

SYT 184i Christology

Fall Semester 2020

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Online & Zoom Tuesdays, 10:30-11:20am

Instructors Name: Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.
Office: 2—06
Office Hours: By appointment
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Zoom: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:20am Mountain Time

Course Description

The contemporary problematic in Christology. The claims and challenges posed by Jesus in his preaching and life. His rejection, death and resurrection. Jesus Christ as divine and human. Traditional and contemporary Christologies.

Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course aims to bring students to a greater appreciation of the person and mission of Jesus Christ by presenting a modern, but scripturally based interpretation of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection as the Incarnate Son of God. The course will foster the development of a thoughtful, critical mind—essential to doing theology as “faith seeking understanding”—in the context of the Church and world. The course will foster the practice of research and technical skills necessary to do acceptable theological reflection and work. The course will demonstrate the importance of Christology to other areas or branches (Scripture, Foundations, Moral/Spiritual/Pastoral).
- b) **Cultural Context** - The course will promote an evangelical discernment of the ‘signs of the times’ to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world through the lens of a Christology that will touch on the following: Scripture, doctrinal development, the teaching Magisterium of the Church, as well as addressing the modern and postmodern critiques of the claim that God became incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course will foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity through the promotion of a critical and profound faith understanding of

Jesus, Son of God and son of Mary, so that the spiritual and liturgical life of students may be enhanced. The course will foster maturation in the Christian faith through assigned readings and participation in the discussion forum so that students may come to see discipleship in Jesus Christ as a dimension of public witness.

- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program will foster theological reflection on Christ the Lord for the practice of ministerial and educational leadership in the Church and world by bringing to the fore key representative theologians, as well as different approaches to Christology. The course will emphasize the importance of a personal synthesis and aid in the forming of one so that students may develop an integrated approach to faith in Jesus Christ, the revelation of the triune God. The course will foster sound knowledge of Jesus Christ with the view to enhancing Christian teaching and preaching.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded according to the following schema: 60% for content and 40% for style. For an "A" the written work must be clear, well organized and contain few if any grammatical and/or spelling errors. The difference between an A and an A- is usually attributable to a deficiency vis-à-vis style. For a "B" the written work demonstrates a suitably clear presentation of the material and is adequately organized with a minimum number of grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of "C+" or less the writing is not clear nor are the ideas expressed or organized very well and there are a good deal of grammatical and/or spelling errors.

As regards the synopsis for *The Challenge of Jesus* and the one for *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology* the aim of the assignments is to demonstrate a grasp of the thesis of the books through an exposition of the important points. You may want to summarize the chapters, or you may want to focus on those chapters you consider central to the thesis. Remember, you cannot summarize everything in the books, so you need to discern the most significant aspects. You are invited to give a critique of both books. The first thing I look for in a critique is a comment on some of the following: is the book readable; are the ideas expressed clearly; is the topic adequately addressed; does the book miss something that, in your opinion, should have been covered? The second thing I look for is evidence of your own appropriation of the book: how did the book influence your life or your work? Did the book contribute to a deepening of your faith understanding, to growth in your spiritual life?

Textbooks

N.T. Wright's *The Challenge of Jesus*. Downers Grove, Il: InterVarsity Press, 1999, 9-202.

Thomas P. Rausch's *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2003, 1-217.

Recommended Reading

David J. Norman O.F.M. "Doubt and the Resurrection of Jesus," in *Theological Studies* Volume 69, Number 4, 2008, 786-811.

Course Requirements

For Tuesday, September 15th read the “Introduction” of my notes. Discussion forum question: Who is Jesus for you and why do you think that it is difficult to believe in Jesus?

For Tuesday, September 22nd read my notes on “Jesus Reveals God as Father (*Abba*).” Discussion forum question: What are the central aspects of Jesus’ revelation of God as Father and how would you argue for the image of God as father?

For Tuesday, September 29th read notes on “Jesus Preaches the Reign of God.” Discussion forum question: What is the reign of God and when does it arrive?

For Tuesday, October 6th before 9:00 MDT and for 30% of the final mark write a synopsis of 5-6 pages (300 words per page on a 12 point font) of N.T. Wright’s *The Challenge of Jesus*. Please leave your critique of the book, if you have one, until the last page. **No late submissions accepted.**

For Tuesday, October 13th read my notes on “Jesus Forgives Sins.” Discussion forum question: Has the reign of God arrived if sin is still prevalent; or, to put it another way, does Jesus’ forgiveness of sin convince, given that sin still prevails?

For Tuesday, October 20th read my notes on “Jesus Brings the Judgment of God.” Discussion forum question: What is the purpose of judgment and why does Jesus bring a judging word?

For Tuesday, October 27th before 9:00 MDT and for 30% of the final mark write a synopsis of 5-6 pages (300 words per page on a 12 point font) of Thomas P Rausch’s *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*. Please leave your critique of the book, if you have one, to the last page or two. **No late submissions accepted.**

For Tuesday, November 3rd read my notes on “The Baptism of Jesus” and “The Temptations of Jesus.” Discussion forum question: What do these two events tell us about Jesus?

Reading Week: Monday, November 9th to Friday, November 13th.

For Tuesday, November 17th read my notes on “The Miracles of Jesus.” Discussion forum question: What do miracles do; were the miracles of Jesus effective?

For Tuesday, November 24th read my notes on “The Death of Jesus” and “The Transition from Death to Resurrection.” Discussion forum question: Was the death of Jesus necessary? What did it accomplish?

For Tuesday, December 1st read my notes on “The Resurrection-Exaltation of Jesus” and the article “Doubt and the Resurrection of Jesus.” For 12% of the final mark write a response of 2-3 pages to the following question: was the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his appearances to his disciples sufficient for them to come to believe in him as Lord? **Due date: before 9:00 MST. Late submissions will be deducted 10%.**

For Tuesday, December 8th read my notes on “The Divinity and Humanity of Jesus.” For 12% of the final mark write a paper of 2-3 pages on how you would explain the relationship between the divinity and humanity of Jesus to the people in a parish or to Grade 12 students. **Due date: before 9:00 MST. No late submissions accepted.**

For 16% of the final mark—participation in the discussion forum. Note: Submissions to the discussion forum must be made before Tuesday at 23:59, except for those days when there is no discussion forum (October 6, October 27, December 1 and 8). Each submission must be of a length of at least 150 words. A minimum of 6 submissions must be made to qualify for participation status in the discussion forum. Students are required to respond to at least one other submission. No late submissions will be accepted. For those who participate fully (submission plus one or more responses to another submission) in the discussion forum sessions, will receive a grade of 13.8 of 16 or 86%.

Every Tuesday at 10:30 Mountain Time we will gather for a zoom meeting. It will provide students an opportunity to discuss the material of the previous week and to ask questions of the Professor pertaining to the topic at hand, as well as to related topics in systematic theology.

Course Schedule

September 9-15—Introduction

September 16-22—Jesus Reveals God as Father (Abba)

September 23-29—Jesus Preaches the Reign of God

September 30 - October 6—*The Challenge of Jesus*

October 7-13—Jesus Forgives Sins

October 14-20—Jesus Brings the Judgment of God

October 21-27—*Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*

October 28 - November 3—The Baptism of Jesus and The Temptations of Jesus

November 4-10— Reading Break

November 11-17—The Miracles of Jesus

November 18-24—The Death of Jesus and the Transition from Death to Resurrection

November 25 - December 1—The Resurrection/Exaltation of Jesus and Doubt and the Resurrection of Jesus

December 2-8—The Divinity and Humanity of Jesus

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

See Course Requirements.

Extensions will be granted for sickness or other extraordinary reasons.

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies			Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7

Adequate	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	Adequate	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7
Marginal	D+ D	1.3 1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+ D F	1.3 1.0 0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography