

**204.615 Theology: Salvation in History and Beyond**  
**Course Assessment and Delivery Outline**

Campus/Delivery Mode: Distance Learning

Semester 1, 2015  
NQF Level 6, 15 credits

**CONTENT OVERVIEW**

1. Biblical Terms, Metaphors and Images
2. The Human Condition: Sin, descriptions and doctrine; original sin, contemporary models
3. The Scope of Salvation: Who?, the Creation, Covenant; justice
4. Self and salvation: conversion; Community, election
5. Justification and sanctification
6. Glorification and *Theosis*
7. Universalism – and salvation and other religions
8. Death
9. Parousia and Resurrection
10. Last Judgment
11. Heaven and Hell
12. The Fulfillment of All Things

**ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES**

**There are three assessment tasks**

**1. Participation in Online discussions**

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 3, 4
<i>Due Dates:</i>	Midnight Sunday of semester weeks 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	25%
<i>Length:</i>	Generally, 200 words per initial post, with at least 50 words for follow-up posts.

Online discussion tasks require you to engage with various themes and circumstances. These tasks will require you to submit an initial post by the due dates shown above, followed by at least one response to at least one class member. The follow-up responses are due within one calendar week of your initial post.

Specific instructions in the learning guide will accompany each online discussion task. Students are required to participate in all seven online discussions.

**2. Research Essay**

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3
<i>Due Date:</i>	Midnight Sunday at the end of semester week 9
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	45%
<i>Length:</i>	2500 words

Write a 2500-word essay on **one** of the following topics. You may answer a question not on this list, provided you receive written agreement from your tutor on the wording of your question.

- a) Identify 3 key terms in Soteriology. Explain their biblical origins and theological nuances and discuss the development within contemporary theology of at least one of the terms (e.g., 'deliverer' in liberation theology).
- b) Is salvation static or dynamic? Relate your answer to the scope of salvation.
- c) Discuss the main teachings of Pelagius and their implications for salvation.
- d) Discuss what Christianity says about the human condition. Compare this with two major points of critical difference in contemporary western interpretations.
- e) "Sin is a corruption of the *individual* person, but it is also active and powerful in public and corporate structures of life" (Daniel Migliore). What does this mean in relation to the doctrine of sin? Include some contemporary expressions of this view.
- f) "If we did not know of salvation, there would be no sin" (Stanley Hauerwas). Comment and explain.
- g) Critically assess the interpretation of justification and deification in the new understanding of Luther.
- h) Discuss *theosis* as a model of salvation. Explore the extent to which it coheres with at least one later Protestant understanding.
- i) Compare and discuss the East and West on sanctification.
- j) Critically discuss election in the thought of Karl Barth.
- k) Connect Covenant and Cross in the drama of salvation. Include two theological models and critically evaluate their presentation of salvation.
- l) Analyze a work of visual art or music in terms of its soteriological content, identifying both relevant themes and methodologies. Theologically defend your evaluation of the work as a presentation of redemption.
- m) Compare and discuss Origen's teaching of *Apokatastasis* with von Balthasar on salvation.

This essay is a substantial piece of assessment. It is expected that you will provide evidence of the research you have undertaken in order to address the question/topic you have chosen. It is expected that **at least 3** major theological texts will have been consulted and reference to **at least 5** articles or other sources. Online websites will not be accepted as primary sources.

### 3. Movie Review

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	2, 4
<i>Due Date:</i>	Midnight Sunday at the end of Study Week 1
<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 eschatological references. These may be implicitly or explicitly Christian or an alternative to Christian models. Detail the way in which it expresses eschatological themes as related to salvation. You may limit the subject matter by picking out a theme or character and focusing on these as they symbolize or characterize eschatological notions (remember to identify if these are Christian, or otherwise).

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

Movie List:

Please note that you may ask the tutor if you would like to review a different movie, particularly if you find it hard to obtain these movies. However, you will need to be careful to choose a movie that allows you to develop your theological analysis.

- ‘What dreams May Come’ (dir. Vincent Ward)
- ‘Blade Runner’ (dir. Ridley Scott)
- ‘Wings of Desire’ (dir. Wim Wenders)
- ‘Of Gods and Men’ (dir. Xavier Beauvois)
- ‘Melancholia’ (dir. Lars von Trier)
- ‘Truly, Madly, Deeply’ (dir. Anthony Minghella)
- ‘Pale Rider’ (dir. Clint Eastwood)
- ‘Jacob’s Ladder’ (dir. Adrian Lyne)

## 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 indicative 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 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	Answers the question. Mostly coherent but uneven in quality and focus	Answers the question. Coherent 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. Input from at least 3 major theological texts and 5 other sources.	Creative. Own voice coming through. Good integration and unity to essay, with appropriate input from at least 3 major theological texts and 5 other sources.
<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. Uneven level of critical analysis.	Theological insights are thoughtful. Good grasp of theological method. Balanced interaction with the material.

<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.

### 3. Movie Review

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.	Creative. Own voice coming through. Good integration and unity to essay.
<b>Insight</b>	Inadequate theological reflection or inadequate description of movie.	Mostly descriptive character to the review.	Mostly good development, with some good insights.	Very good/original theological insights.
<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

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

Task	Hours
Engagement with learning materials	60 hours
Online discussion	25 hours
Research Essay	40 hours
Movie review	25 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

## **TEXTBOOK**

The text for this course is

O'Collins, Gerald. *Jesus Our Redeemer: A Christian Approach to Salvation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

It can be bought from Amazon.com; Amazon.co.uk and Bookdepository.com (no postage). It is also available as an eBook from Laidlaw library.

In addition to the required textbook, another highly recommended book is:

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

This remains the best general historical overview of Christian theology. This is also available as an eBook through the Laidlaw library.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The majority of books in this bibliography are available from Laidlaw, some in eBook format. Those books that are not in Laidlaw's library are included as works well worth searching out and reading. This is only a handful. All books included in the bibliography are of lasting and substantial value in this area of theology.

### **Select Bibliography**

In light of the size of the bibliography below (all worthwhile books and articles) here is a selection of works that should be considered primary readings, beyond those that will be in the learning guide itself:

#### **Select Bibliography: Soteriology**

Beilby, James K. and Paul R. Eddy (eds.) *Justification: Five Views*. London: SPCK, 2012.

Colijn, Brenda B. *Images of Salvation in the New Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2010.

Davidson, Ivor and Murray Rae, eds. *God of Salvation: Soteriology in Theological Perspective*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2011.

Davis, S. T., Kendall, D., and Gerald O'Collins. *The Redemption: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Christ as Redeemer*. Oxford: Oxford University, 2002.

Plantinga, Cornelius Jr. *Not the Way it's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Leicester: Apollos, 1995.

#### **Select Bibliography: Eschatology**

Bauckham, Richard and Trevor Hart. *Hope Against Hope: Christian Eschatology at the Turn of the Millennium*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Schwarz, Hans. *Eschatology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Thiselton, Anthony C. *Life After Death: A New Approach to the Last Things*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

## General Bibliography: Soteriology

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- Anderson, Gary. *Sin: A History*. Yale: Yale University, 2009.
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- Beilby, James K. and Paul R. Eddy, eds. *Justification: Five Views*. London: SPCK, 2012.
- Braaten, C.E. 'The Christian Doctrine of Salvation.' *Interpretation* 35/2 (April 1981), 117-131.
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- Cessario, R. *The Godly Image: Christ and Salvation in Catholic Thought from Anselm to Aquinas*. Petersham: St Bede's Publications, 1990.
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