

Revised 2/6/14

Christology and Theological Anthropology
Spring 2014
Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

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I. Description and Objectives

This course will examine the biblical, historical, and contextual development of Christology and Theological Anthropology. The topics covered include the biblical roots of Christology, early Christological debates, models of atonement, Christ and salvation, Christ in relation to world religions, Imago Dei, God and human suffering, sin and evil, and forgiveness and reconciliation.

Objectives:

- A. To introduce the basic theological issues in Christology and Theological Anthropology and develop the professional competence to understand their interrelatedness.
- B. To examine the diverse theological models of understanding Jesus Christ and humanity in church history and contemporary contexts.
- C. To mature skills in articulating the doctrines of Christian faith in relation to personal Christian identity and professional Christian ministry.

II. Reading Resources

Required:

J. Patout Burns, S.J. *Theological Anthropology*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1981.

Copeland, M. Shawn. *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. – Available on moodle.

Eleazar Fernandez. *Reimagining the Human: Theological Anthropology in Response to Systemic Evil*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.

Dwight Hopkins. *Being Human: Race Culture and Religion*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005.

Richard Norris. *The Christological Controversy*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1980.

Joerg Rieger. *Christ & Empire: From Paul to Postcolonial Times*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.

Denny Weaver, *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids: WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

III. Student Assignments and Evaluation

A. Regular attendance with careful reading of the assignments (10 %). Each student is expected to participate with thoughtful questions and comments during the discussion sessions.

- If a student must miss a class, he or she must inform the instructors in advance in writing (a brief email will be fine) and complete a written report of on the readings of the day (one page, single spaced).
- This report, due one week after the absence, should include the main ideas of the assigned readings and student's reflections.
- Absence of more than 2 classes will result in not passing this course, except for extenuating circumstances.
- Please use the blue card to indicate your attendance and communicate with your instructors for any questions or comments.

B. Facilitating two small group discussions (20 %). Students will sign up to facilitate two sessions of small group discussion. Small groups will be comprised of 4-6 students.

- The discussion sessions will run about 45 minutes. A facilitator prepares 4-5 questions based on the required reading assignments of the week. These questions should be thoughtfully constructed and submitted to the instructors by midnight the day before the class session via email.
- Copies of these questions should be made for all students and instructors. Sign up to choose your two sessions on the first day of the class. Each small group session will count for 10 % of the grade.
- After the small group discussion, be prepared to share one idea from your small group with the large group.

C. Two research papers (8-10 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margin) will be required. Each paper will count for 30 % of the grade. Submit your paper topic and outline at least one week before the paper due date. Please see below for further instructions for the papers.

Instructions on Papers:

1. Use class readings to support your arguments. You are welcome to use the resources beyond the required readings.
2. Make separate pages for the cover and bibliography.
3. Make separate sections of the introduction and the conclusion in the paper.
4. Submit the outline of your paper one week before the paper is due. The outline should include the following:
 - a. Theme
 - b. Structure
 - c. A preliminary bibliography, including at least 3 main resources you are using in your paper.
5. Please pay attention to the paper format: 8-10 pages (not including the cover and bibliography pages), double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margin. Not observing this format will result in a reduction in your grade.
6. Submit your paper **both** in hard copy and via email.
7. Those who choose Paper Option #1 for Christology may not choose Paper Option #1 for Theological Anthropology.

Here are the paper topics:

1. Christology:

The students will choose among the following options:

- a. Christ, Culture, and Theology. Analyze and reflect on how christological themes (such as crucifixion, salvation, or atonement) are interwoven in one of the modern/contemporary literature, music, plays, movies, paintings, or other creative and cultural expressions.
- b. Christology. Who is Jesus Christ according to the Christian faith? How do you understand the power of Christ in today's world? How does your Christology affect how you relate to persons?
- c. Atonement/salvation. Which atonement theory or elements of various atonement theories commend themselves to your theology at this point? How do you see them related to your context? How do atonement theories relate to your experience of salvation/healing/liberation/reconciliation?

2. Theological Anthropology:

The students will choose among the following options:

1. Theological Anthropology and Culture. Analyze and reflect on how theological anthropological themes (such as creation in the image of God, sin, evil, and/or suffering) are interwoven in one of the modern/contemporary

literature, music, plays, movies, paintings, or other creative and cultural expressions.

2. Theological anthropology. According to the Christian faith, what does it mean to be a human being? What difference does it make that human beings are created in the image of God? How does your theological anthropology affect your life and ministry?

3. Sin/evil. What is your theological understanding of sin and evil? What are the manifestations of sin and evil in history and in today's world? How do anti-racist and non-androcentric anthropologies affect your responses to sin and evil?

D. Each student will sign up for one presentation, either on Christology or Theological Anthropology (10 %).

Instructions on Paper Presentation

1. Each student should sign up to do one presentation either on Christology on 3/13 or on Theological Anthropology on 5/8.
2. Presentation is for 10 minutes with additional time (about 5 minutes) for questions.
3. Please share the following during your presentation.
 - Your topic & why you have chosen this particular topic
 - Main argument(s) in your paper - Please be selective; you won't have time to present your whole paper.
 - What you have learned in writing this paper (new insights, new resources, research method, self-discovery, or any others).

Electronic devices

All electronic devices and cell phones are not allowed in the class, except for the purpose of presentations. If a student is found in using an electronic device, he or she will be asked to put it away.

Communication with Instructors

1. Please feel free to use email for communication with instructors.
2. Instructors are available 30 minutes before and after the class in general. If you need more time, please make an appointment.

IV. Course Outline and Calendar

Session 1 – 2/6

Biblical Foundations of Christology

1. Purpose, methods, assignments
2. Lecture: “Biblical Foundations and Models”

3. Discussion
4. Reading:
 - Rieger, Introduction & chapter 1

Session 2 – 2/13

Historical Developments of Christology

1. Lecture: “The Development of Early Christology”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Rieger, chapter 2
 - Norris, chapters 1, 4, 6, & 9

Session 3 – 2/20

Models of Atonement

1. Lecture: “Atonement Theories”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Weaver, chapters 1, 2, & 3
 - Rieger, chapter 6

Session 4 – 2/27

Contemporary Christologies

1. Lecture: “Contemporary Christologies”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Weaver, chapters 4, 5, & 6

Session 5 – 3/6

Christology, Colonialism, and World Religions

1. “Christ and Culture”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Rieger, chapter 4, pp. 159-196

CHRISTOLOGY PAPER TOPIC AND OUTLINE DUE

Session 6 – 3/13

Student Paper Presentations

CHRISTOLOGY PAPER DUE

Session 7 – 3/20**Traditions in Theological Anthropology****Michele Watkins-Branch**

1. Lecture: “The Development of Early Theological Anthropology”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Burns, Chapters 2, 3, 6 & 7

Session 8 – 3/27**Contemporary Theological Anthropology****Michele Watkins-Branch**

1. Lecture: “Contemporary Theological Anthropology”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Hopkins, chapters 1 & 2
 - Handout- Introduction - Chapter 2 of M. Shawn Copeland. *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010). – Available on moodle.

Session 9 – 4/3**Humanity, Community, & Relationships**

1. Lecture: “Community and Relationship in Theological Anthropology”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Hopkins, chapters 3
 - Fernandez, chapters 8 & 9

Session 10 – 4/10**Sin and Evil**

1. Lecture: “Theodicy and the Problem of Evil”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Fernandez, Introduction, chaps. 1, 2, & 3

4/17 – No Class (Holy Thursday)**4/24 – No Class (Spring Break)****Session 11 – 5/1****Theological Anthropology for Justice**

1. Lecture: “Anti-racist, anti-sexist Theological Anthropology”
2. Discussion
3. Readings:
 - Hopkins chap. 4
 - Fernandez, chap 5 & 6

THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY PAPER TOPIC & OUTLINE DUE

Session 12 – 5/8

STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY PAPER DUE

Session 13 – Tuesday, 5/13 - TBD

V. Bibliography

Recommended Reading List:

Gustaf Aulen. *Christus Victor: An Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of the Atonement*. Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Michelle Gonzales. *Created in God's Image. An Introduction to Feminist Theological Anthropology*. Maryknoll: Orbis Press, 2004.

Anne Joh. *Heart of the Cross: A Postcolonial Christology*. Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Kwok Pui-lan. *Postcolonial Imagination & Feminist Theology*. Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Andrew Sung Park. *Triune Atonement: Christ's Healing for Sinners, Victims, and the Whole Creation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Susan Frank Parsons, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Jo Anne Marie Terrell. *Power in the Blood: The Cross in African American Experience*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998.

Rosemary Ruether. *Women and Redemption*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998.

Rosemary Ruether. *To Change the World*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2000.

Peter C Phan, ed. *Journeys at the Margin*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1999.

Kelly Brown Douglas. *The Black Christ*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1994.

John Sobrino. *Jesus the Liberator*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.

Serene Jones and Paul Lakeland, eds. *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005.