

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

202.715 Theology: Christ and Revelation Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus/Delivery Mode: Distance Learning

Semester 1, 2015
NQF Level: 7, 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>	20%
<i>Length</i>	Up to 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 Dates</i>	Sunday midnight, between the end of weeks 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 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) Walk salvation, not talk it.
- b) Jesus - human and divine.

- c) Jesus' understanding of his divinity.
- d) The search for the 'historical' Jesus.
- e) Wisdom and Logos Christianity.
- 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
- l) Kenosis

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. **Movie Review**

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 2
<i>Due Dates</i>	Sunday midnight of week 9
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	30%
<i>Length</i>	1200 words.

Select a movie from the list below, and in your own words write a review.

Concentrate on its Christological references, whether there is a Christ figure, and/or how it deals with redemption and atonement. You may limit the subject matter by picking out a theme or character and showing how it symbolizes or characterizes Christ or redemption.

Don't use internet resources, and don't use more than 200 words summarising the movie.

Movies: Check with tutor if you have another suggestion.

- Lion King
- As it is in Heaven
- Atonement
- Superman
- Star Wars
- Harry Potter
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- About a Boy
- Of Gods and Men
- E.T.

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>	3500 words.

Select an issue from the topics in the Research Plan (above), define the problem and argue a thesis in relation to the problem, accounting for the various viewpoints that you have discovered. Be sure to interact with scripture in your essay. If you wish to choose a different topic addressed during the course, you may do so, provided your tutor agrees that it is a suitable one.

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 comprehensive and your argument is persuasive. This means that you should show where your understanding differs from others, both historical and contemporary thinkers, and why.
- 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 and grammar.

3. Movie Review

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

Criteria	-	D	+	-	C	+	-	B	+	-	A	+
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Writing	Lacks coherence.	Answers the question. Mostly coherent and focused.	Answers the question. Focused and coherent.	Answers the question. Engaging, focused and coherent.
Creative Integration	Very little original content or structure	Inconsistent integration.	Creative and integrated in part, but not consistent throughout. Theological texts or articles are drawn on.	Creative. Own voice coming through. Good integration and unity to essay with appropriate reference to theological texts or articles.
Insight	Mostly descriptive, with little theological reflection.	Some theological reflection.	Solid theological reflection, but somewhat formulaic.	Very good/original theological insights
Structure and Presentation	Inadequate grasp of English, sloppy referencing, lack of bibliography	Good English and referencing on the whole. Some lapses.	Good English and referencing.	Good English and referencing. Appropriate use of footnoting.

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 +
Writing	Lacks coherence.	Addresses the issue, mostly coherent and focused.	States and addresses the issue, focused and coherent.	Well written. Engaging. Focused.
Creative Integration	Very little original content or structure. Mostly a few sources cobbled together.	Inconsistent integration, or too few sources used.	Creative and integrated in part. Own argument is developed.	Creative. Own voice coming through. Good integration and unity to essay. Own argument is developed.
Theological Method and Critical Interaction	Little real theological insight, mostly just reporting what others think.	Some theological insights, uneven critical analysis.	Good development, Method and insight are solid. Reasonable level of critical analysis, with different perspectives considered.	Theological insights are thoughtful. Good grasp of theological method. Critical interaction with the material. A representative range of different

				perspectives are considered.
Structure and Presentation	Inadequate grasp of English, sloppy referencing, lack of bibliography.	Some lapses of grammar, or incomplete referencing.	Good English and referencing.	Good English and referencing. Appropriate use of footnoting.

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
Movie review	15 hours
Research Essay	40 hours
	150 hours

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.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 1998. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book].**

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.

Harrington, Daniel. *Historical Dictionary of Jesus*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.

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

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]**.

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]**.

McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. **[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.

Patte, Daniel, ed. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.

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*. 1st 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.
- 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.
- 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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- Kristiansen, Ståle Johannes and Rise, Svein, eds. *Key Theological Thinkers: From Modern to Postmodern*. Farnham, Surrey, UK; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2013. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Lacoste, Jean-Yves, ed. *Encyclopedia of Christian Theology*. New York: Routledge, 2005. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Levison, John and Priscilla Pope-Levison. *Jesus in Global Context*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox: 1992.
- McGehee, Michael D. *God's Word Expressed in Human Words: The Bible's Literary Forms*. MI: The Liturgical Press, 1991.
- Marshall, Christopher. *Beyond Retribution: A New Testament Vision for Justice, Crime and Punishment*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; Lime Grove House, 2001.
- Meadowcroft, Tim. *The Meaning of the Word of God*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.

- Moltmann, Jurgen. *Jesus Christ for Today's World*. London: SCM, 1994.
- 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.
- O'Collins, Gerald. *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- O'Collins, Gerald. *Jesus Our Redeemer: A Christian Approach to Salvation*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Rayment-Pickard, Hugh. *50 Key Concepts in Theology*. London, UK: Andrews UK Ltd, 2007. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Riddell, Michael. *Threshold of the Future: Reforming the Church in the Post-Christian West*. London: SPCK, 1998.
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- Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans, 1962.
- Vermes, Geza. *The Real Jesus: Then and Now*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Webb, Val. *Why We're Equal: Introducing Feminist Theology*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2000.
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Many Faces of the Christ: The Christologies of the New Testament and Beyond*. New York: Crossroad Herder, 1998.
- Wright, N. T. *Evil and the Justice of God*. London, UK: SPCK, 2006. **[This resource is accessible as an E-book]**.
- Wright, NT. *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*. London: SPCK; IVP, 2000; 1999.
- Young, Frances. *The Making of the Creeds*. London: SCM Press, 1991.