



CHTH212/312

Spirit, Church and Sacraments

Distance Course Outline 2019

SEMESTER 2 2019

Lecturer:

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Welcome to **CHTH 212/312, Spirit, Church and Sacraments** This course will extend the work completed at the 100-level in Theology by a more in depth study of two core areas in Christian Doctrine, namely the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church (including the sacraments). It aims to help you to comprehend more fully the inner theological relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Church, and appreciate the difference that an account of Spirit and Church makes for Christian life and the challenges of human history.

TEACHING OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the student will:

- Become acquainted with basic Christian teaching concerning nature and person of the Holy Spirit, and the identity and mission of the church;
- Have understood the key theological features of the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist (Lord's Supper), and the historic differences of understanding regarding each in the Christian Church;
- Become more adept at the art of reading theological texts and more skilled at expressing theological concepts both orally and in writing;
- Sharpen their ability to relate theological claims to life and practice.

LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION

Your lecturer for this paper is the Revd Associate Professor Christopher Holmes, Associate Professor in Systematic Theology at Otago and an Anglican Priest in the Diocese of Dunedin. He studied Historical and Systematic Theology at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. His doctoral research centred on Karl Barth's doctrine of God in conversation with two of his leading German-speaking interpreters, Eberhard Jüngel and Wolf Krötke. This work is available in book form: *Revisiting the Doctrine of the Divine Attributes: In Dialogue with Karl Barth, Eberhard Jüngel, and Wolf Krötke* (Peter Lang, 2007). His second book, *Ethics in the Presence of Christ* (T&T Clark, 2012), explores the significance of Christ's presence for the moral life. His third book appeared in 2015 with

Zondervan Academic. It is titled *The Holy Spirit*. It was the first volume released in a multi-volume series called *New Studies in Dogmatics*. His most recent book is *The Lord is Good: Seeking the God of the Psalter*, published by IVP Academic in 2018.

Associate Professor Holmes can be reached at: christopher.holmes@otago.ac.nz.

TEACHING

Four videoconferences taught using Zoom, and a face-to-face Teaching Day offered in Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland (note that you need only attend the one nearest to you).

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The course will be assessed through **two pieces of written work** worth 50% of your grade and a **final exam** worth 50% of your grade

RESOURCES

- Blackboard, the University's online learning tool;
- The course book and this accompanying course outline
- eReserve, a resource for electronic readings, which you can access via Blackboard;
- The Theology Programme's "Study and Style Guide" which recommends students use the 16th edition of the Chicago citation style when writing essays. It is available online at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>
- The handbook *Distance Learning Information and Support 2017*, providing advice on administrative matters not covered in this course book and on the Distance Library Service. (You may download the PDF from the 'Essential Information' web page).

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Please Note: You **must have access to Blackboard and your University email address** in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided **only** through Blackboard and your University email address (as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy), so you must check these emails regularly, or arrange to forward them to your main address. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Programme's website. In particular, we require you to read the section called "Essential Student Information." You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for making online discussion posts and submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

It is also essential that you have access to the following text(s). They are available on Close Reserve at the Central Library. The library has an eBook version of Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*. One can also purchase hard copies of either the Bonhoeffer text or the Barth text for very little from various online book sellers. Furthermore, Barth's book has been released in formats accessible to individuals such as the pdf, Kindle and epub files linked to at <https://mikeraburn.com/2009/05/16/free-book-for-you/> .

CHTH 212:

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1954.

CHTH 212/312:

Barth, Karl. *The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1954.

VIDEOCONFERENCES

Interactive videoconferences enable immediate response from the lecturer and other students. They are an excellent forum for discussing the issues raised and for clarifying any problems you may encounter as you work through the material. For the method to be successful, it is essential that everyone participates fully. Videoconferences are not lectures, where the teacher delivers a monologue; nor are they a dialogue with one person in the group. They are intended to be similar to the tutorials which on-campus students attend and will involve you in careful listening and appropriate participation.

How should students prepare for each videoconference?

- Read the relevant section in the Study Guide and the Readings associated with it beforehand.
- Think about the issues raised in the course material and jot down a few points that you might like to make during the discussion.

What will we do at the videoconferences?

- The lecturer welcomes everyone. Material from the previous session may be reviewed and an introductory overview of the new topic is given.
- The lecturer will ask questions to engage students in discussion. The focus will be on the readings and the issues they raise.

An interchange of views and reactions to the study material is an important aspect of each videoconference. Each participant brings a unique combination of prior experience, study and theological perspective to the videoconference – and each participant is a resource for the group as a whole.

In this kind of learning situation it is very important that participants prepare well, not only to master the study material provided but also to be ready to state and support their own viewpoints in dialogue with the whole group.

Accessing the Videoconferences

For information about accessing Zoom please refer to the 'Essential Information' web page (link given above) and the 'Zoom Information' link on Blackboard, where you will find the URL you need to join the sessions.

Schedule of Videoconferences

Session 1	Wednesday 27 February	7:10 – 8:00 pm
Session 2	Wednesday 3 April	6:10 – 8:00pm
Session 3	Wednesday 8 May	6:10 – 8:00pm
Session 4	Wednesday 22 May	6:10 – 8:00pm

TEACHING DAY

In addition to the Zoom videoconferences this course involves a teaching day/evening at one of the following venues. Although it is not compulsory to do so, students are strongly encouraged to attend ONE of the following teaching days. The same content will be repeated in each of the three venues. Students who are unable to attend one of the teaching days will be able to access a podcast summary of the key issues covered in the teaching day.

Students should prepare for the teaching day/evening by doing the reading for the material to be covered in the Teaching Day as indicated in the Study Guide. Accordingly, please read Reading 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4.

Dunedin

Date: 6 March 2019

Venue: University of Otago, TBA

Timetable for Dunedin Teaching Evening

3:00-6:00 Session 1

6:00-7:00 Dinner (students are responsible for providing their own dinner)

7:00-9:00 Session 2

Auckland

Date: 14 March 2019

Time: 9.30-4.00 pm

Venue: St John's College 202-210 St Johns Road, Meadowbank, Auckland

Tea and coffee will be provided. You are invited to join in lunch in the Dining Room, free of charge, but please notify the Theology Programme at least a week beforehand if you wish to have lunch. Please bring your own food if you have any special requirements. Parking available onsite.

Wellington

Date 15 March 2019

Time: 9.30-4.00 pm

Venue: St John's in the City, cnr Dixon and Willis Sts, Te Aro

Students are responsible for arranging their own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Limited parking may be available (contact the Centre).

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Assignments for CHTH 212

Assignment 1:

Length: 1500 words

Value: 20% of final mark

Due Date: Thursday March 28th 4:00pm

Imagine that you are St. Basil. How would St. Basil, following his treatise *On the Holy Spirit* (chapters 16-20), respond to the following: "The Spirit's divinity is of no consequence for the Christian doctrine of God and for the Christian life."

Assignment 2:

Length: 2000 words

Value: 30% of final mark

Due Date: Thursday May 9th 4:00pm

Read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* and do the following. (1) *Summarize* in your own words (approximately 500 word) Bonhoeffer's understanding of Christian community. (2) *Defend* (approximately 500 words), what is, in your view, the most important paragraph in the book and why. (3) *Assess*, in (approximately 500 words), the author's programme: To what extent does Bonhoeffer help (or not help) you to better understand the nature of Christian community. (4) *Account* (approximately 500 words) for the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Christian community.

Please include footnotes as appropriate and a bibliography for all assignments.

Assignments for CHTH 312

Assignment 1:

Length: 2000 words
Value: 20% of final mark
Due Date: Thursday 28 March 4:00pm

Read Karl Barth's *The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life* and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*. Drawing from both, answer the following questions: (1) What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Christian community? (2) The Holy Spirit and living a faithful Christian life?

Assignment 2:

Length: 2500 words
Value: 30% of final mark
Due Date: Thursday 9 May 4:00pm

Christians confess the church to be "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic." (1) Unfold in 800 or so words the implications of this description for understanding the church. (2) Answer in 800 or so words the question: What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the creedal markers of the Christian church? (3) Offer in 800 or so words, in conversation with Luther, an description of what activities make the church a truly *Christian* and why.

Please include footnotes as appropriate and a bibliography for all assignments

Examination

The date for the examination (comprising **50%** of your mark) will be posted on your eVision calendar as soon as it has been set by the Examinations Office. All arrangements for examinations are handled by the Examinations Office, as outlined in the handbook *Distance Learning: Information and Support 2019*.

Please note that the venue for Distance exams is set according to your Semester Address in eVision so please ensure that this is kept up to date.

REFERENCING SYSTEM

For writing essays, the Programme requires that you use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide, which is the norm for many academic journals in the Humanities and is often recommended for theses in the humanities. The Programme has prepared a *Study and Style Guide*, which outlines the Chicago Style and offers other advice on essay presentation. You may find it via the Programme's "Student Resources and Information" page: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments shall be submitted **electronically** via the 'Assignment' function on Blackboard by 4 pm on the due dates notified. Please see the 'Essential Information' web page for instructions on how to submit assignments via Blackboard (link above).

Please note: Late assignments (whether or not an extension has been granted) **MUST NOT** be submitted via Blackboard. Rather, they must be emailed directly to the Lecturer. It is in your interests to make sure that you receive email confirmation that the assignment has indeed been received.

Please read the 'Essential Information' web page for important guidance and advice on grading, deadlines and plagiarism. A Plagiarism Declaration form from the page must be downloaded and attached to each assignment. The *Study and Style Guide* and *Distance Learning Handbook* will provide further useful guidelines on formatting and submitting your assignments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

The "**Essential Information**" web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library's resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative enquiries**, please contact:
The Administrative Assistant for Theology at Otago.
Email: theology@otago.ac.nz Phone: 03 479 8516

For all **distance learning enquiries**, please contact:
Katherine Rae, Administrative Assistant for Theology.
Email: katherine.rae@otago.ac.nz Phone: 03 479 8639

We recommend that you contact the Programme as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.

THEOLOGY AT OTAGO

University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
www.otago.ac.nz/theology