



## **CHTH 305/405**

Roots of Public Theology

Course Outline Description

Lecturer: Prof David Tombs

### **BRIEF INTRODUCTION**

This paper explores the contribution made to 'public theology' by thinkers and activists from the Reformation to the 20th century, from roughly the 1520s to Latin American Liberation Theology in the 1970s and 1980s.

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

There are 5 modules.

- 1. Latin American Liberation Theology**
- 2. European Reformation**
- 3. English Civil War**
- 4. Christian Socialists**
- 5. Pulling it together**

### **TEACHING**

The paper is offered through distance teaching and on campus (subject to numbers). Distance Teaching is through 5 evening video-conferences and a Wellington teaching day (when possible). Campus teaching is through weekly classes (2 hour classes once per week). The

teaching typically involves discussion of your readings, so it is important to complete the recommended reading in advance whenever possible.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment comprises three compulsory assignments, worth a total of 100% of the final mark. There is **no final examination** for either paper.

## RESOURCES

Two resources that will help you prepare for the paper are:

David Tombs, *Latin American Liberation Theology* (Religion in the Americas Series Vol. 1; Boston and Leiden: Brill, 2002) Available open access at:

<https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004496460>

This book is a key resource for the first assignment.

Andrew Bradstock and Christopher Rowland, *Radical Christian Writings: A Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002). This is an excellent resource for wider reading but it is not a required text. Available at:

[https://otago.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1ihp3dt/OTAGO\\_ALMA51166992770\\_001891](https://otago.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1ihp3dt/OTAGO_ALMA51166992770_001891)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete the paper at 300-level should be able to:

- Describe what scholars mean by 'public theology' and show how it draws upon the central tenets of the Christian faith
- Construct an argument to show that theology has an inherently 'public' dimension
- Construct an argument to show that the mission of Jesus, as recorded in the gospels, had a strong 'public' dimension
- Demonstrate an understanding of some of the key writings by the individuals and movements covered in this paper, and an ability to critique their thinking
- Demonstrate an awareness of the impact that these individuals and movements had on their own cultures and on the wider development of theological, political and

- philosophical thought
- Demonstrate an awareness of how these individuals and movements contribute to our understanding of 'public theology'

In addition to these Learning Aims for CHTH305, at the end of this course, students at 400-level should also be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to make connections between – and identify tensions between – the ideas of the people and movements covered in this paper
- Demonstrate how the study of the individuals and movements in this paper enriches our understanding of what it means to do public theology today.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

A fuller course outline will be available through Blackboard before the start of the semester.

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

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