



PROVIDENCE
— Est. 1972 —
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TS6203 Themes in Theology: Jesus the Saviour Directed Study Syllabus

Fall 2014

Andrew Gabriel, Ph.D.

agabriel@horizon.edu

www.andrewgabriel.wordpress.com

Course Description

This course is a study of the incarnation, ministry, cross, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In conversation with both classical and contemporary writers, students will reflect anew on the meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian faith and upon the joys and dangers of being his disciple. Prerequisite: Theological Foundations. (3 credits)

Required Textbooks and Readings

Beilby, James K., and Paul Rhodes Eddy, eds. *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006. (ISBN: 0830825703 or ISBN-13: 978-0830825707).

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. (ISBN: 0802847552 or ISBN-13: 978-0802847553)

**Note: This book was also used in my Theological Foundations course.*

Schweitzer, Don. *Contemporary Christologies: A Fortress Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010. (ISBN: 978-0800664633)

Wilson, Jonathan R. *God So Loved the World: A Christology for Disciples*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. (ISBN-10: 0801022770 or ISBN-13: 978-0801022777).

Other Important Resources for this Course

McKim, Donald. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1996. (ISBN: 0664255116 or ISBN-13: 978-0664255114)

Your denomination's and the [Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's statements of faith](#).

**These are not required for a specific assignment, but you should refer to them throughout the course to get a sense of what your denomination and evangelicals in general have to say regarding Christ.*

Course Goals

Students will

1. Increase their understanding of both historical and contemporary Christian teachings concerning the person of Christ and his saving work.
2. Appreciate why a theological account of Jesus is necessary for Christian community.

3. Be inspired in their devotion to and imitation of Christ.
4. Strengthen their skills in careful theological analysis and reflection, especially with respect to theology concerning the person and saving work of Christ.
5. Be equipped to minister with greater biblical and theological clarity.
6. Be able to articulate practical implications arising from Christology pertaining to Christian life (e.g., worship, church, evangelism, spirituality, justice).

Course Requirements		Due Date
Student-Faculty Meetings	10%	various
Atonement Views	20%	Dec 20
Contemporary Christologies	25%	Jan 24
Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry	15%	Feb 14
Research Paper	30%	Mar 14

General Assignment Guidelines

All written assignments should:

- Follow the [“Chicago Style”](#) of formatting, which includes using footnotes.
- Be typed, double-spaced and follow appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Use **Times New Roman** font only.
- Use *italics* rather than underlining (including in the footnotes and bibliography).
- Use **footnotes** only, not endnotes.
- Not exceed the **maximum length**; papers that exceed the **maximum length** may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction.
- Employ **gender-inclusive language** wherever possible and appropriate.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction. All assignments may be submitted to the professor’s e-mail address (preferred) or by hard copy. I will accept submissions in either **MSWord format** (doc or docx is fine), **Rich Text format** (rtf), or as **PDF files**. If you are not able to do this, please submit a hard copy of your paper. When you submit electronic files, please name them as follows: (example) **Tim Brown – Research Paper**

Late assignments will receive only a letter grade (without comments). In addition, a late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%; after six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

1. Student-Faculty Meetings – 10%

* Various

You and your professor will meet a number of times throughout the course to discuss your completed assignments. Your professor will ask you questions based on the assignment you have submitted. You may also wish to prepare notes for your discussion including questions you wish to discuss further. Your grade will be assigned based on evidence of your thoughtful reflection on the textbooks as you demonstrate your ability to articulate your thoughts and to ask the appropriate critical questions.

2. Atonement Views – 20%

* Due Dec 20

After you have read the whole of *The Nature of the Atonement* write a **1700-2000 word review** of the book (**about 6 pages**). In your paper you should (1) describe each of the four views that

are presented in the book (about 1 page per view) and (2) give an evaluation of which view you found most helpful for explaining the significance of Christ's saving work (about 2 pages). In your evaluation, you should include comments regarding what you perceive to be the most prominent strengths and weaknesses of the various views.

3. Contemporary Christologies – 25%

* Due Jan 24

For this assignment you will read:

- a) part 3 (=ch 9-12) in Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*.
- b) All of Schweitzer, *Contemporary Christologies*.

Be sure to use (and cite) both Grenz and Schweitzer in your paper. Grenz will offer you a historical and evangelical approach to Christ and his saving work. Using your reading from Grenz you will offer an evaluation of the five contemporary types of Christology that Schweitzer outlines in his book. Your paper should be **2000-2400 words (about 7 pages)**. In your paper you should both (1) describe how each of the five types of Christology understand the person and work of Christ, and (2) evaluate both the strengths and weaknesses of these contemporary forms of Christology. As far as your paper's structure is concerned, you might describe the five forms first before offering an evaluation of all of the views all at once, or you might choose to describe and evaluate one view at a time.

4. Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry – 15%

* Due Feb 14

After reading Wilson, *God So Loved the World*, you will write a **1200-1400 word** paper (about **4-5 pages**). In your paper you will discuss what you think are the most important implications for discipleship and ministry (e.g., issues pertaining to worship, church, evangelism, spirituality, justice) that arise from studying the person and work of Christ. Please note (!), this paper is *not* meant to be a review *nor* an evaluation of Wilson's book. Nevertheless, you should draw primarily from Wilson's book. You are also welcome (though not required) to draw on your previous readings from this course.

5. Research Paper – 30%

* Due Mar 14

The topic of your research paper should be related to some aspect of the person or saving work of Christ. You may write either a theological heresy paper, an historical theology paper, or a general theological research paper. This assignment should be characterized by critical theological reflection and not just a matter of reporting what others have said. As you write your paper:

- Aim for **4000-5000 words** (about 14-16 pages), not including your **footnotes and bibliography** (include both of these with your paper).
- Record the **word count** for your paper after your conclusion.
- Aim to use at least 12 scholarly¹ sources (dictionary definitions do not count as sources).
- Your sources should include at least two journal² articles, two books, and one web page.
- Please note the **document** "So you have to write a research paper for Andrew Gabriel!?" (I will e-mail this to you).

¹ "Scholarly" sources generally include articles published in academic journals and academic books (a book is often not 'academic' if it does not have footnotes or endnotes). You are welcome to use magazine articles and web pages, but these will often not count as scholarly sources.

² There are a number of excellent databases available for searching the contents of many journals at one time. If you request a password from the Horizon librarian, you can access many journals online through the electronic search databases once you login to the STU Library page (see this video). An internet search can help you as well (although this would not be as helpful).

- Follow the **general assignment guidelines** on p. 2 of this syllabus. Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Bibliography

Internet

-Be sure you check out the [Christian Theology Virtual Reading Room](#).

-You can also search for books on the [Google books](#) webpage, which often provides access of up to 75% of a book's content.

Books

**Note: Many of the books in the bibliography of your "Theological Foundations" syllabus will have helpful sections on Christ and his saving work.*

Anselm of Canterbury. *Cur Deus Homo*. In *The Major Works*, ed. Brian Davies and G. R. Evans. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Aulén, Gustaf. *Christus Victor: An Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of Atonement*. Translated by A. G. Herbert. New York, NY: Macmillan, 1969.

Baker, Mark D., and Joel B. Green. *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross: Atonement in New Testament and Contemporary Contexts*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

Balthasar, Hans Urs von. *Explorations in Theology I: The Word Made Flesh*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics, Volume IV: The Doctrine of Reconciliation*. 4 parts. Translation edited by G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1957-1975.

Bloesch, Donald G. *Jesus Christ: Savior and Lord*. Christian Foundations. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1998.

Bockmuehl, Markus, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Jesus*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Boersma, Hans. *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross: Reappropriating the Atonement Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

Boff, Leonardo. *Jesus Christ Liberator: A Critical Christology for Our Time*. Translated by Patrick Hughes. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1978.

Chung, Sung Wook, ed. *Christ the One and Only: A Global Affirmation of the Uniqueness of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Cole, Graham A. *God the Peacemaker: How Atonement Brings Shalom*. New Studies in Biblical Theology, 25. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2009.

_____. *The God Who Became Human: A Biblical Theology of Incarnation*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013.

Crisp, Oliver. *Divinity and Humanity: The Incarnation Reconsidered*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

_____. *God Incarnate: Explorations in Christology*. London: T & T Clark International, 2009.

Crysdale, Cynthia S.W. *Embracing Travail: Retrieving the Cross Today*. New York: Continuum, 2000.

- Del Colle, Ralph. *Christ and the Spirit: Spirit-Christology in Trinitarian Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Demarest, Bruce. *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1997.
- Eberhart, Christian A. *The Sacrifice of Jesus: Understanding Atonement Biblically*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2011.
- Erickson, Millard J. *The Word Became Flesh: A Contemporary Incarnational Christology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1996.
- Evans, C. Stephan, ed. *Exploring Kenotic Christology: The Self-Emptying of God*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Actuality of Atonement: A Study of Metaphor, Rationality and the Christian Tradition*. London: T & T Clark, 1988.
- Habets, Myk. *The Anointed Son: A Trinitarian Spirit Christology*. Princeton Theological Monograph Series. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2010.
- Heim, S. Mark. *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Holmes, Stephen R. *The Wondrous Cross: Atonement and Penal Substitution in the Bible and History*. London: Paternoster, 2007.
- Horton, Michael S. *Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005.
- Inbody, Tyron. *The Many Faces of Christology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2002.
- Jeffery, Steve, Michael Ovey, and Andrew Sach. *Pierced for Our Transgressions: Rediscovering the Glory of Penal Substitution*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.
- Jersak, Brad, and Michael Hardin, eds. *Stricken by God? Nonviolent Identification and the Victory of Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology*. New York: Crossroad, 1990.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Christology: A Global Introduction: An Ecumenical, International, and Contextual Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Adams, Marilyn McCord. *Christ and Horrors: The Coherence of Christology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Way of Jesus Christ: Christology in Messianic Dimensions*. Translated by Margaret Kohl. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1990.
- Morris, Leon L. *The Atonement: Its Meaning and Significance*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1983.
- Moulaison, Jane Barter. *Thinking Christ: Christology and Contemporary Critics*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2012.
- O'Collins, Gerald. *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Jesus: God and Man*. 2nd ed. Translated by Lewis L. Wilkins and Duane A. Priebe. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1977.
- Placher, William C. *Jesus the Savior: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Packer, J. I., and Mark Dever. *In My Place Condemned He Stood: Celebrating the Glory of the Atonement*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.
- Park, Andrew Sung. *Triune Atonement: Christ's Healing for Sinners, Victims, and the Whole Creation*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.
- Peterson, Robert A. *Salvation Accomplished by the Son: The Work of Christ*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Ramm, Bernard L. *An Evangelical Christology: Ecumenic and Historic*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1985.
- Sanders, Fred, and Klaus Issler. *Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective: An Introductory Christology*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2007.
- Sanders, John, ed. *Atonement and Violence: A Theological Conversation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2006.
- Schwarz, Hans. *Christology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Schweitzer, Don. *Jesus Christ for Contemporary Life: His Person, Work, and Relationships*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2012.
- Sobrino, Jon. *Christ the Liberator: A View from the Victims*. Translated by Paul Burns. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.
- _____. *Jesus the Liberator: A Historical-Theological Reading of Jesus of Nazareth*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1994.
- Tidball, Derek, David Hilborn, and Justin Thacker, eds. *The Atonement Debate: Papers from the London Symposium on the Theology of Atonement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.
- Torrance, Thomas F. *The Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*. Edited by Robert T. Walker. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
- _____. *Incarnation: The Person and Life of Christ*. Edited by Robert T. Walker. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.
- Trelstad, Marit, ed. *Cross Examinations: Readings on the Meaning of the Cross Today*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 2006.
- Ware, Bruce A. *The Man Christ Jesus: Theological Reflections on the Humanity of Christ*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent Atonement*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.