

# LIDLAW COLLEGE

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## 202.615 Theology: Christ and Revelation Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

**Campus/Delivery Mode:** Distance Learning

Semester 1, 2015  
NQF Level: 6, 15 credits

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

1. Christology, and contextualization
2. The Humanity of Christ
3. The Divinity of Christ
4. Patristic Christology
5. The Search for the Historical Jesus
6. The Jesus of history
7. Atonement
8. Contemporary/feminist and non-Western atonement
9. Christ in the context of other areas of systematic theology—ecclesiology, eschatology
10. Christ in contemporary art and culture
11. Christ and science
12. The meaning and interpretation of the Word of God.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

There are four assessment tasks. Note that the research plan does not contribute to the final grade, but is an important part of the learning process for this course and will allow you to get valuable feedback from your tutor.

#### 1. Online discussion

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 2, 4
<i>Due Dates</i>	Sunday midnight of weeks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	25%
<i>Length</i>	200 words per initial post, at least 50 words for follow-up posts.

Online discussion topics require you to engage with various themes and circumstances. These tasks will require you to prepare an initial post of up to 200 words, followed by at least one response to at least one class member of at least 50 words. Specific instructions will accompany each online discussion task. Students are expected to participate in at least six online discussions.

#### 2. Research Plan

<i>Due Date</i>	Sunday midnight, between the ends of week 7 and 11
<i>Length</i>	Up to four topics, 500 words for each topic.

Write a research plan in which you develop your thinking around up to 4 issues or topics, chosen from the list below, incorporating insights from course readings and discussions. (Note that you will be writing a research essay that involves at least one of these topics for your fourth assessment. It is expected that this exercise will be helpful for the research essay and it will also enable you to explore some other topics in depth.)

- a) Jesus - human and divine.
- b) Jesus' understanding of his divinity.

- c) The search for the 'historical' Jesus.
- d) Wisdom and Logos Christianity.
- e) Walk salvation, not talk it.
- f) Atonement models
- g) The resurrection
- h) Christ and other religions
- i) Christology understood and practiced from different cultures
- j) Christ in fiction or art
- k) Christ and Evolution

The purpose of this research plan is to:

- 1) build your understanding of key views presented and how they interact with each other, and in so doing -
- 2) think about your own views on the issues, and then -
- 3) work out what research would be helpful in developing your own views.

You do not need to arrive at a conclusion about the issues in the research plan. However you will need to work at finding your own voice (your response to and critique of weaknesses and strengths) in the conversation between the writers that you have studied. Your tutor will give you feedback on your research plan.

#### Content, Presentation and Format

Do not document the facts about your topic, rather, document your considerations about the topic. (For example: Not: "Witches' cats were traditionally thought to be black", but rather "Witch cats black due to colour's association with evil? Research perception of black in 1600's.")

The research plan is a work-in-progress research journal presenting a collection of sub-issues, considerations, arguments and initial conclusions. As such, you may use a mixture of paragraphs and bullet points.

Developing research sources will enrich your overall learning. So while the 500-word count per topic does not include any bibliographical notes, we encourage you to include them.

3. An **online Multiple Choice Test** of the material covered in the compulsory readings and the learning guide. This content test involves two distinct quizzes, each of which you can attempt once. The recorded mark will be your best attempt of the two. Having two tests will allow you to learn what is required, and to familiarize yourself with how the test works.

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 2
<i>Due Dates</i>	Sunday midnight of week 11
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	25%
<i>Length</i>	30 questions, 30 minutes

4. **Research Essay**

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 2, 3
<i>Due Dates</i>	Sunday midnight at the end of Study Week 1
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	50%
<i>Length</i>	2500 words.

From one or more of the four topics you covered in the Research Plan (above), argue a thesis using one of the questions given below as a stimulus, while accounting for the various viewpoints that you have discovered. Be sure to interact with scripture in your essay.

There are suggested topic relationships given after each question to guide you. (You may answer a question not on this list, provided you receive written agreement from your tutor on the wording of your question.)

- Discuss why Jesus has been identified as both human and divine. (topic a)

- “The direct result of exalting Jesus out of his humanity is the development of a faith which is in itself inhuman.” Discuss. (topic a/b)
- Discuss the ways in which Jesus could have understood his divinity, and the extent to which this is relevant to us. (topic a/b)
- To what extent is historical Jesus research important for the Christian faith? (topic a/c)
- “The resurrection of Jesus ... the defining and indispensable foundation of Christian faith”. Discuss. (topic a/f/g)
- Examine the association of Christ with the Wisdom of God. (topic d)
- Consider “receiving salvation” versus “being salvation”. Evaluate the opinions around this and their implications. (topic e/f)
- How and from what does Jesus save us? Discuss with reference to the atonement models. (topic f)
- “What was not assumed [in Christ] was not redeemed”. Discuss. (topic a/f/i/k)
- Discuss the claim of the Christian faith about the uniqueness of Christ and Salvation only being available through him, in the light of the claims of other religions. (topic e/f/g/h)
- Examine Jesus’ salvation through the lenses of another culture. (topic i)
- Evaluate how Christ is represented in fiction or art, within at least 6 works. If you were to create your own work, discuss the Christological strands that you would seek to incorporate. (topic i/j)
- Examine the extent to which our understanding of evolution affects our understanding of Christ. (topic a/k)

A possible structure to use is the following:

- Beginning (2-3 paragraphs): Set the essay in context by indicating why you are interested in this material, why this material is important, and what you hope to demonstrate in this essay. State your thesis explicitly (“I will argue that...”), then outline how you will support your argument.
- Middle: Present your research in an orderly way, following the outline of your argument. Remember that your aim is to demonstrate to your reader that your understanding of the topic is broad and your argument is coherent. This means that you should also show where your understanding differs from others, both historical and contemporary thinkers, and why. Why should we follow you in your reading of this material?
- End (2-3 paragraphs): Your essay should end with a summary of your essay. This should not introduce new evidence or arguments. Outline the primary contours of your argument and indicate the significance of what you have written.

## CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

### 1. Online discussion

Before beginning your first online discussion, please see the grading grid (rubric) on the “online discussion grading guide and mid-semester feedback” for further details on how these criteria will be applied.

- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

### 2. Research Plan

- Coverage: does the research plan account for perspectives introduced and discussed in the course readings and discussions?
- Understanding: does the research plan indicate how the views interact with each other?

- Engagement: does the student articulate their own questions and/or views?
- Communication and Presentation: Logical and descriptive titles and structure; accurate spelling.

### 3. Multiple-choice quiz

- Correct answer directed to each question.

### 4. Research Essay

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

Criteria	- D +	- C +	- B +	- A +
<b>Writing</b>	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
<b>Creative Integration</b>	Very little original content or structure	Mostly a few sources cobbled together	Creative and integrated in part, but not consistent throughout	Gaining confidence in expressing own creative voice. Good integration and unity to essay
<b>Theological Method and Critical Interaction</b>	Little real theological insight	Some theological insights but mostly reporting what others think	Good development, but inconsistent in terms of method and insight. Competent in comparing and contrasting views.	Theological insights are thoughtful. Good grasp of theological method. Gaining confidence in critical interaction.
<b>Structure and Presentation</b>	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

### LEARNING HOURS

202.615 is a 15 credit course consisting of some 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows:

Task	Hours
Core study periods (12 x 4 hours) and Reflection	60 hours
Online discussion	15 hours
Research Plan	20 hours
Multiple-choice quiz	15 hours
Research Essay	40 hours
	<b>150 hours</b>

Study periods will be centred on the course materials provided. Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

## **TEXTBOOKS:**

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

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

### **Please note: E-books**

Laidlaw's library has a large and growing collection of E-books. E-books can be accessed online, meaning that students have remote access to the whole book without needing to borrow a physical copy. This greatly enhances access to library resources for distance learning students. E-books have been identified in the following bibliography. E-books are also clearly identified in the Library catalogue.

### **Key Texts and Dictionaries**

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.

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.

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

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley, 2011.  
**[This resource is accessible as an E-book].**

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

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

McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book].**

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.

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

### **Other useful texts, or books mentioned in the Learning Guide**

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.

- Bartlett, Anthony W. *Cross Purposes: The Violent Grammar of Christian Atonement*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2001.
- Bird, Michael. *Are You the One Who is to Come?: The Historical Jesus and the Messianic Question*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Boersma, Hans. *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Bondi, Roberta. *Memories of God: Theological Reflections on a Life*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
- 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*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. New York: Nan A Talese, 1995.
- Crisp, Oliver. *Divinity and Humanity: The Incarnation Reconsidered*. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Crysdale, Cynthia. *Embracing Travail: Retrieving the Cross Today*. New York: Continuum, 1999.
- Dorrien, Gary. *The Remaking of Evangelical Theology*. Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1998.
- Edwards, Denis. *Jesus, the Wisdom of God: An Ecological Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1995.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 1998. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Farrelly, John. *The Trinity: Rediscovering the Central Christian Mystery*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Finlan, Steven. *Options on Atonement in Christian Thought*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2007.
- Fraser, Elouise Renich. *Confessions of a Beginning Theologian*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 1998.
- Harrington, Daniel. *Historical Dictionary of Jesus*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Jersak, Brad and Michael Hardin, eds. *Stricken by God?: Nonviolent Identification and the Victory of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Jervis, L. Ann, *At the Heart of the Gospel: Suffering in the Earliest Christian Message*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- 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, Gareth, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Modern Theology*. Oxford, UK; Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
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- Levison, John and Priscilla Pope-Levison. *Jesus in Global Context*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox: 1992.
- Marshall, Christopher. *Beyond Retribution: A New Testament Vision for Justice, Crime and Punishment*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; Lime Grove House, 2001.
- McFarlane, Ian, David Fergusson, Karen Kilby, and Iain Tarrance, eds. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- McGehee, Michael D. *God's Word Expressed in Human Words: The Bible's Literary Forms*. MI: The Liturgical Press, 1991.
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- Young, Frances. *The Making of the Creeds*. London: SCM Press, 1991.