

TS6203 Themes in Theology: Jesus the Saviour

3 credits.

 Directed Study



April 27 – July 31, 2026
Spring 2026 Semester

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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: 978-0830825707)

[DTL](#)

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

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

[DTL](#)

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

[DTL](#)

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

[DTL](#)

Other Important Resources for this Course

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

DTL: <https://thedtl.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1039213487>

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.**

Course Assignments and Activities

1. Student-Faculty Meetings – 10%

As soon as you finish 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 13 and June 10 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 15.

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 12.

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 3.

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 24.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

1. Student Faculty Meetings	1 hr	by May 13 and June 10	10%
2. Atonement Views	27 hrs	May 15	20%
3. Contemporary Christologies	34 hrs	June 12	25%
4. Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry	23 hrs	July 3	15%
5. Research Paper	39 hrs	July 24	30%
Total =		~124 hrs	

All assignments are due at 11:59pm **SK time** unless otherwise indicated.

Course Outline

Week 1-3 Student-Faculty Meeting 1, **by May 13** (at the latest)
Atonement Views, **due May 15**

Weeks 4-7 Student-Faculty Meeting 2, **by June 10** (at the latest)
Contemporary Christologies, **due June 12**

Weeks 8-10 Christ, Discipleship, and Ministry, **due July 3**

Weeks 11-13 Research Paper, **due July 24**

- Assignments will not be accepted after July 31, 2026.

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 on the Digital Theological Library (DTL) for searching the contents of many journals at one time. To access content on the DTL, simply select "Horizon College & Saskatoon Theological Union" from the dropdown menu and enter your library barcode (not student ID). Contact Richelle at @ library@horizon.edu with any questions.

Academic Policies

General Assignment Guidelines

Please see the [Horizon](#) & [MCS](#) Format Guide for assignment submission, grammar, and formatting guidelines. The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded. Assignments should be submitted via Populi under *Submissions* (not *Comments*). The resource at this [link](#) explains how to submit assignments on Populi.

Late Assignments and Extensions

Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. No extensions will be granted beyond the end of the course unless approval is granted by Horizon's Assistant Academic Dean.

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	Descriptor
A+	97-100%	4	Exceptional
A	93-96%	4	Excellent
A-	90-92%	3.7	Excellent
B+	87-89%	3.3	Good
B	83-86%	3.0	Good
B-	80-82%	2.7	Good
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory
C	73-76%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70-72%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	67-69%	1.3	Minimal Pass
D	63-66%	1.0	Minimal Pass
D-	60-62%	0.7	Minimal Pass
F	<60%	0	Failure

Academic Integrity

Students learn best when practicing academic integrity. A lack of integrity is displayed in acts such as deception, abuse of confidentiality, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, or plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another person or an artificial intelligence (AI) tool in such a way as to give others the impression that it is their own words or ideas. In academic writing, there should be no doubt which words or ideas are the student's and which are drawn from other sources or AI. Students are expected to submit their own original work and 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 [Student Handbook](#).

Horizon has a subscription to software that ensures the originality of academic writing, verifies the proper citation of all sources, and detects AI-generated content. When you submit an assignment, you will automatically receive a summary on Populi that includes your submitted files along with an originality score (a high originality score is positive).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage

In keeping with the Academic Integrity policy above, students must disclose on the title page of all assignments whether or not they have used AI and how they have used it. If the assignment has no title page, the student must disclose this to the instructor by some other means, such as in a comment on Populi. Students are expected to follow the policy for acceptable use of AI that is published in the [Student Handbook](#).

Accessible Learning Services Information

Horizon is committed to provide safe and inclusive learning environments which equalize the opportunity for students with disabilities to meet the requirements of the institution, programs, and courses. The application for Academic Accommodations begins with a student disclosing a medical diagnosis or professionally documented learning disability during the application process. Enrolled students may contact Horizon's Academic Accommodations Coordinator, Richelle Bekkattla at rbekkattla@horizon.edu. All Academic Accommodations will adhere to the Guiding Principles listed in the [Student Handbook](#).

Class Attendance (On Campus or Livestreaming)

Students should attend all classes in order to facilitate competency development. Students are expected to be present through the delivery method that they registered for, either on campus or through livestreaming with their camera on. A student must be present for the full duration of a class period in order to be registered as present for the class. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss the equivalent of six hours of class (e.g., one day of a module course or two three-hours classes) without academic penalty. Students who are absent for more than this will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they will need to document and verify those circumstances. Students who miss a class are responsible to get missed notes or handouts from another student, rather than from the professor.

Livestreaming Etiquette

Students taking the course through livestreaming are required to indicate this during their course registration. While livestreaming access is available for on-campus students who are unable to attend class due to illness, on-campus students are expected to attend class in person following the class attendance policy.

If attending class online via livestream, in order to be marked present for class, you must keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session, extending the gift of full engagement. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise, and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

Use of Technology

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.

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.

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- Horton, Michael S. *Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005.
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