

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*
Winter 2018

Systematic Theology 5112B
Christology and Soteriology
Wednesday 9:00-11:50, Auditorium

Professor: John Dool, 432-5726, x272, jdool@uwo.ca
Office hours by appointment

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A biblical, historical, and systematic consideration of the major questions concerning the Incarnation and Redemption. (3 hours; anti-requisite: the former Dogmatic Theology 301A)

B. GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge:

To gain a sound understanding of the biblical foundations, key historical developments, and contemporary questions and avenues of thought in regard to the person and work of Jesus.

To gain a sense of the historical character of the Incarnation, including its Jewish context, and the historical dimension of our understanding of Jesus.

To gain a sound understanding of the key christological teachings of the church, how and why they developed, and the erroneous positions to which they responded.

To gain a sound understanding of the role of Christ in our redemption and how soteriology shapes Christology.

Skills:

To learn to integrate principles of Christological thought into one's independent exploration of Christological issues.

To learn to relate traditional teachings to contemporary questions and issues.

To learn to identify and constructively evaluate the Christological perspective in a given text or thinker.

Attitudes:

To gain an appreciation for the expression of God's love in the mystery of the Incarnation and redemption and a desire to communicate this to others.

To develop an openness to growth in one's own understanding of who Jesus is.

To grow in recognition of the benefit of shared dialogue and shared exploration of theological issues.

C. ASSESSMENT

A theological analysis of the Christology of one of the gospels, 8-10 pages (10 pages **maximum**; further details provided). Due **February 14** (25%)

A research paper, 10-15 pages (15 pages **maximum**; further details provided). Due **March 24** (30%); not a class day; hand in hard copy to the reception office by 4:30

A final, written examination during the exam period (30%)

Class participation. Students may also submit written comments or questions (one paragraph) based on the week's readings as a contribution to this grade (15%)

D. REQUIRED READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS

Roch Kereszty, *Jesus Christ: Fundamentals of Christology*. New York: Alba House, revised ed., 2002

Richard Norris, ed., *The Christological Controversy*, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.

These are available at the UWO bookstore. A few additional required readings will be put on reserve in the library and on OWL.

E. STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Part 1: Scriptural Witness

Week One (January 10)

- Introduction; Biblical Methods in Christology; The Infancy Narratives (Kereszty, part 1, ch.1 and ch.3)

Week Two (January 17)

- The Early Life of Jesus (Kereszty, part1, ch. 3)
- The Mission of Jesus and the Kingdom of God (Kereszty, part1, chs.4-5)

Week Three (January 24)

- The Death of Jesus
- Biblical Witness to Resurrection and its Interpretation (Kereszty, part 1, ch.2; Lk 24; Mt 28; Jn 20-21); The Meaning of Resurrection (Anthony Kelly, "The Resurrection: Love as Transformative", *God is Love*, Collegeville MN, Liturgical Press, 2012, pp.50-63)

Week Four (January 31)

- The Apostolic Witness: Titles of Jesus (Kereszty, part 1, ch. 6)
- Christology and Christianity's Jewish Heritage

Section 2: Historical Development

Week Five (February 7)

- Introduction to Patristic Christology and Soteriology (Kereszty, part 2, Introduction and ch.1)
- Pre-Nicene Developments (Norris, Introduction, pp.1-17); Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Origen (Norris, pp.49-81)

Week Six (February 14)

- The Council of Nicea and the Arian Controversy (Norris, Introduction, pp.17-21; selections from Athanasius, Norris, pp.83-101)
- The Apollinarian Controversy (Norris, Introduction, pp.21-23; selections from Apollinaris, Norris, pp.103-111)

READING WEEK

Week Seven (February 28)

- The Nestorian Controversy and Ephesus (Norris, Introduction, pp.23-31; selections from Nestorius and Cyril of Alexandria, Norris, pp.113-45)
- Leo the Great and Eutyches (Norris, pp.145-155)

Week Eight (March 7)

- Leo the Great and Chalcedon (Norris, pp.155-159; Kereszty, part 2, ch.2, pp. 248-56)
- The Councils of Constantinople (Kereszty, part 2, ch.2, pp. 256-62)
- Medieval Christology (Kereszty, part 2, ch.3; selections from Thomas Aquinas: ST III, q.16, a.2 and a.4; q.19, a.1)

Week Nine (March 14)

- Anselm
- Reformation Christology (Kereszty, part 2, ch. 4, pp. 279-297; pp.307-10); Kereszty, part 2, ch. 5, pp.311-36)

Section 3: Systematic Christology

Week Ten (March 21)

- Introduction to Systematic Christology; The Mystery of the Incarnation as Communion (Kereszty, part 3, Introduction, ch.1, and ch.2, pp.355-63)
- The Incarnation in the Context of Trinitarian Theology

Week Eleven (March 28)

- The Incarnation and the Humanity of Jesus (Kereszty, part 3, ch.2, pp.364-81 and ch. 3, p. 382-400)

Week Twelve (April 4)

- The Redemption (Kereszty, part 3, ch. 4; Louis Roy, "The Death of Jesus: Its Universal Impact", *New BlackFriars*, v.83, no.981, Nov.2002, pp. 517-28; Recommended: Charles Hefling, "Why the Cross?", *The Christian Century*, 03/2013, pp. 24-27.)

Week Thirteen (April 11)

- Appropriating Christ's Redemptive Action in the Spirit
- Christ the Liberator and King/Redemption in the World
- The Universality of Redemption in Christ (Kereszty, part 3, ch.5)

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.”

Students are responsible for knowing the University’s academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Students who are unable to hand in assignments or take examinations for legitimate reasons must consult with the instructor. If the reason is medical, students may be required to provide a note from a doctor. Ordinarily, all assignments and exams will be made up at a later date. In certain circumstances, the final grading scheme may be re-weighted if the missed assignment is of a low weight.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for everyone and with professionalism in all classroom activities. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used for classroom academic activities only. Disruptive use of such devices may result in the instructor choosing to limit their use. Cell phones should be turned off and put away during class time.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King’s is available at

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is

[http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/
academic-support/](http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/academic-support/)

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.