



School of Christian Studies

In Touch

Welcome to the Newsletter of SOCS, keeping you in touch

From the Principal

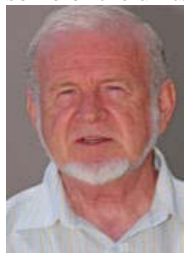
Dear Students and Friends of SOCS

The guest speaker at a recent graduation ceremony at the Irish Bible Institute spoke about 'the importance of hard thinking' and gave three reasons why critical thinking is so valuable. The first was that 'the Word of God opens its treasures to hard thinking'. As we read and re-read the text, study the context, compare other relevant texts and use other learning resources our understanding grows. Careful scholarship rewards the investigator. Secondly if we are to be as effective as possible in our communication, our evangelism, our ministry then we need to have a 'profound knowledge of the Word' matched to a 'profound knowledge of the world', something that that great communicator John Stott taught us many years ago and remains as valid as ever. Finally 'hard thinking is important above all because it is nothing less than part of our worship of God. It is to love the Lord our God with all our mind as well as our heart and strength'. I think that these three thoughts from Graham Cheesman strike an important note. Solid intellectual work has its own rewards. And when it is coupled with a desire for ministry in the name of the Lord Jesus it becomes a critical part of the self-equipping for ministry that we should all engage in.

Chris Bellenger

New lecturers for 2011

SOCS is pleased to be able to introduce some new lecturers who will be offering some of the units listed below.



Tony Nichols BA, DipEd, ThSchol, BD (Hons), MEd, MA (Hons), PhD (Sheffield)

Visiting lecturer in New Testament and part-time

lecturer at Trinity Theological College in Perth. Tony has also lectured regularly in Indonesia where he previously served as a CMS missionary.

Tony is the retired bishop of North West Australia and former principal of both Nungalinga College in Darwin and St Andrew's Hall in Melbourne.

Grenville Kent BA, MA, MA Theol, PhD (Manchester)

Sessional lecturer in Old Testament.



Grenville also lectures in Old Testament and Arts at Wesley Institute and is a Sessional Lecturer in the Avondale College MA program.

Visiting professor, AIAS (Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies) and ISOT (International School of Theology, Asia), Manila, Philippines

Visiting professor, University of the Southern Caribbean

David Sandifer BA, MDiv, PhD candidate (Cambridge)



Visiting Academic Fellow

David's undergraduate studies were at Wheaton College in Philosophy, MDiv at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Pastor in Jacksonville Florida, the Anglican Church of North America.

David's thesis topic is 'Moral reform and the ethic of innocence in early nineteenth century Britain' is being supervised by Dr Peter Mandler, Professor of Modern Cultural History at Cambridge.

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Roger Chilton BComm, LLB, MDiv (Regent), DPhil (Oxford)



Visiting lecturer in Church History.

Roger is Senior Minister at Pymble Anglican Church. Previously he was pastor in a number of churches in Armidale

Anglican diocese. His doctoral research was on Evangelical Anglicans and CMS missions in Canada.



Jen Rose BTh AdvDip-Min, BTh Hons candidate

Jen is currently working on her 15,000 word thesis for her BTh. She studied Intermediate Greek and Hebrew

with SOCS' lecturer Greg Fox and achieved outstanding results in both those classes. She is married to SOCS' Registrar Aaron and they have two primary school aged sons.

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New units in 2011

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of new units in first semester and the Winter School intensives. They are

First semester

- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (LA002) – Lecturer: Jen Rose
- 1 & 2 Corinthians, English text (NT421, NT621) or Greek text (NT431, NT631) – Lecturer: Paul Barnett
- 1 & 2 Samuel, English text (OT421, OT621) or Hebrew text (OT431, OT631) – Lecturer: Grenville Kent
- Genesis & Deuteronomy (OT205) – Lecturer: Doug McNaught
- Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts (EM415, EM615) – Lecturer: Fayek Iskander

Winter school

- Principles of Hermeneutics (OT203) – Lecturer: Doug McNaught
- Principles of Hermeneutics (OT303, OT503) – Lecturer: Grenville Kent
- Christian Worldview (PE310) – Lecturers: Thomas Smith & Grant Maple
- Evangelicalism: Its Nature, Spirituality and Significance (TH752) – Lecturers: Grant Maple, David Sandifer & Roger Chilton.

New online units

- SOCS is rapidly developing its new SOCSonline.org site. From first semester the following units will be offered
- New Testament Greek (LA004)
 - Biblical Hebrew (LA003)
 - Old Testament Foundations (various levels)
 - The Content and Setting of the Gospel Tradition (various levels)
 - The Doctrines of Grace and Eschatology (TH403, TH603)
 - The Doctrine of God and the Person and Work of Christ (TH210)
 - The Holy Spirit, Grace and Hope (TH211)
 - The Church to 1550 (various levels)
 - Introduction to Christian Ethics (PE301)
 - Chaplaincy in Educational Settings (various levels)

More units will be added progressively during the year. Details may be found on www.SOCSonline.org.

Parking at RMC this year

Due to building works at RMC this year, parking will be unavailable.

We encourage SOCS lecturers and students to use public transport where possible (Macquarie University train station is right across the road, along with

the numerous buses servicing the Macquarie Centre.

2 hour Parking may be available across the street from RMC, on Herring Road, or alternatively the Macquarie Centre car park has 3 hours free parking, and parking after 6pm is free until midnight.

We apologise for any inconvenience experienced because of this. On the plus side, it will mean that SOCS will have access to new lecturing space in the new building once it has been completed in January 2012.

Day/dates	Diploma	Degree	Grad Dip/Masters
Tuesdays	TH213 Ecclesiology & Means of grace – Grant Maple		
Wednesdays	LA003A Biblical Hebrew – Greg Fox		
	LA011 Intermediate Hebrew – Greg Fox		
	LA001 – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew – Jen Rose		
		TH401/601 The Knowledge of God – Grant Maple	
Thursdays	NT201/301/501 Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition – Doug McNaught		
	LA004A New Testament Greek – Andrew Errington		
Semi-intensives			
March 4 & 5 March 18 & 19 April 29 & 30		NT421/431/621/631 1 & 2 Corinthians (English or Greek) – Paul Barnett	
February 25 & 26 April 8 & 9 May 13 & 14		OT421/431/621/631 1 & 2 Samuel (English or Hebrew)– Grenville Kent	
March 4 & 5 April 8 & 9 May 13 & 14	OT205 Genesis & Deuteronomy – Doug McNaught		
February 18 & 19 March 4 & 5 April 29 & 30		EM415/615 Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts – Fayek Iskander	
Winter School June 27-July 2	Masters: TH752 Evangelicalism: Its Nature, Spirituality & Significance Grant Maple, Roger Chilton & David Sandifer.		
Winter School July 5-9	OT203 Hermeneutics - Doug McNaught		
Winter School July 5-9		OT303/503 Hermeneutics - Grenville Kent	
Winter School July 12, 13, 21-23		PE310/510 Christian Worldview - Maple, Smith et al	

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Future delivery of SOCS lecture materials

As we make steps to embrace new technology, the way SOCS will be delivering lecture materials will be changing over the next two years. Starting in Semester 1, 2011, we will only provide audio CDs where we still have stock or for units we don't currently have the audio in MP3 format. For all other units there are three different ways we will provide the audio:

- download from SOCSonline.org,
- SOCS MP3 player and/or MicroSD card (for those without an iPod or other MP3 player),
- MP3 CD (for use with a MP3 compatible CD player or computer).

Student results

One of the most pleasing aspects of reporting is to bring to the attention of the SOCS community the extremely fine results our students have achieved. Second semester 2010 was no exception as the accompanying graph shows. Nearly half (48%) of our students were awarded a Distinction or High Distinction, and almost 3/4 (73%) received a Credit or above — well done!

We will also be phasing out providing hardcopy notes and instead provide them either through SOCSonline.org, or on a CD-ROM in PDF format. We will still provide printed notes in 2011 for those students without a computer.

SOCS Fundraising

We are pleased to be able to announce that in response to our two major appeals during 2010 our generous supporters gave **\$17,905**. This has meant that additional expert assistance was employed in the revision and development of our distance learning materials. The resulting courses and units on **SOCSonline.org** will provide ready access for people around Australia and beyond to the

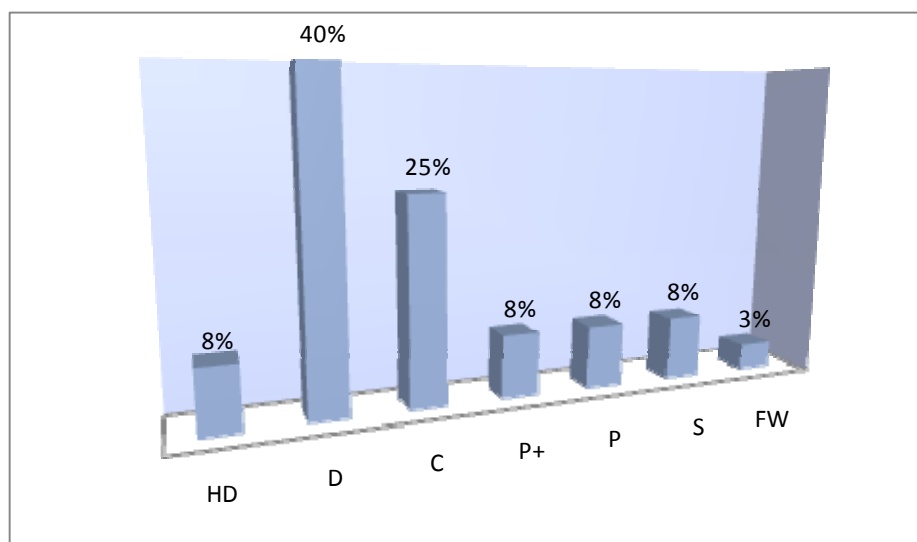
courses that SOCS offers.

Our intention is to hold a further two fundraising appeals in May and November 2011 to enable us to carry on this good work.

Voluntary assistance

Mention must also be made of the extremely valuable help that has been given by Dr Thomas Smith in educational and administrative matters and by Mr Ian Walker as Honorary Library Assistant.

For those who are unable to support SOCS by monetary gifts, there is the opportunity to give of your time to assist in the many aspects of our work.

**ACT Recommended fees for 2011**

As communicated previously, SOCS has the policy of charging the recommended Australian College of Theology fees. The 2011 ACT and SOCS fees are:

Diploma and Advanced Diploma level units -	Domestic students:	\$1048
	International students:	\$1328
Degree and Associate Degree level units -	Domestic students:	\$1412
	International students:	\$1552
Graduate Diploma level units -	Domestic students:	\$1564
	International students:	\$1720
Masters level units (8cps):	Domestic students:	\$2056
	International students:	\$2656

The charges for auditing units in 2011 will be:

Diploma:	\$290
Language units:	\$500
Degree & Graduate diploma:	\$450

Fee for enrolment variations

Reluctantly SOCS will be charging a small fee to defray the costs involved in enrolment variations that take place after the end of the second week of each semester and prior to the FEE-HELP Census date. So, if you wish to change your enrolment **between March 1st and 31st**, there will be a fee of **\$90**. Changes before the end of February attract no charge. Changes after March 31st, or in the case of intensives after 40% of the lectures have been delivered, mean the forfeit of the full course fees.

This fee will be waived if evidence is produced showing that the circumstances leading to the change were unforeseen prior to March 1st.

New email address for submitting assessment tasks

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Starting in Semester 1, 2011, students are encouraged to use our new email address, exclusively for submitting assignments and essays electronically. This will be for use for those subjects that don't yet have an online submission facility through SOCSOnline.org, or if you are experiencing difficulty in uploading an assessment task to SOCSOnline.org.

The new address is: **assess@SOCSonline.org**

FEE-HELP loan fee

Please note that the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on 25 November 2010 advised that in 2011 the **FEE-HELP loan fee will increase to 25 per cent** for undergraduate units of study with census dates on or after 1 January 2011. The increase applies regardless of whether you are a new or continuing student.

Further details are available at the Departmental website:

<http://www.goingtouni.gov.au/Main/Quickfind/PayingForYourStudiesHELPLoans/FEEHELP.htm>

Bursary Assistance

Bursary assistance is available to domestic students who are not able to access FEE-HELP and who are not able to pay this semester's fees. Fee-paying students also are able to make arrangements for a monthly payment scheme.

Please email or call the SOCS Registrar if you wish to avail yourself of either bursary assistance or a payment plan – socs@rmc.nsw.edu.au or (02) 9936 6020.

Diary dates

SOCS Graduation is on Monday 7 March, 2011 at 7:30pm

Semester 1 commences on Monday, 14 February and ends with examinations in the first two weeks of June. The mid-semester break is from 11-26 April.

Winter school commences on 23 June and ends on 23 July. See the SOCS website for the dates of individual intensives.

Semester 2 commences on 18 July and ends with examinations in the first two weeks of November. The mid-semester break is from 26 September to 7 October.

Semester 3 commences on Monday 21 November.

Electronic delivery of InTouch

Another area SOCS is aiming to cut down on use of paper is the production of this newsletter. We only send out 'hardcopy' InTouch newsletters to financial supports and those who don't have an email address.

Postal Address:
School of Christian Studies,
PO BOX 1505
Macquarie Centre NSW 2113

PHONE: (02) 99366020 FAX: (02) 99366032

EMAIL: socs@rmc.nsw.edu.au Web:
www.socs.org.au

Online learning: www.SOCSonline.org
Assessments: assess@SOCSonline.org

Twitter: @SOCSonline
Skype: SOCS.Registrar

