



## **CHTH218/318**

### **The Person and Work of Christ**

### **Short Course Description**

**Lecturer: Professor Murray Rae**

### **Brief Introduction to the Paper**

At the heart and at the foundation of Christian faith stands the figure of Jesus of Nazareth. In this paper, we will examine the basis for the Christian confession that Jesus is the Christ, the longed-for Messiah of Israel who comes among us as savior and redeemer, and who gathers creation once more into the embrace of God's love. The paper involves an historical and systematic study of the person and work of Jesus: early church controversies; emergence of creedal formulae; the Quest of the historical Jesus, varying cultural perspectives on the person of Christ, the nature of Christ's saving work, and contemporary developments in Christology.

### **Assessment**

This paper is assessed by means of two essays worth 25% and 35% and a final 2 hour examination worth 40%.

### **Course Structure**

This course is divided into four modules.

**Module 1:** Doing Christology

**Module 2:** In the Beginning was the End? Classical Christology

**Module 3:** Modern Developments in Christology

**Module 4:** The Work of Christ

## Teaching Schedule

The campus class will be taught through 2 x 1hr lectures per week.

The Distance class will be taught through 5 x 1.5 hr videoconferences plus a Teaching Day.

## Learning Outcomes

If you are studying at **200-level**, the course is designed to build upon the work you have completed at 100-level by leading you to reflect further on a theme that is of central significance for Christian theology: the person and work of Jesus Christ. It aims to deepen your understanding of this essential theme of Christian doctrine, and to extend your awareness of some of the key ways in which the subject has been explored in the course of Christian thought.

By the end of the course you should have:

1. Acquired a sound grasp of the key stages in the classical development of Christian claims about the status, nature, and significance of Jesus, and discovered some of the major ways in which these claims have been challenged, interpreted, and restated in modern Christian theology.
2. Developed an ability to discern the connections between the logic of Christological statements and the contours of Christian belief as a whole.
3. Furthered your assessment of the relevance of historical doctrinal developments for a contemporary systematic theology, and extended your understanding of how habitual ways of approaching doctrinal themes may be enriched by an awareness of past as well as present thinking.
4. Considered the ways in which the study of Jesus Christ can be enriched through attending to a range of cultural perspectives.
5. Advanced your skills of critical analysis, your sensitivity to diversity of opinion, and your ability to articulate coherent intellectual arguments.

If you are studying at **300-level**, the course is designed to achieve all of the outcomes of 200-level study at a more advanced level, and in addition to extend your awareness of the degree to which the theology of the person and work of Jesus Christ affects the overall logic of Christian belief and practice. At the more advanced level, the course aims to facilitate your own attempt to engage in a properly 'systematic' theology, by drawing out the intellectual and practical entailments of this vital doctrine for theology as a whole.

By the end of the course, you should have also:

1. Extended your capacity to read and think deeply about the internal logic of Christology, and the inter-relations between its core concerns concerning the nature of faith, history, knowledge, salvation and ethics.
2. Acquired a deeper appreciation of the degree to which Christology necessarily lies at the heart of an entire Christian vision of God and the world.

## **For more information**

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

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