



SYT 184i Christology

Fall Semester 2022

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Online

Instructors Name: Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.
Office: 2—06
Office Hours: Before class or by appointment
Telephone: 780-392-2450 ext. 2215
780-476-2338 (Franciscan Friary)
Email: dave.norman@newman.edu
Zoom: Tuesdays, 19:00 (7 PM – 8 PM) Mountain Time

Course Description

The contemporary problematic in Christology. The claims and challenges posed by Jesus in his preaching and life. His rejection, death, and resurrection. Jesus Christ as divine and human. Traditional and contemporary Christologies.

Course Objectives

The course objectives aim at addressing and promoting the integration of the following aspects: analysis, comprehension, knowledge, synthesis, application, and evaluation.

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course aims to bring students to a greater appreciation of the person and mission of Jesus Christ by presenting a modern, but scripturally based interpretation of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection as the Incarnate Son of God. The course will foster the development of a thoughtful, critical mind—essential to doing theology as “faith seeking understanding”—in the context of the Church and world. The course will foster the practice of research and technical skills necessary to do acceptable theological reflection and work. The course will

demonstrate the importance of Christology to other areas or branches (Scripture, Foundations, Moral/Spiritual/Pastoral).

- b) **Cultural Context** - The course will promote an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world through the lens of a Christology that will touch on the following: Scripture, doctrinal development, the teaching Magisterium of the Church, as well as addressing the modern and postmodern critiques of the claim that God became incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course will foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity through the promotion of a critical and profound faith understanding of Jesus, Son of God/son of Mary, so that the spiritual and liturgical life of students may be enhanced. The course will foster maturation in the Christian faith through assigned readings and participation in the Discussion Forum so that students may come to see discipleship in Jesus Christ as a dimension of public witness.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The course will foster theological reflection on Christ the Lord for the practice of ministerial and educational leadership in the Church and world by bringing to the fore key representative theologians, as well as different approaches to Christology. The course will emphasize the importance of a personal synthesis and aid in the forming of one so that students may develop an integrated approach to faith in Jesus Christ, the revelation of the triune God. The course will foster sound knowledge of Jesus Christ with the view to enhancing Christian teaching and preaching.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded on content (70%) and style (30%). For an "A" the written work must demonstrate a clear, discerning eye; and the prose must be clear, comprehensive, insightful, well organized, and contain few if any grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of A+ the work is of publishable quality. The difference between an A and an A- can be attributable to a stylistic deficiency, a deficiency in content, or both. For a "B" the written work demonstrates a suitably clear presentation of the material and is adequately organized with a minimum number of grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of "C+" or less the writing is not clear nor are the ideas expressed or organized very well and there are numerous grammatical and/or spelling errors.

As regards the synopsis for *The Challenge of Jesus* and the one for *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*, the aim of the assignment is to demonstrate a grasp of the thesis of the book through an exposition of the important points. You may want to summarize the chapters, or you may want to focus on those chapters you consider central to the thesis. Remember, you cannot summarize the content of the book, so you need to discern the most significant aspects or elements. A critique of the book is welcome, but not obligatory. As for the critique, the first thing I look for is a comment on some of the following: is the book readable; are the ideas expressed clearly; is the topic adequately addressed; does the book miss something that, in your opinion,

should have been covered? The second thing I look for is evidence of your own appropriation of the book. How did the book influence your life or work? Did the book do anything to advance your faith understanding?

Textbooks

N.T. Wright's *The Challenge of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999, 9-202.

Thomas P. Rausch's *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2003, 1-217.

Recommended Reading

David J. Norman O.F.M. "Doubt and the Resurrection of Jesus," in *Theological Studies* Volume 69, Number 4, 2008, 786-811.

Course Requirements

For Tuesday, September 13th, read the notes "Introduction." Discussion Forum question: Who is Jesus for you?

Zoom Meeting question: Do you have any questions regarding the notes?

For Tuesday, September 20th read the notes on "Jesus Reveals God as Father (*Abba*)." Discussion Forum question: What are the central aspects of Jesus' revelation of God as Father and how would you argue for the image of God as father?

Zoom Meeting question: Is it difficult to speak of God as father in a patriarchal world? Why or why not?

For Tuesday, September 27th read the notes on "Jesus Preaches the Reign of God." Discussion Forum question: What is the reign of God and when does it arrive?

Zoom Meeting question: How are the parables of Jesus instructive of the reign of God?

For Tuesday, October 4th and for 35% of the final mark write a synopsis of 7 pages (300 words per page on a 12 Pt font) of N.T. Wright's *The Challenge of Jesus*. Please leave your critique of the book, if you have one, until the last page.

Due date: 8:30 am MT. Late submissions will be accepted until October 11th, but they will be docked 10%.

For Tuesday, October 11th read my notes on "Jesus Forgives Sins" and "Jesus Brings the Judgment of God." Discussion Forum question: What is the purpose of judgment and why does Jesus bring a judging word?

Zoom Meeting question: By forgiving sins, what is Jesus telling us?

For Tuesday, October 18th read my notes on “The Baptism of Jesus” and “The Temptations of Jesus.” Discussion Forum question: What does the baptism tell us about Jesus?

Zoom Meeting question: If Jesus is the Son of God, how is it that he could be tempted?

For Tuesday, October 25th and for 35% of the final mark write a synopsis of 7 pages (300 words per page on a 12 Pt font) of Thomas P. Rausch’s *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*. Please leave your critique of the book, if you have one, to the last page.

Due date: Tuesday, October 25th before 8:30 am MT. Late submissions will be accepted until November 1st, but they will be docked 10%.

Zoom Meeting question: What did you think of Rausch’s book?

For Tuesday, November 1st read my notes on “The Miracles of Jesus.” Discussion Forum question: What do miracles do and were the ones Jesus did effective?

Zoom Meeting question: Do you believe in miracles? Do miracles happen in a world governed by science?

Tuesday, November 8th. Reading break.

For Tuesday, November 15th read my notes on “The Death of Jesus.” Discussion Forum question: Was the death of Jesus necessary? What did it accomplish?

Zoom Meeting question: Did the incarnation of the Son of God make the death of Jesus redundant; in other words, was not the goal of humanity (to be one with God) attained when God became human?

For Tuesday, November 22nd read my notes on “The Transition from Death to Resurrection.” Discussion Forum question: Were the disciples of Jesus expecting his resurrection from the dead? Why or why not?

Zoom Meeting question: How do you make the transition from knowing that Jesus died to believing in him as risen from the dead? Do you have any difficulties making the transition?

For Tuesday, November 29th read my notes on “The Resurrection-Exaltation of Jesus” and the article “Doubt and the Resurrection of Jesus.” Discussion Forum question: What do you consider to be the major barrier to faith in Jesus as Lord of heaven and earth?

Zoom Meeting question: How would you respond to those who express doubt that Jesus rose from the dead?

For Tuesday, December 6th read my notes on “The Divinity and Humanity of Jesus” and “The Resurrection of the Body.” For 21% of the final mark write a response of 5 pages to the following question: What would you present to a group of parishioners or a class of students about Jesus?

Due date: Tuesday, 8:30 am MT, December 6th. No late submissions will be accepted.

Zoom meeting—a sharing of your responses to the final assignment question.

For 9% of the final mark—participation in the Discussion Forum. Each response is worth 1%.

Note: Submissions to the Discussion Forum must be made before Tuesday at 8:30 am Mountain Time, except for those days when there is no Discussion Forum (October 4, 25, November 8, and December 6). Each submission must be of a length of at least 150 words. Students are required to respond to at least one other submission. No late submissions will be accepted. Those who participate fully (submission plus one or more responses to another submission) will receive a minimum grade of 8.1 of 9 or 90%.

Every Tuesday at 19:00 (7 PM) Mountain Time we will gather for a Zoom meeting of a duration of 60-70 minutes. There will be no Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 4th and November 8th. The Zoom meetings will provide students an opportunity to discuss the material of the previous week and to ask questions of the Professor. It will also be an occasion to address related topics in systematic theology. Participation in the Zoom meetings is obligatory, except for good reason (illness, death in the family, etc.).

Late Submission Policy.

See Course Requirements.

Course Schedule

September 13—Introduction

September 20—Jesus Reveals God as Father (Abba)

September 27—Jesus Preaches the Reign of God

October 4—N.T. Wright’s *The Challenge of Jesus*

October 11— Jesus Forgives Sins and Jesus Brings the Judgment of God

October 18— The Baptism of Jesus and The Temptations of Jesus

October 25—Thomas P. Rausch’s *Who Is Jesus: An Introduction to Christology*

November 1—The Miracles of Jesus

November 8—Reading Break

November 15—The Death of Jesus



November 22—The Transition from Death to Resurrection

November 29—The Resurrection/Exaltation of Jesus and Doubt and the Resurrection of Jesus

December 6—The Divinity and Humanity of Jesus

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point

Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting the Dean of Students, Lorraine Spenrath at 780-392-2450; email lorraine.spenrath@newman.edu

No Bibliography for SYT 184i.