



## **CHTH 233/333**

Public Theology:

Faith in the Public Square

Short Course Description

Lecturer: Prof David Tombs

### **Brief Introduction to the Paper**

This paper offers you an introduction to the discipline of 'Public Theology'. It encourages you to engage in a critical study of the nature of Christian theology as public discourse in contemporary society.

We will examine the principles behind public theology and also explore illustrative examples. The sort of questions we shall explore are:

- What does it mean to talk of doing theology in the 'public square'?
- How can theology contribute to thinking about current issues?
- What resources for a public theology do we discover in Scripture and the teachings of the Church?
- What challenges arise when seeking to do public theology?
- How might theology respond to #MeToo? What about #ChurchToo?

### **Assessment**

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

**CHTH 233:** Two essays or projects (2,000 words, 30% each); a third essay or project (2,500 words, 40%).

**CHTH 333:** Two essays or projects (2,000 words, 30% each); a third essay or project (3,000 words, 40%).

### **Teaching schedule**

The **campus class** will be taught through 2hr classes each week.

The **distance class** will be taught through 5 video-conferences, plus a teaching day. Most video-conferences are 1 hr 50 mins but the first is just 50 mins. The teaching day is either in-person in Wellington, or online (depending on travel restrictions).

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 who successfully complete the paper at 300-level should 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
- Develop skills in showing the relevance of Scripture and Christian tradition to matters of contemporary public concern
- Demonstrate understanding of the relation between the church and public theology

Students who successfully complete the paper at 400-level should be able to:

- Develop a more critical analysis of the principles underpinning theological engagement around contemporary issues
- Demonstrate self-critical reflection on one's own arguments

## **For more information**

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

[theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:theology@otago.ac.nz) Phone: 03 479 863