



CHTH 235/335

Theology, Money & Markets

Distance/Campus Course Description

Lecturer: Dr Andrew Shepherd

Brief Introduction to the Paper

This paper explores what the Christian theological and ethical tradition offers to economic issues and concerns, and reflects on the relationship between Christianity and global capitalism – both its historical development and future evolution. Drawing upon a wide range of resources – including the Judaeo-Christian Scriptures and historical and contemporary writings of theologians, ethicists, and economists – the paper explores important moral and ethical considerations concerning wealth, poverty, inequality, the power of money, the influence and operation of markets, and the concept of limitless economic growth. It also critically reflects upon how the prevailing vision of global neoliberal capitalism shapes the imagination and practices of the contemporary Church. Finally, the paper observes how the Christian tradition may encourage and enrich the development of alternative economic thinking and practices.

Assessment

This paper is fully internally assessed. There is no examination.

CHTH 235:

- **Participation in Online Written Discussions – 20%**
(1050-1200 words spread over three on-line discussion-posts)
- **Creative Biblical-Theological Reflection/Magazine article – 30%**
(1200 words)
- **Research Essay – 50%**
(2500 words)

CHTH 335:

- **Participation in Online Written Discussions – 15%**
(1400-1600 words spread over four on-line discussion-posts)
- **Creative Biblical-Theological Reflection/Magazine article – 30%**
(1500 words)
- **Research Essay + 5-minute oral presentation – 55%**
(3000 words)

Teaching schedule

The course is taught synchronously, with **campus and distance students** participating together in weekly **2-hour classes**. A series of evening tutorials (optional attendance) will also be offered during the semester.

Timetable details are available at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/> (See the hyperlinks under “Timetables”, on the right-hand side)

Learning Outcomes

Students completing CHTH 235 should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how key biblical motifs can relate to contemporary economic discourse.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the contribution made to economic ethical concerns by selected Christian writers.
3. Outline a theological ethical framework for engaging with economic concerns.
4. Offer a critical and creative theological analysis of a contemporary economic concern/issue.
5. Demonstrate analytical, interpretative and critical skills by engagement with scholarly texts.

In addition to the above, CHTH 335 students will be able to:

6. Demonstrate research skills.
7. Demonstrate advanced written and oral communication skills.

For more information

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

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