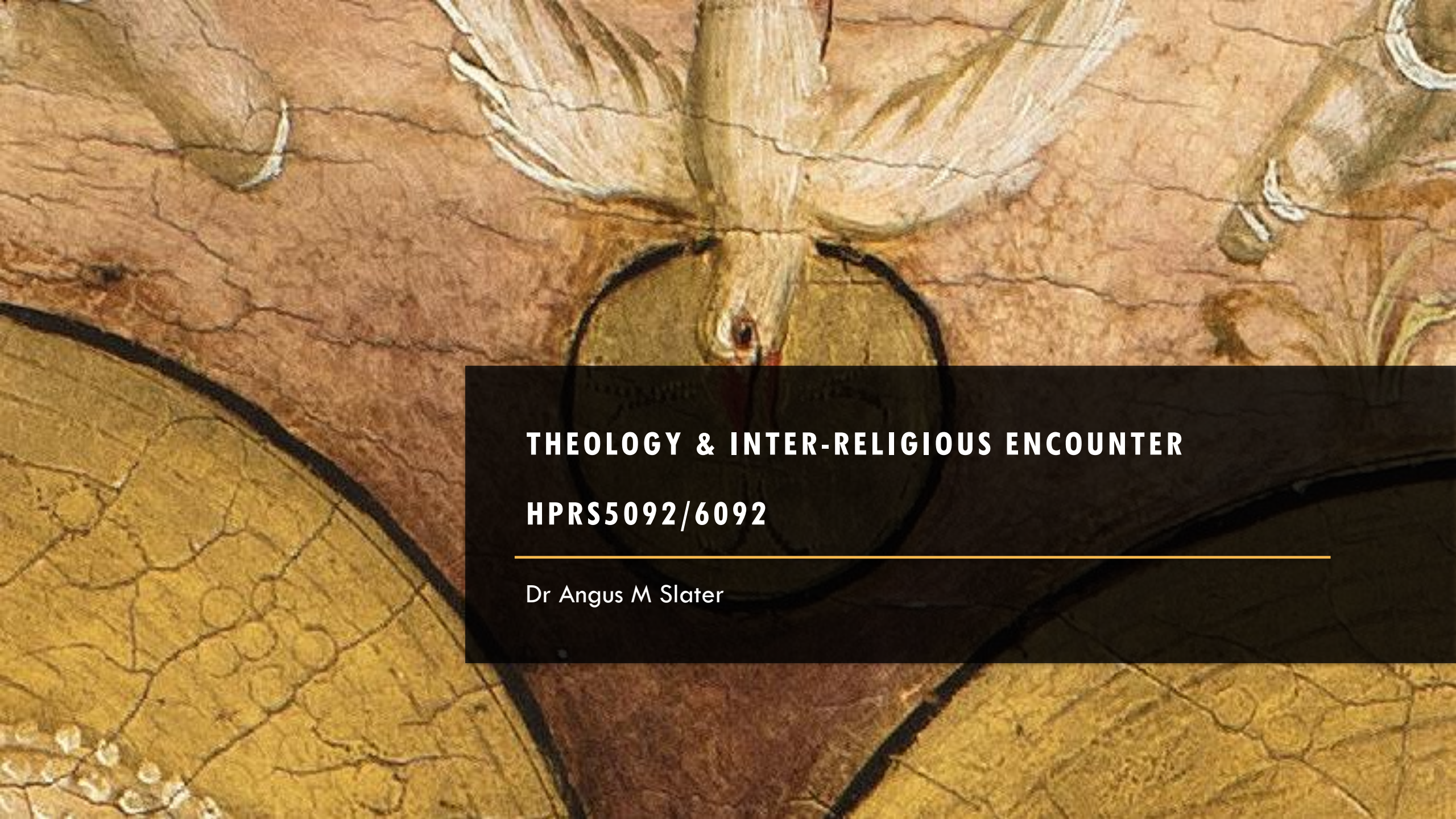
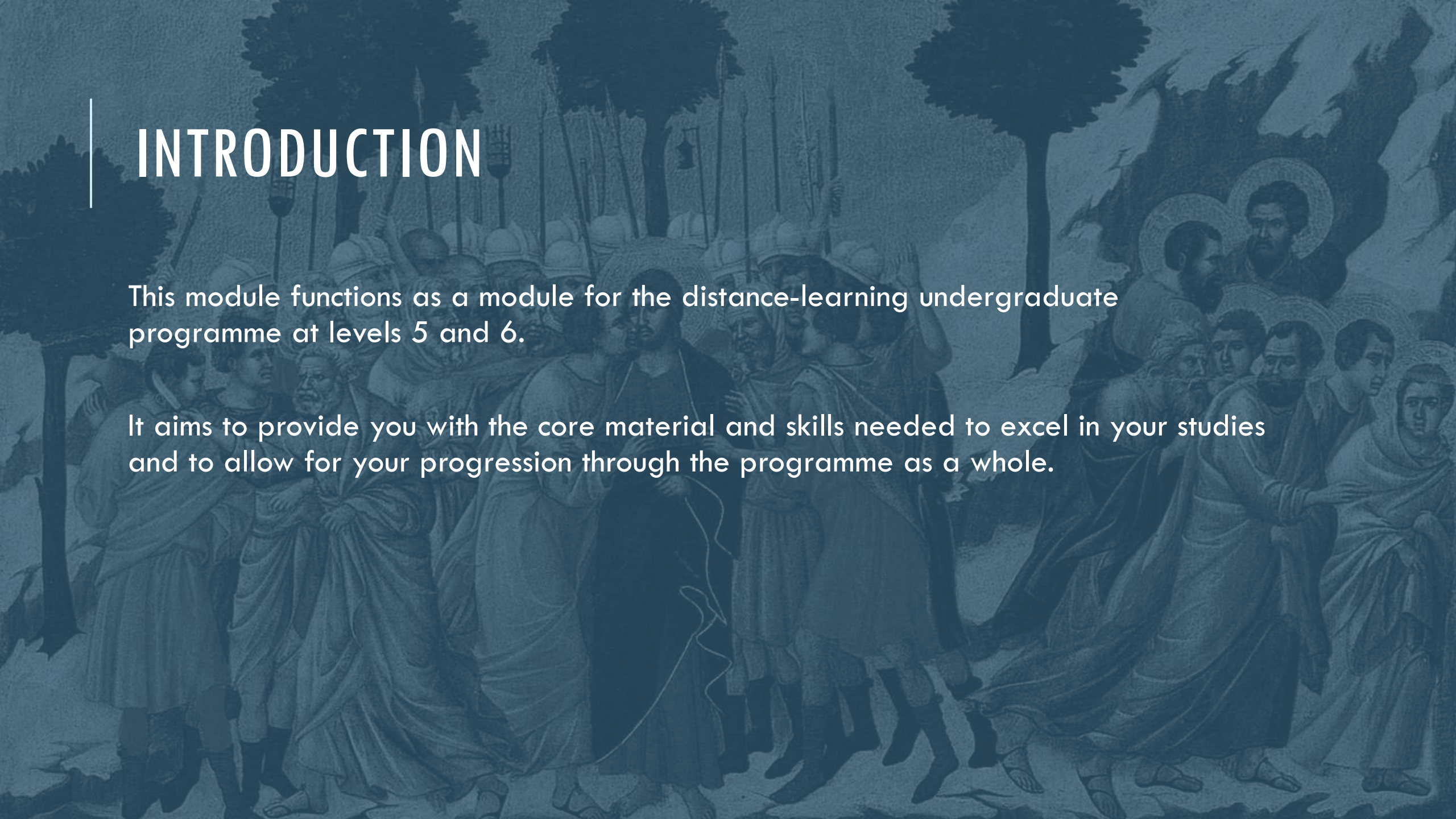




THEOLOGY & INTER-RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTER

HPRS5092/6092

Dr Angus M Slater



INTRODUCTION

This module functions as a module for the distance-learning undergraduate programme at levels 5 and 6.

It aims to provide you with the core material and skills needed to excel in your studies and to allow for your progression through the programme as a whole.

A detailed painting of a white dove with its wings spread, perched on a dark, circular object, set against a cracked, earthy background. The dove is white with a red beak and a red eye. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface with visible cracks. The text "INITIAL ADMIN" is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area in the center of the image.

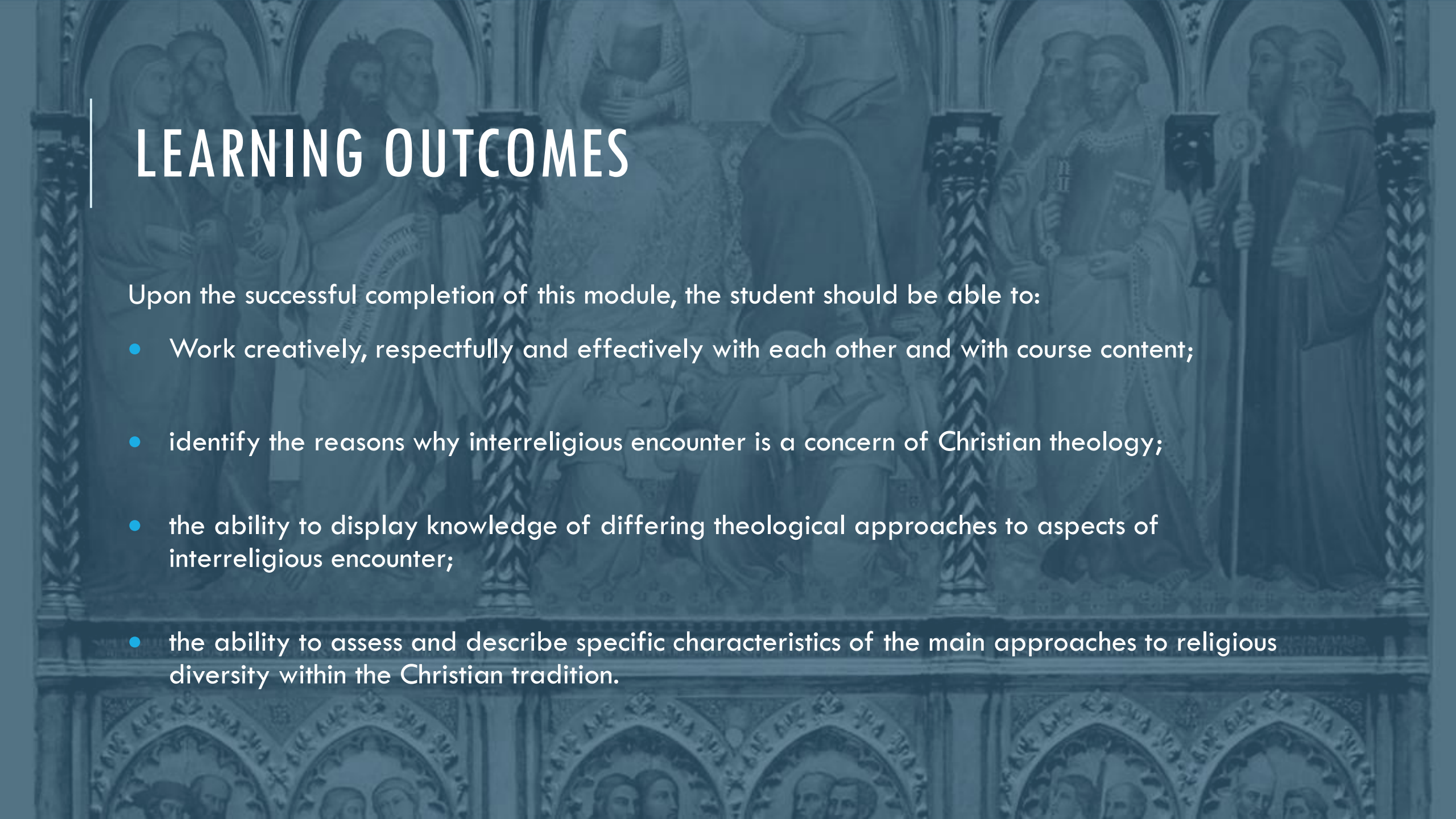
INITIAL ADMIN

AIMS

This module aims:

- To explore the nature of theological approaches to interreligious encounter from within the Christian tradition.
- To introduce a variety of Christian responses to religious plurality in contemporary society.
- To explore some examples of Christian theological responses to differing religious traditions.





LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Work creatively, respectfully and effectively with each other and with course content;
- identify the reasons why interreligious encounter is a concern of Christian theology;
- the ability to display knowledge of differing theological approaches to aspects of interreligious encounter;
- the ability to assess and describe specific characteristics of the main approaches to religious diversity within the Christian tradition.

STRUCTURE

In order to equip you with these skills, the module takes a journey through a number of different areas in Christian theology, and engages with a variety of different themes and topics within the Theology of Religions.

The module is roughly split into three areas – first, some historical background, second, examining positions within the Theology of Religions, and third, moving on to examining some of the methodological questions that arise from interfaith contact.

This means we end up covering quite a lot of material, some of which may be of greater or lesser interest to you – but all of which is important!



STRUCTURE

For each section of the module, students will be introduced to the building blocks of contemporary Christian theology in this context.

This will include discussion of the sources, methods, and styles that have contributed to this development, as well as some of the differences between approaches.

Alongside this, students will be provided with a number of primary and secondary readings on the aspect of ethics under consideration within each section.

These nine sections will give you a firm grounding in the key ethical sources and principles of Christian theological approaches to other faiths.

EXPECTATIONS

In order for this module structure to work effectively, there are some expectations of you, the student.

These are primarily making sure that you have read the preparatory texts and that you are able to engage in discussing them in the available student forums.

If you are struggling to achieve these expectations, please do reach out to the module tutor before the issue becomes acute.



ASSESSMENTS

As part of this module, you will also complete two assessments.

These assessments have been kept deliberately open in nature in order to allow the student multiple potential approaches to the question.

Students **MUST** seek out the advice and guidance of the tutor before engaging in the assessments.



ASSESSMENT ONE — 1,000 WORDS — 25%

Choose one of the following three theological positions in the theology of religions - exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism - and write an academic encyclopaedia article of 1,000 words addressing it.

This will require you to consult academic encyclopaedias in order to ascertain the correct style and tone for the genre, to cover the key theological features of the position, and to locate and define its relevance for the field.



ASSESSMENT TWO — 3,000 WORDS — 75%

Students must produce an appropriately referenced and structured essay engaging with a topic of inter-religious encounter covered in class.

Through close engagement with the themes and key issues in inter-religious encounter discussed in class, and with close guidance from the tutor, students must answer one of the provided essay questions.

This assessment is not just a process of description of theological positions, but an assessment of the role that theological commitments and systems play in the production of those differing approaches to other religious faiths



RECOMMENDED READING

If you are looking for some general texts on Christian ethics, I would recommend:

Hedges, P & Race, A., SCM Reader: Christian Approaches to Other Faiths. (London: SCM Press, 2009)

Available on Amazon for £10

