



CHTH 319/415

Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology

Short Course Outline

Lecturer: Prof David Tombs

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

This paper offers a critical and creative perspective on what a socially relevant Christian theology of reconciliation needs to address, and then explores the insights that theology might offer on these social challenges. A key question guiding the course is: 'How can a Christian theology of reconciliation be developed to engage constructively with the challenges of reconciliation in the aftermath of social division and/or conflict.'

COURSE STRUCTURE

This paper is divided into five modules.

1. Reconciliation in Aotearoa
2. Reconciliation in South Africa
3. Reconciliation in Northern Ireland
4. A Theology of Reconciliation
5. Forgiveness

TEACHING

The paper is offered through distance teaching and on campus (subject to numbers). Distance teaching is through 5 evening video-conferences and a Wellington teaching day (when possible). Campus teaching is through weekly classes (2 hour classes once per week). The teaching typically involves discussion of your eReserve readings, so it is important to complete the required reading in advance whenever possible.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment comprises three compulsory coursework assignments, worth a total of 100% of the final mark. There is **no final examination** for either paper.

RESOURCES

Three resources that will help you prepare for the paper are:

- David Bloomfield *et al.* eds. *Reconciliation After Violent Conflict: A Handbook*. Stockholm: IDEA, 2003. Available for free download at: <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/reconciliation-after-violent-conflict-handbook?lang=en>
- David Tombs and Joseph Liechty (eds.), *Explorations in Reconciliation: New Directions for Theology* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006). Available open access for free download at: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315581590>
- Desmond Tutu, *No Future Without Forgiveness*. New York: Doubleday; London: Rider, 1999. This is available to purchase on Kindle (or other ebook platforms) and it is also available through the University Bookshop: <https://www.unibooks.co.nz/>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students taking this paper at the **300-level** will be able to:

By the end of the course the student taking the paper at **300-level** should:

- Clarify a sound understanding of the challenges posed by reconciliation as a personal and political process and its relevance to Christian ethics and public theology.
- Analyse the complexity of truth, justice, forgiveness, remorse and apology in the social transformation of division and conflict.
- Critically evaluate the resources that public theology and Christian ethics can draw upon to contribute constructively towards personal and political reconciliation.
- Present persuasive written work with analytic arguments based on evidence, reading and reason.

In addition to all the above, the student taking the paper at **400-level** should also:

- Develop the capacity to identify a research topic and pursue a research plan to satisfactory completion.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A fuller course outline will be available through Blackboard before the start of the semester.

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

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THEOLOGY PROGRAMME

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