

LIDLAW COLLEGE
Te Wananga Amorangi

202.615 Christ and Revelation
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Henderson
Lecturer: Greg Liston

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level 6, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Beginning with a broad examination of the varying means by which God reveals himself to humanity, this course then focuses quickly on God's fullest and most complete revelation in Jesus Christ. It explores Christ's person and work in depth, through the lens of the Scriptures, the early Creeds, and the protestant reformation. Utilising the insights gained through these explorations, the focus turns in the final part of the course to the enduring and universal relevance of Jesus in a postmodern cultural understanding. Issues such as diversity, worship and suffering are explored through a Christological framework, using the research of prominent contemporary theologians as an illustration and guide.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Assessment	Word count	% Final Grade	Due Date
Response Review	1000	15%	24 August
Research Essay	3000	50%	19 October
Fixed Time Assessment	4*500 (2000)	35%	11-13 November

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Date	Topic	Assessment Task
<i>A. Revelation</i>		
1	Introduction – General and Special Revelation	
2	Scripture and Authority	
<i>B. Christology – Biblical</i>		
3	The Incarnate Christ (John and the Logos)	
4	The Anointed Christ (Luke and the Spirit)	
INTENSIVE WEEK		
<i>C. Christology – Patristic Beginnings</i>		
5	Christ the True God (Athanasius and Nicaea)	Film Review Due
6	Christ Divine and Human (Basil and Chalcedon)	
<i>D. Christology – Reformation Developments</i>		
6	Christology and Salvation (Luther and the Atonement)	
7	Christology and Ministry (Calvin and Union with God)	
<i>E. Christology – Contemporary Understandings and Application</i>		
8	Christ and Culture (Jesus in Popular Culture) <i>Guest Lecturer – Stephen Garner</i>	
9	Christ and Worship (Torrance and the Human God)	
MID-TERM BREAK		
10	Christ and Suffering (Moltmann and the Crucified God)	
11	Christ and Diversity (Haight and the Unique God)	Research Project Due
12	Christ and Revelation (Barth and the Revealed God)	
STUDY WEEKS		Online Exam

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

1. Analytical film review

Read both the following readings available in Moodle.

- Tatum, W. Barnes. "The Passion of Christ in the History of Jesus Films". In *Jesus and Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ*, edited by Kathleen Corley & Robert Webb, 141-150. New York: Continuum, 2004.

- Cunningham, Philip. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much: Assembling a passion drama from the four gospels." In *On the Passion of the Christ: Exploring the Issues Raised by the Controversial Movie*, edited by Paula Fredriksen, 49-64. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

Make particular note of the following statement from Tatum:

"When I view each Jesus film I ask myself to what extent is it not only artistically interesting, but literally sensitive to the Gospel sources, historically probable, and theologically satisfying." (p.149)

Choose one recent filmic retelling of the Jesus story, and answer the following question about it:

Recognising the necessity of and acceptability for artistic license in a movie about Jesus' life, to what extent is this retelling of the story theologically consistent with the special revelation given in the Scriptures.

Because the readings above deal with Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" that film is **excluded** from this assignment. A list of suitable films is available in Moodle. Some of these will be available in the College Library, while others should be available from your public library or local video rental shop.

Grading Criteria:

- Suitability of film/TV episode selected for review
- Review directly answers the question asked (focusing on theology, not other aspects)
- Quality of discussion and depth of understanding apparent in the review
- Evidence and quality of research for essay. Access and use of appropriate books, journal articles, and other sources (use at least 6 other sources)
- Quality of written expression. Accuracy in referencing and bibliography according to Laidlaw College approved style.

Length: 1000 words in total

Learning outcomes: 1, 2

Weighting: 15%

Due date: Monday, 24th August at 11:59pm.

2. Research Essay

Write a 3000 word essay on the following topics:

1. Why was the *homoousion* so critical for Athanasius and the Nicene theologians? How critical is it for a contemporary Christology? What difference does it make to our mission and ministry?

2. “Someone has said that there are only seven basic jokes, and every joke is merely a variation on one of them. A similar statement can be made about heresies regarding the person of Christ. There are basically six, and all of them appeared within the first four Christian centuries.” (Erickson) Describe the six basic Christological errors and explain why they are wrong. As much as you can, give contemporary examples and their implications for ministry and mission today.

3. Explain what is meant by the term “the vicarious humanity of Christ.” What implications does this term have for modern Christian life, ministry and mission?

Independent of topic, your essay should take into account developments of Christology, including early church positions and contemporary reframing of doctrine, as well contemporary Christological challenges and perspectives. You should interact with at least 7 academic resources (books, journal articles, (not websites!))

The grading criteria are shown in the table below, together with expected grade outcomes for the quality of responses:

Criteria	-	D	+	-	C	+	-	B	+	-	A	+
Writing	Inadequate grasp of material			Answers the question but is not well written and lacks coherence			Mostly well written but uneven in quality and focus			Well written Engaging Focused		
Creative Integration	Very little original content or structure			Mostly a few sources cobbled together			Creative and integrated in part, but not consistent throughout			Creative Own voice coming through Good integration and unity to essay		
Theological Method and Critical Interaction	None or very little real theological insight			Some theological insights but mostly reporting what others think			Good essay, but inconsistent in terms of method and insight. Uneven level of critical analysis			Theological insights Reflective and thoughtful Good grasp of theological method Critical interaction with the material		
Structure and Presentation, Use of Resources	Inadequate grasp of English, sloppy referencing, lack of bibliography			Adequate English but hard to understand, or frequent lapses of grammar or incomplete referencing			Good English and referencing on the whole. Some lapses.			Good English Good use of referencing and bibliography		

Length: 3000 words in total

Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 4

Weighting: 50%

Due date: Monday, 19 October at 11:59pm

3. Fixed Time Assessment

Learning outcomes:	1, 2, 3, 4
Due date:	11-13 November
Weighting:	35%
Length:	4 short essay type questions

This is an online, open book exam paper that you can do at your leisure, anytime over a period of 3 days. It will cover all of the aspects of the course.

Online: The exam will be made available online early on the 11th November, and will need to be submitted by the end of the day (11:59pm) on the 13th November.

Open Book: The essay will be an open book exam, which means you are free (and encouraged) to use the full time to research your answers by consulting with your course notes, your own work, and other books and articles.

The exam will consist of 4 short essays, each about 2 typed pages (or 500 words) long. No marks will be given and no penalties received for layout, style or referencing.

The four questions asked will relate to the following areas:

- 1) Revelation and / or Scripture
- 2) Biblical Christology
- 3) Patristic and / or Reformation Understandings of Christ
- 4) Contemporary Application and Outworking of Christology

Assessment Criteria

- Logical and coherent answers that directly answer the question given in a
- Consistent and comprehensive (within the available word limit) answers
- Specific points of theological substance are made
- Comprehension of central themes of the course
- Awareness of the interconnectedness of theological doctrines
- Rigorous application of theological method
- Direct reference to biblical texts is required where appropriate

LEARNING HOURS

Class time	36 hours
(Pre-)reading and reflection for classes	24 hours
Assessment #1	20 hours
Assessment #2	40 hours
Assessment #3 (Preparation and Exam)	<u>30 hours</u>
	150 learning hours (15 credits)

Reading in preparation for lectures will include prescribed reading from the textbook. There will also be additional readings which will be suggested for other text books and journal articles. Class time will be given to discussion of the pre-reading material and thus students will be expected to complete this reading before each class

Please note that full attendance at class periods is expected. Unsatisfactory attendance (less than 80%) is grounds for failure of the course.

TEXTBOOK

The required textbook for this course is:

McMahon, Christopher. *Understanding Jesus: Christology from Emmaus to Today*. Winona, Anselm, 2013.

Additional readings will also be made available to students on Moodle or as a hard/paper copy.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Key Texts and Dictionaries

Astley, Jeff, David Brown, Ann Loades, Christology: *Key Readings in Christian Thought*. Westminster/John Knox, 2009.

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

Bevans, Stephen. *An Introduction to Theology in Global Perspectives*. NY: Orbis, 2009.

Davidson, Ivor. Murray Rae. *God of Salvation: Soteriology in Theological Perspective*, (Aldershot: Ashgate Press, 2011)

Deane-Drummond, Celia. *Christ and Evolution: Wonder and Wisdom (Theology and the Sciences)*. Fortress Press, 2009.

Green, Joel & Max Turner, eds. *Jesus of Nazareth: Lord and Christ: Essays on the Historical Jesus and New Testament Christology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Gunton, Colin. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1997.

Henriksen, Jan-Olav. *Desire, Gift, and Recognition: Christology and Postmodern Philosophy*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009.

Jenson, Robert J. *Systematic Theology*. 2 Vols. NY: Oxford University Press, 1999.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 4th ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

McGrath, Alister E. ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

McGrath, Alister E. *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Modern Christian Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1993.

McLaren, Brian D. *A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith*. Reprint. HarperOne, 2011.

McMahon, Christopher. *Jesus our Salvation: An Introduction to Christology*. Winona: Anselm Academic, 2007.

Migliore Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2004.

Morrison, Hugh, Lachy Paterson, Brett Knowles and Murray Rae (eds) *Mana Māori and Christianity*. Wellington: Huia Publishers, 2012.

O'Collins. Gerald, SJ, *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, USA, 2009.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Christ the Key*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Tumminio, Danielle Elizabeth. *God and Harry Potter at Yale: Teaching Faith and Fantasy Fiction In An Ivy League Classroom*. Unlocking Press, 2010.

Other useful texts, or books

Global:

Amaladoss, Michael. *The Asian Jesus*. Orbis Books, 2006.

Baker, Mark D. and Joel Green, eds. *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross: Atonement in New Testament and Contemporary Contexts*. Downers Gove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

Levison, John and Priscilla Pope-Levison. *Jesus in Global Context*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox: 1992.

Stinton, Diane B. *Jesus of Africa: Voices of Contemporary African Christology*. Orbis Books, 2004.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Asian Faces of Jesus*. Edited by R. S. Sugirtharajah. Orbis Books, 1993.

Atonement and violence :

Bartlett, Anthony W. *Cross Purposes: The Violent Grammar of Christian Atonement*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2001.

Boersma, Hans. *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe*. 1st ed. New York: Nan A Talese, 1995.

Heim, Mark S. *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

Jersak, Brad and Michael Hardin, eds. *Stricken by God?: Nonviolent Identification and the Victory of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

Marshall, Christopher. *Beyond Retribution: A New Testament Vision for Justice, Crime and Punishment*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; Lime Grove House, 2001.

Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001

Feminist:

Bondi, Roberta. *Memories of God: Theological Reflections on a Life*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Cahill, Lisa Sowle, *Global Justice, Christology and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Crysdale, Cynthia. *Embracing Travail: Retrieving the Cross Today*. New York: Continuum, 1999.

Eaton, Heather. *Introducing Eco-feminist Perspectives*. T&T Clark, 2005.

Fraser, Elouise Renich. *Confessions of a Beginning Theologian*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 1998

Gudmundsdottir, Arnfridur. *Meeting God on the Cross: Christ, the Cross and the Feminist Critique*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hoggard Creegan, Nicola, Christine Pohl. *Living on the Boundary: Evangelical Women, Feminism and the Theological Academy*. Grand Rapids: IVP, 2005.

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology*. New York: Crossroad, 1990.

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. NY: Crossroad, 1992.

Jones, Serene. *Feminist Theory and Christian Theology: Cartographies of Grace*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.

Kim, Grace Ji-Sun. *The Grace of Sophia: A Korean North American Woman's Christology* Wipf & Stock, 2010.

Storkey, Elaine and Margaret Hebblethwaite. *Conversations on Christian Feminism: Speaking Heart to Heart*. London: Fount, 1999.

Webb, Val. *Why We're Equal: Introducing Feminist Theology*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2000.

Science and ecology

Deane-Drummond, Celia. *Christ and Evolution: Wonder and Wisdom (Theology and the Sciences)*. Fortress Press, 2009.

Edwards, Denis. *Jesus, the Wisdom of God: An Ecological Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1995.

Shults, F. LeRon. *Christology and Science*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008.

Revelation

McGehee, Michael D. *God's Word Expressed in Human Words: The Bible's Literary Forms*. MI: The Liturgical Press, 1991.

Meadowcroft, Tim, *The Meaning of the Word of God*, Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.

Witherington, Ben. *The Living Word of God: Rethinking the Theology of the Bible*. Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press, 2007.

Wright, NT. *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*. New York: HarperOne, 2011

New Zealand Voices

Habets, Myk. *The Anointed Son: A Trinitarian Spirit Christology*. Pickwick Publications, 2005.

Riddell, Michael. *Threshold of the Future: Reforming the Church in the Post-Christian West*. London: SPCK, 1998.

Hugh Morrison, Lachy Paterson, Brett Knowles and Murray Rae (eds) *Mana Māori and Christianity*. Huia 2012.

Troughton, Geoff, *New Zealand Jesus*, Bern: Peter Lang, 2011.

Other sources

Borg, Marcus J. *Jesus in Contemporary Scholarship*. Valley Forge, Pa.: Trinity Press International, 1994.

Borg, Marcus J. *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time : Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Borg, Marcus J., and N. T. Wright. *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*. London: SPCK, 1999.

Chalke, Steve, and Alan Mann. *The Lost Message of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003.

Corley, Kathleen E., and Robert L. Webb. *Jesus and Mel Gibson's the Passion of the Christ: The Film, the Gospels and the Claims of History*. London ; New York: Continuum, 2004.

Dorrien, Gary. *The Remaking of Evangelical Theology*. Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1998.

Dunn, James D. G., and Scot McKnight. *The Historical Jesus in Recent Research Sources for Biblical and Theological Study 10*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005.

- Finlan, Steven. *Options on Atonement in Christian Thought*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2007.
- Jervis, L. Ann, *At the Heart of the Gospel: Suffering in the Earliest Christian Message*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- McKnight, Scot, *A Community Called Atonement* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- Mann, Alan. *Atonement for a 'Sinless' Society : Engaging with an Emerging Culture Faith in an Emerging Culture Series*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2005.
- Moltmann, Jurgen. *Jesus Christ for Today's World*. London: SCM, 1994.
- Moltmann, Jurgen. *The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology*. 1st Fortress Press ed. Fortress Press, 1993.
- Murphy, Nancey. *Beyond Liberalism & Fundamentalism: How Modern and Postmodern Philosophy Set the Theological Agenda*. Valley Forge: Trinity Press, 1996.
- Niebuhr H. Richard. *Christ & Culture*, revised ed. New York: Harper, 2001.
- Rahner, Karl. *Theological Investigations: Volume XIII: Theology, Anthropology, Christology*. The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1973.
- Tatum, W. Barnes. *In Quest of Jesus*. Rev. and enl. ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.
- Tatum, W. Barnes. *Jesus at the Movies : A Guide to the First Hundred Years*. Santa Rosa, Calif.: Polebridge Press, 1997.
- Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans, 1962.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Gospel Code: Novel Claims About Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Da Vinci*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Many Faces of the Christ: The Christologies of the New Testament and Beyond*. New York: Crossroad Herder, 1998.
- Wright, NT. *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*. London: SPCK; IVP, 2000; 1999.
- Wright, N. T. *Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters*. HarperOne, 2011.
- Young, Frances. *The Making of the Creeds*. London: SCM Press, 1991.