

M710 Theology in a Digital Age

Code	M710
Title	Theology in a Digital Age
Tutor	Andy du Feu
School	Moorlands College
Owning Course	MA Applied Theology
Module Type	Standard Taught Module
Brief description	This module aims to equip students to reflect critically and theologically on the relationship between technological development, particularly as regards digital media, and cultural development (in other words, ascertain some of the key distinctives of a 'digital age'). The module also encourages students to reflect on how these developments have informed contemporary theology (in other words, reflect on how the current digital age has impacted theology). In addition, it enables students to reflect critically and theologically on the use of digital media in mission and ministry contexts, with regard to the relationship between medium and message. The module also assists students in their reflection on ethical issues, for example around the use of Artificial Intelligence, and ecclesial considerations, for instance relating to online and hybrid expressions of church, and issues around power and authority.
Level of study	Level 7
CATS points	30
Approved base location	Module validated for delivery at Moorlands College, Christchurch.
Restrictions	None
Indicative syllabus	This module covers a range of topics relating to: the relationship between technological and cultural development, particularly in relation to digital communication; the use of digital media in mission and ministry contexts, for instance evangelism; ethical considerations, for example in relation to AI and transhumanism; and ecclesial considerations, for instance in relation to online and hybrid expressions of church.
Learning outcomes	A student passing this module should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. critically evaluate the relationship between technological and cultural development in relation to a particular area of digital media; 2. reflect systematically and theologically on the use of digital media (focusing on one or more specific types) within a particular mission or ministry context, demonstrating critical reflection on relevant ethical and/or ecclesial considerations as appropriate; 3. demonstrate advanced insight into current key issues and developments within the field of theology and digital media and/or technology.
Learning and teaching activities	Scheduled learning and teaching activities: 26 hours Guided independent study: 274 hours
Mark Scheme	Postgraduate: Standard Assessment: Mark/Grade
Assessment	A: 50 % Presentation

	<p>20 minutes</p> <p>B: 50 % Assignment 3,000 words or equivalent</p>
Special assessment requirements	The module has an 80% attendance requirement.
Indicative resources	<p>Beck, Michael Adam, and Picardo, Rosario. <i>Fresh Expressions in a Digital Age: How the Church Can Prepare for a Post Pandemic World</i>. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2021.</p> <p>Brooks, Ed, and Pete Nicholas. <i>Virtually Human</i>. Nottingham: IVP, 2015.</p> <p>Campbell, Heidi A. <i>Digital Creatives and the Rethinking of Religious Authority</i>. London: Routledge, 2020.</p> <p>Campbell, Heidi, and John Dyer, eds. <i>Ecclesiology for a Digital Church</i>. London: SCM Press, 2022.</p> <p>Castells, Manuel. <i>The Rise of the Network Society</i>. 2nd ed. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.</p> <p>Hutchings, Tim. <i>Creating Church Online: Ritual, Community and New Media</i>. London: Taylor & Francis Group, 2017.</p> <p>Kurlberg, Jonas, and Peter M. Phillips. <i>Missio Dei in a Digital Age</i>. London: SCM Press, 2020.</p> <p>McLuhan, Marshall, and Terrence Gordon, ed. <i>Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man</i>, Richmond: Gingko Press, 2003.</p> <p>Paulus Jr., Michael J. <i>Artificial Intelligence and the Apocalyptic Imagination</i>. Leicester: Wipf & Stock, 2023.</p> <p>Zsupan-Jerome, Daniella. <i>Connected Toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age</i>. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2014.</p>
Initial Intake Year	September 2025
Date of approval	November 2024?
Revision dates	
External Examiner	Dr Andrew Rogers