



Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian
Leaders for Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry

TS6203 Themes in Theology: Jesus the Saviour

3 credit hours. Prerequisites: Theological Foundations.

 Directed Study

May 2 – August 5, 2022
Summer 2022 Semester

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Course Design by Andrew Gabriel, Ph.D.

Course Goals

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.

Relationship to Horizon's Mission

This course will help students prepare for Christian leaders for Spirit-empowered life and ministry by helping them to ponder theological significance of the central character of Christianity—Jesus Christ. As students increase their ability to think critically about theological issues, students will also explore how Christology affects discipleship.

Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes



To demonstrate competency in *Biblical and Theological Literacy* students will

1. Describe and evaluate a variety of historical and contemporary Christian teachings concerning the person of Christ and his saving work.
 - Assessment: Student-Faculty Meetings, Atonement Views, Contemporary Christologies.
2. Articulate practical implications arising from Christology pertaining to Christian life and ministry (e.g., worship, church, evangelism, spirituality, justice).
 - Assessment: Contemporary Christologies; Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry
3. Construct a sustained and in-depth theological argument regarding an aspect of Christology.
 - Assessment: Research Paper.

Course Work

Required 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 statements of faith 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.*

****While students have the benefit of accessing their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library. For your convenience, Horizon has partnered with Kennedy's Parable to provide textbooks.**

Course Assignments and Activities

1. Student-Faculty Meetings – 10%

As soon as you are done the readings for each of the first two assignments, and before you write your papers, you will arrange to meet with your professor (and potentially other students taking the course). At each meeting you will discuss the reading for the coming assignment. You should prepare notes and questions for your discussion, but you do not need to hand these in. Since this is a discussion, your professor may also ask you questions during the discussion. 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.

- Related learning outcome: 1
- **Assignment Length:** ~30 minutes each.
- **Due date:** by May 18 and June 15 at the latest.

2. *Atonement Views* – 20%

After you have read the whole of *The Nature of the Atonement* write a **1800 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.

- Related learning outcome: 1
- **Assignment Length:** 6 pages.
- **Due date:** May 20

3. *Contemporary Christologies* – 25%

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 **2100 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. In your evaluation, you should include consideration of implications for Christian living and ministry. 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.

- Related learning outcomes: 1, 2
- **Assignment Length:** 7 pages.
- **Due date:** June 17

4. *Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry* – 15%

After reading Wilson, *God So Loved the World*, you will write a **1200 word paper (about 4 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.

- Related learning outcome: 2.
- **Assignment Length:** 4 pages.
- **Due date:** July 8

5. *Research Paper* – 30%

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 response to a 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:

- Note the lesson on Populi called “Notes Regarding Your Research Paper.”
- Aim for **4000 words** (about 13 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](#).

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

- Related learning outcome: 3.
- **Assignment Length:** 13 pages.
- **Due date:** July 29

Course Outline

Week 1-3 Student-Faculty Meeting 1, **by May 18** (at the latest)
Atonement Views, **due May 20**

Weeks 4-7 Student-Faculty Meeting 2, **by June 15** (at the latest)
Contemporary Christologies, **due June 17**

Weeks 8-10 Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry, **due July 8**

Weeks 11-13 Research Paper, **due July 29**

- Assignments will not be accepted after August 5, 2022.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

1. Student Faculty Meetings	1 hr	by May 18 and June 15	10%
2. Atonement Views	27 hrs	May 20	20%
3. Contemporary Christologies	34 hrs	June 17	25%
4. Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry	23 hrs	July 8	15%
5. Research Paper	39 hrs	July 29	30%
Total =		~124 hrs	

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).

Academic Policies

General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

Formatting Papers

- Papers should be typed, double-spaced and follow the appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Follow the [Horizon Format Guide](#) consistently.
- The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction.

Failure to follow these guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Submitting Your Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via [Populi](#). The resource at this link

<https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223792507-How-to-submit-work-for-assignments> explains how to submit assignments on Populi (the link to the video is also available on the info tab of the Populi course page). When you submit electronic files, please name them as follows: (example) **Tim Brown – Research Paper**

Late Assignments and Extensions

All assignments are due when stated by the professor or, if not specified, within 8 weeks after the first day of class. Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. 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.

Grading

Grade	Percentage	GPA
A+	97-100%	4
A	93-96%	4
A-	90-92%	3.7
B+	87-89%	3.3
B	83-86%	3.0
B-	80-82%	2.7
C+	77-79%	2.3
C	73-76%	2.0
C-	70-72%	1.7
D+	67-79%	1.3
D	63-66%	1.0
D-	60-62%	0.7
F	<60%	0

Academic Honesty

Horizon uses the University of Saskatchewan definition of plagiarism described as “the presentation of the work or idea of another in such a way as to give others the impression that it is the work or idea of the presenter. Adequate attribution is required. What is essential is that

another person have no doubt which words or research results are the student's and which are drawn from other sources" (Office of the University Secretary, 2012). Students are expected to give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the College [Student Handbook](#).

Disability Services Information

If you would benefit from learning accommodations due to pre-existing physical or mental health conditions or learning disabilities, contact the Academic or Student Life departments at the beginning of the course. Horizon will work to meet your learning and/or physical needs where possible. If any conditions arise during the course that you wish to disclose, please contact us as soon as possible. In all cases you will need to provide current [documentation](#) of the disability or condition you wish to disclose. Horizon takes appropriate care to ensure confidentiality about any such disclosures. For more information, contact Bob Williamson, Dean of Students, at bwilliamson@horizon.edu; or Leanne Bellamy, Academic Coach, at lbellamy@horizon.edu.

Bibliography

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

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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.
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- Crisp, Oliver. *Approaching the Atonement: The Reconciling Work of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020.
- _____. *Word Enfleshed: Exploring the Person and Work of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Crysdale, Cynthia S.W. *Embracing Travail: Retrieving the Cross Today*. New York: Continuum, 2000.
- Demarest, Bruce. *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1997.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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