STD 450 / SYT 184 Introduction to Christology

Fall Semester 2016

Course Outline

Class start date: Thursday, September 8, 2016
Final class date: Thursday, December 8, 2016
Class meets Tuesdays 10:30-11:20 and Thursdays 9:30-11:20

Professor: Don MacDonald, OFM
Office: 2-04 Phone: 780-392-2450 ext. 5235 (College); 780-476-2338 (Friary)
Office Hours: Before classes on Tuesday and Thursday, otherwise by appointment.
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Course Description

Perennial and contemporary issues in Christology. Pauline Christology. The claims and challenges posed by Jesus in his preaching and life. His rejection, death and resurrection. Jesus Christ as divine and human. The early Church Councils. Traditional (patristic and medieval) and contemporary Christologies.

Course Objectives

1. To deepen students’ understanding of the person and mission of Jesus Christ. This entails the following:
   a) Grasping the impression Jesus made on his disciples during his ministry and understanding how they came to “full” faith in him after the death and resurrection;
   b) Coming to conclusions regarding the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ as well as his function as Saviour of the world.
2. To see in greater depth that the God revealed and communicated to the world in Jesus Christ is the centre of Christian life and the basis of Christian sacramental life and spirituality.
3. To see in greater depth that Jesus Christ is the “model” for human life both personally and socially.
4. To see in greater depth that the Truth and Life of God, revealed and communicated in Jesus Christ, is the centre of what is handed on pastorally in the Church.
5. To see in greater depth the relationship between Christology and other subjects treated in the Undergraduate and Graduate curriculum.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

For Graduate students:

1. A 4 page reflection paper on the professor’s article “Jesus Before Easter and the Risen Christ” (translated from La Nouvelle Revue Théologique 125(2003)89-98). This paper is worth 10% of the final mark and must be handed in no later than Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016.
2. Two papers of approximately 8 pages. The first is to be handed in no later than Thursday, October 27, 2016; the second no later than Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Topics for these papers: Jesus and the
Kingdom of God (the first); The Resurrection of Jesus (the second). Each of these papers is worth 20% of the final mark.

OR

One longer paper of approximately 16 pages in length on:

a) How and why the Cross of Christ is salvific (i.e. saving).

b) A resume of Anselm of Canterbury’s Cur Deus Homo with the stance of at least 5 modern theologians towards Anselm’s theory.

c) The Christology of a modern theologian (e.g. Rahner, von Balthasar, Moltmann).

If you choose to do this longer paper, you must give evidence in it of having consulted at least 8 authors (except for “b”). This paper must be handed in no later than Tuesday, December 6, 2016. This paper is worth 40% of the final mark.

d) A topic of your choice with the professor's approval.

3. A final take-home examination worth 50% of the final mark.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

1. The 4 page personal reflection paper (cf. “1” for Graduate students) – worth 10% of the final mark.

2. A 10 page paper to be handed in no later than Tuesday, November 15th, 2016. Topics will be given the first day of class. This paper is worth 40% of the final mark.

3. A take-home exam worth 50% of the final mark.

Textbooks (for both Graduate and Undergraduate students):
The professor’s personal notes for each section of the class.

One of the following books is also strongly recommended:

Recommended Reading
Dives in Misericordia (Encyclical of Pope John Paul, 1980)

General Academic Information
Extensions: to be dealt with on a personal basis
Plagiarism: see Student Handbook
Academic Grievances and Grade Appeals: see Student Handbook
NTC Grading System: see NTC Academic Handbook
Style Sheets: Turabian, Chicago, MLA, APA
Late Submission Policy: to be dealt with personally.

Course Schedule

Introduction: Perennial and Contemporary Issues in Christology

I Pauline Christology

II The Claims and the Challenges of the Ministry of Jesus
   A. The World of Jesus
   B. The Preaching
      1. The Reign of God
      2. The Fatherhood of God
      3. The Law
      4. Jesus and Sinners
   C. The Events and Deeds
      1. The Baptism
      2. The Temptations
      3. The Miracles

III The Rejection of Jesus

IV The Resurrection-Exaltation of Jesus

   A. The Content of the Early Christian Preaching
   B. The Emergence of the Paschal Faith

V The Passion and Death of Jesus

   A. The New Testament Evidence
   B. Traditional Theories

VI The Divinity and Humanity of Jesus

   A. The Teaching of the Early Councils
   B. Patristic and Medieval (Bonaventure and Thomas) Christologies
   C. A Personal Explanation

Bibliography (a supplementary bibliography will be handed out the first week of class)


KASPER, W. Jesus the Christ. New York: Paulist, 1976 (German original, 1974).


---. Jesus and Easter: Did God Raise the Historical Jesus from the Dead? Nashville: Abingdon, 1990.


----. The Historical Figure of Jesus. London: Penguin, 1993.


