

**The Licentiate in Theology Program**

**Fall Term 2023**

**Theological Studies 120**

**Christ, Salvation and Trinity**

**Course Syllabus**

**Huron University College Land Acknowledgment**

Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples, whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty since time immemorial. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. Huron University College acknowledges its past role in perpetuating colonial and exclusionary relations. Because religious and ecclesial institutions were instrumental in such relations, we consider it our particular responsibility as a Faculty of Theology to work towards justice and reconciliation.

**Course Dates:** From September 5th-October 26th, 2023

**Time:** Tuesdays from 7 – 9 P.M. (CT), 8 – 10 P.M. (ET)

**Delivery:** Hosted via Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Brett Potter, Huron University

**Contact:** brett.potter@uwo.ca

**Course Description**

A survey of the development of Christian understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ, and of the Trinitarian theological framework within which it is classically located.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will:

• Demonstrate a critical and culturally sensitive understanding of the theological foundations of the global Christian tradition as they pertain to christology, Trinitarian theology, and soteriology;

• Become familiar with ancient and contemporary questions related to the person and work of Jesus Christ in the Christian theological tradition and beyond;

• Gain experience reading and engaging with current theological research in constructive, creative, and critical ways

**Required Texts and Study Documents**

All assigned weekly readings will be made available as PDFs through a Dropbox link, which will be shared before the beginning of the course. Students are expected to complete the readings in advance of class each week.

**Course Outline**

**Week 1**

Setting the Stage: The Early Development of Christology

Michael Gorman, “The Work of Christ in the New Testament,” In *The Oxford Handbook of Christology*. Edited by Francesca Aran Murphy, First edition., Oxford University Press, 2015. pp. 72-86.

**Week 2**

Who is Jesus Christ? Ancient and Modern Perspectives I

The Chalcedonian Definition - Credo Magazine
https://credomag.com/2021/02/the-chalcedonian-definition/

***Optional Reading:*** Khaled Anatolios, “Christology in the Fourth Century,” in Francesca Aran Murphy, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Christology*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

**Week 3**

Who is Jesus Christ? Ancient and Modern Perspectives II

James Cone, “Who is Jesus Christ For Us Today?” Chapter 4 of *God of the Oppressed*. Seabury, 1975.

Kelly Brown Douglas, “A Womanist Looks at the Future Direction of Theological Discourse.” Anglican Theological Review, vol. 100, no. 3, 2018, pp. 583–91, https://doi.org/10.1177/000332861810000315.

**Week 4**

Salvation: Eastern and Western Perspectives

Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Book III Chapter XVIII

John Calvin, *Institutes,* Book II Chapter XIV

**Week 5**

Salvation: Contemporary Approaches

Kwame Bediako, “Jesus in African Culture: A Ghanaian Perspective.” Chapter 2 of *Jesus and the Gospel in Africa*. Orbis Books, 2004. pp. 20-33.

**Week 6**

The Trinity: Communion

Leonardo Boff, “In the Beginning There is Communion.” Chapter 1 of *Trinity and Society*. Orbis Books, 1988. pp. 9-24.

Catherine Mowry LaCugna, “Persons in Communion,” in *God For Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*., pp. 243-318.

**Week 7**

The Trinity: Kenosis and Redemption

Jürgen Moltmann, “Trinitarian Theology of the Cross,” excerpt from *The Crucified God : the Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology*. SCM Press, 1974. pp. 235-249.

Patricia Fox, “Feminist theologies and the Trinity.” In Phan, Peter C. *The Cambridge Companion to the Trinity*. Edited by Peter C. Phan, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Week 8**

Contemporary Questions, Conclusions, and Q&A

Delio, Ilia. “Christology From Within.” *Heythrop Journal*, vol. 48, no. 3, 2007, pp. 438–57, https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2265.2007.00324.x.

**Method of Evaluation and Criteria for Grading** (only for students choosing to be evaluated for full course credit)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participation and Engagement | 20 % |
| Christology Reflection Paper | 20 % |
| Theological Text Summary | 20 % |
| Final Essay | 40 % |
| **TOTAL** | **100 %** |

**Assignment Guidelines**

**Christology Reflection Paper**

This short (2 pages, double-spaced) paper is a chance for you to reflect on the issues raised by Kelly Brown Douglas in this article:

Douglas, Kelly Brown. “A Womanist Looks at the Future Direction of Theological Discourse.” Anglican Theological Review, vol. 100, no. 3, 2018, pp. 583–91,

After reading this article, we are left with a question: How do we mediate between what Douglas terms “incarnational” (traditional, “top-down” christologies) and contemporary “liberative” christologies? Should we privilege one approach over the other? Or is there a constructive way of combining the two? What do you think?

Another way to ask the same question is this: The creeds of the Church (Nicene, the Apostle’s Creed, etc.) affirm many things about the cosmic significance of Christ’s incarnation, death, resurrection, and return, but nothing about his life, ministry, teaching, or liberating action. How do we bring these two sets of emphasis together, or is one more important than the other?

This is a reflection paper, so I am looking for your own thoughts (in the first-person) about this question. Please use proper MLA style, and include a short bibliography (only 1-2 sources, including the article provided, are necessary).

**Theological Text Summary**

Details to be shared in class!

**Final Essay**

The final paper should address an area related to Christ, Salvation, and Trinity by engaging the work of one historical or contemporary theologian. You will closely read and respond to at least one of their primary texts, as well as consulting secondary sources.

We will spend some class time identifying and assigning theologians whose work would be suitable for this essay.

In the paper, you will:

• Explain this theologian’s major contribution to Christology, soteriology, and/or Trinity

• Consider how their work is related to the broader Christian theological tradition;

• Evaluate strengths and potential weaknesses of their approach.

The paper should be approximately 6 pages, double-spaced, in MLA style with a bibliography.

**Huron Grade Descriptors**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  A+   |  90-100    |  One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
|  A |  80-89   |  Superior work which is clearly above average |
|  B |  70-79 |  Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
|  C |  60-69 |  Competent work, meeting requirements |
|  D   |  50-59 |  Fair work, minimally acceptable |
|  F |  below 50 |  Fail |

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf.

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recording are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the course instructor or the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca.



THIS COURSE HAS BEEN [NOT YET BEEN] APPROVED BY HURON’S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

FOR THE FALL TERM OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2023.