



CHTH 218/318

The Person and Work of Christ

Distance Course Outline 2020

SEMESTER 2 2018

Lecturer:

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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 in to 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.

LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION



Your lecturer for this paper is Professor Murray Rae.

Email murray.rae@otago.ac.nz or phone him on 03 479 5393.

Murray Rae trained first as an architect, then studied theology and philosophy at Otago. He completed his PhD at King's College, London, on the incarnation in the thought of Søren Kierkegaard. His research interests include the work of Søren Kierkegaard, Theology and Architecture, Christian Pacifism, Biblical Hermeneutics, Christian Doctrine, and the development of Christian faith amongst Maori.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

What does the course aim to do?

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.

How will each of these Learning Outcomes be achieved?

At both levels:

1. By a systematic study of selected texts and ideas in historical and contemporary Christology.
2. By pondering and responding to questions about the implications of each particular contribution for other elements of theology and ethics.
3. By identifying the respective influences of texts, traditions, and socio-cultural factors, both on the arguments themselves and on us as we interpret them.
4. By participating in group-discussions of complex issues in classes, and by composing written responses to challenging questions in assignments and in the final exam.

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

- Five two-hour videoconference sessions using Zoom
- A teaching day held in Wellington or substituted by an additional videoconference for those who are unable to attend the teaching day.

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 2018*, 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.

VIDEOCONFERENCES

Distance study requires students to accept a high level of responsibility for their own study. Success is most easily achieved by students who are self-motivated, who engage readily in self-directed study, and who prepare well for the videoconferences. The videoconferences will not cover all the material in each module. Instead, they will focus on some of the key themes and provide opportunity for interaction between students and the course teacher. Much of the learning will take place as you work through the Study Guide modules and readings on your own.

Accessing the Videoconferences

Please see the 'Zoom Information' link on Blackboard and the 'Essential Information' web page for instructions on how to access Zoom and join in the videoconference sessions. The URL you need to join the sessions is posted under 'Zoom Information.'

Attendance at the Videoconferences

Attending videoconferences is a requirement of taking this course. If you are obliged by circumstances beyond your control to miss one, you may find a recording of the proceedings of the Videoconference on Blackboard under the Zoom Videoconferences Link.

TEACHING DAY

In addition to the Zoom videoconferences, this course involves a teaching day in Wellington. Although it is not compulsory to do so, students are strongly encouraged to attend the teaching day if they are able to do so. An additional videoconference will be offered for students who are unable to attend 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.

Wellington Teaching Day

Date:	Friday March 13th	(Morning and afternoon tea provided
Time:	9.30 – 3.30pm.	Students to provide own lunch.)
Venue:	To be confirmed	

NOTE: Please email: theology@otago.ac.nz if you are able to attend the Wellington teaching day. Students are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation for the Teaching Days.

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
27 Feb	Videoconference 6.10-7.30pm	Intro & Module 1	
13 March	Wellington Teaching Day* 9.30-3.30, Venue to be advised	Module 1	
26 Mar	Videoconference 6.10-7.30pm	Module 2	Essay 1 Due April 3
9 Apr	Videoconference 6.10-7.30pm	Module 3.1	
30 Apr	Videoconference 6.10-7.30pm	Module 3.2	
14 May	Videoconference 6.10-7.30pm	Module 4	Essay 2 Due May 15th
			Exam Date to be advised

* An additional videoconference will be arranged for those who are unable to attend the teaching day.

ASSESSMENT

Students must complete two compulsory essays worth 25% and 35% and a final 2 hour examination worth 40%.

Marking for all assignments will take into account:

- The clarity of your written documentation. 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 course material. You should engage critically with these ideas in the body of your essay and in footnotes.
- The quality of your presentation, including, spelling, grammar and the use of appropriate referencing techniques as set out in the Department's 'Study and Style Guide'.

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

ASSIGNMENTS FOR CHTH 218 STUDENTS

Assignment 1

Length: 2000 words.
 Value: 25% of final mark
 Date due: Friday, April 3rd

EITHER: Why does Dietrich Bonhoeffer suggest that Christology should begin in silence?

OR: Select one of the titles attributed to Jesus in the New Testament and offer an analysis of what it suggests about the person and work of Jesus.

Assignment 2

Length: 2,500 words
Value: 35% of final mark
Due Date: Friday May 15th

EITHER: What is Docetism and why was the early church keen to oppose it?

OR: What prompted the nineteenth century Quest of the Historical Jesus and why did it prove to be unsuccessful?

OR: Outline and critically evaluate one of the readings included in Module Three.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR CHTH 318 STUDENTS

Assignment 1

Length: 2500 words.
Value: 25% of final mark
Date due: Friday, April 3rd

EITHER: Theology has classically been described as 'faith seeking understanding'. Discuss the importance of faith in understanding who Jesus is.

OR: What does Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God reveal about who Jesus is?

Assignment 2

Length: 3000 words
Value: 35% of final mark
Due Date: Friday, May 15th

EITHER: Why was the principal concern of the Council of Nicea in 325 and what did it achieve?

OR: 'Although Jesus was an historical figure, he cannot be understood merely through historical inquiry.' Discuss.

OR: Select one of the readings included in Module 3 and offer a critical discussion of the issues raised in that reading.

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. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted. 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

All Assignments submitted in the Theology Programme must be prefaced with a student Plagiarism Declaration Form.

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