



CHTH305/405

The Roots of Public Theology

Distance Course Outline 2021

SEMESTER 2 2021

Lecturer:

Prof David Tombs

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Lectures:

Wednesday 2.00 – 3.50pm

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

Some of the people we look at offer a broad framework for a Christian approach to engagement with 'public issues' – Augustine with his 'two cities', for example; others are focused more on principles – like Temple and his 'middle axioms'. Anabaptists present a model of

withdrawal from public life which can nevertheless outwork itself in a radical challenge to prevailing values, while Calvin seeks to bring church and authorities together in the business of building a godly society. Müntzer suggests that at times public theology needs to have a 'prophetic' edge, to be unafraid to tell the authorities 'what to do', while the Levellers seek to get their point across through reasoned debate with the people who matter. Winstanley frames his argument as a 'humble request' to people who can make a difference, Kingsley addresses not the rulers but the ruled. Liberation theologians focus on social justice and a preferential option for the poor and oppressed

In different ways, these figures sought to draw upon the resources of the Christian faith to influence public life for good; to bring biblical insights to bear on the pressing issues of their day; to challenge their societies where they felt they were falling short of God's demands in the areas of justice and peace; to encourage or cajole their rulers to draw closer to a godly ideal. So each can help us to think afresh about the challenge of making theology engage with our own context and contribute to contemporary debates around the local, national and even global issues which we confront today.

LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION

The lecturer for this paper is Prof. David Tombs who is Howard Paterson Chair in Theology and Public Issues in the Department of Theology and Religion. The paper was originally developed by Prof. Andrew Bradstock. Andrew was the inaugural Howard Paterson Professor, and Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues at the University of Otago.

David Tombs can be contacted by email: david.tombs@otago.ac.nz

You can read more about the Centre for Theology and Public Issues at:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/ctpi/staff/> and you may wish to view David's Inaugural Lecture at:

http://www.otago.ac.nz/cs/groups/public/@otagopodcast/documents/audio_video/otago552201.mp4

LEARNING OUTCOMES

For CHTH305

At the end of this course it is expected that you will 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'

For CHTH405

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

COURSE STRUCTURE

The paper has five modules, and each module is covered in two classes.

1. Latin American Liberation Theology
2. European Reformation
3. English Civil War
4. Christian Socialists
5. Pulling it Together: Public Theology in the contemporary world

TEACHING

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

ASSESSMENT

Assessment comprises written work only. There is no final examination.

CHTH305

- Assignment 1 (2500 words) 40% by Friday 6 August 2021
- Assignment 2 (1500 words) 20% by Friday 27 August 2021
- Assignment 3 (2500 words) 40% by Friday 1 Oct 2021

CHTH405

- Assignment 1 (3000 words) 40% by Friday 6 August 2021
- Assignment 2 (2000 words) 20% by Friday 27 August 2021
- Assignment 3 (3000 words) 40% by Friday 1 Oct 2021

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class meets on Wednesdays, 2:00pm-3.50pm.

Week 1.	14 Jul.	Module 1. Latin American Liberation Theology. Part 1.
Week 2.	21 Jul.	Personal study. No class.
Week 3.	28 Jul.	Module 1. Latin American Liberation Theology. Part 2.
Week 4.	4 Aug.	Module 2. European Reformation. Part 1.
Week 5.	11 Aug.	Module 2. European Reformation. Part 2.
Week 6.	18 Aug.	Module 3. English Civil War. Part 1.

Week 7.	25 Aug.	Module 3. English Civil War. Part 2.
Week 8.	1 Sept.	Mid-semester break. No class
Week 9.	8 Sept.	Module 4. Christian Socialists. Part 1
Week 10.	15 Sept.	Module 4. Christian Socialists. Part 2.
Week 11.	22 Sept.	Module 5. Pulling it Together. Part 1.
Week 12.	29 Sept.	Module 5. Pulling it Together. Part 2.
Week 13.	6 Oct.	Conclusion.

RESOURCES

- Blackboard, the University's online learning tool;
- This Course Outline and the Study Guide
- eReserve, a resource for electronic readings, which you can access via Blackboard;
- The Programme's "Style Guide" which recommends students use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide when writing essays. It is available online at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>
- The handbook *Distance Learning Information and Support*, providing advice on administrative matters not covered in this Course Outline 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. 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 Theology Programme 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 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.

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

CHTH305 Assignments:

CHTH305 Assignment 1

Value: 40%
Word Count 2500 words
Due Date: Friday 6 Aug 2021
Topic: Public Theology and Liberation Theology

You have been asked to make a short-paper conference presentation on Latin American liberation theology and Public Theology. Your task is to evaluate the extent to which liberation might offer helpful resources and/or potential pitfalls for a prophetic public theology in Aotearoa New Zealand. Your presentation should include an Abstract of 100-200 words.

CHTH305 Assignment 2

Value: 20%
Word Count 1500 words
Due Date: Friday 27 August 2015
Topic: Review article

Select one of the following readings below and write a critical review of it to go up on a Website accessed by an educated but non-specialist readership. Your review should include both an explanation and assessment of the work's main arguments, and a brief description of its author and the circumstances in which he came to write it. Be sure to use your own words throughout, using direct quotation from the work very minimally. You may draw upon other writers' assessments of the work if you wish, making clear through footnoting where you have done so. You should also include a bibliography.

Calvin, 'On Civil Government' (Topic 2, R2.3)
Erasmus, from 'The Complaint of Peace' (Topic 2, R2.7)
Milton, 'A Defence of the People of England' (Topic 3, R3.4)
Winstanley, 'An Humble Request...' (Topic 3, R3.5)
Tawney, 'Moreover, One Thing Is Necessary...' (Topic 4, R4.5)
Temple, Christianity and Social Order (Topic 4, R4.6)

CHTH305 Assignment 3

Value: 40%
Word Count 2500 words
Due Date: Friday 1 Oct 2021
Topic: Critical essay on the Roots of Public Theology

To what extent can the work of theologians of the past help us shape a 'public theology' for today? Illustrate your answer with examples from some of the writings you have studied and show their application to one or more public issue that are relevant today.

Please use footnotes as necessary.

CHTH405 Assignments:

CHTH405 Assignment 1

Value: 40%
Length 3,000 words (includes appendix)
Due Date Friday 6 Aug 2021
Topic Arguments for Public Theology

You have been asked to make a short-paper conference presentation on Latin American liberation theology and Public Theology. Your task is to evaluate the extent to which liberation might offer helpful resources and/or potential pitfalls for a prophetic public theology in Aotearoa New Zealand. Your presentation should include an Abstract of 100-200 words.

CHTH405 Assignment 2

Value: 20%
Word Count 2,000 words
Due Date Friday 27 August 2021
Topic Review article

Select one of the following readings and write a critical review of it to go up on a Website accessed by an educated but non-specialist readership. Your review should include both an explanation and assessment of the work's main arguments, and a brief description of its author and the circumstances in which he came to write it. Be sure to use your own words throughout, using direct quotation from the work very minimally. You may draw upon other writers' assessments of the work if you wish, making clear through footnoting where you have done so. You should also include a bibliography.

Calvin, 'On Civil Government' (Topic 2, R2.3)
Erasmus, from 'The Complaint of Peace' (Topic 2, R2.7)
Milton, 'A Defence of the People of England' (Topic 3, R3.4)
Winstanley, 'An Humble Request...' (Topic 3 R3.5)
Tawney, 'Moreover, One Thing Is Necessary...' (Topic 4, R4.5)
Temple, Christianity and Social Order (Topic 4, R4.6)

CHTH405 Assignment 3

Value: 40%
Length 3,000 words
Due Date Friday 1 Oct 2021
Topic Critical Essay on the Roots of Public Theology

Write an essay on

To what extent can the work of theologians of the past help us shape a 'public theology' for today? Illustrate your answer with examples from some of the writings you have studied and show their application to one or more public issue that are relevant today.

Please use footnotes as necessary.

CRITERION FOR MARKING

Marking for all assignments will take into account:

- The clarity of your writing. Give your assignments interesting introductions and conclusions, a clear and logical structure, and a strong well-argued narrative.
- Your ability to demonstrate critical engagement with the readings and the audio-conference discussions. You should engage critically with these ideas in the body of your essay and in footnotes. You are strongly encouraged to consult some of the resources listed under 'further reading' in each topic.
- Your ability to integrate material from other disciplines such as history, politics and biblical studies, and to utilise your knowledge and awareness of current affairs.
- Your ability to use what you have learned during the audioconferences and from your reading to show how theology can enrich debates around contemporary global issues.

REFERENCING SYSTEM

For writing essays, the Theology 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 Style Guide, which outlines the Chicago Style and offers other advice on essay presentation. You may find it via the Theology 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" feature on Blackboard by **midnight** on the due dates notified. Please do not submit paper copies. For full instructions about how to submit assignments electronically via Blackboard as well as other important information on plagiarism, grading, and deadlines, please see the "Essential Information" web page.

All Assignments submitted in the Theology Programme must be prefaced with a student Plagiarism Declaration Form (or the plagiarism declaration on Blackboard must be ticked). They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted or box ticked. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All Assignments submitted in the Theology Programme must be prefaced with a student Plagiarism Declaration Form (or the plagiarism declaration on Blackboard must be ticked when submitting an assignment).

It can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/> It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

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 Theology Administrator:
Email: theology@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 PROGRAMME

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