

**Fall Term 2024**

**Theological Studies 350 – Jesus Through the Ages**

**Course Syllabus**

**Huron’s Licentiate in Theology Program**

**Huron University College Land Acknowledgment**

Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples, whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty since time immemorial. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. Huron University College acknowledges its past role in perpetuating colonial and exclusionary relations. Because religious and ecclesial institutions were instrumental in such relations, we consider it our particular responsibility as a Faculty of Theology to work towards justice and reconciliation.

**Course Dates:** From September 3rd – October 22nd

**Time:** Tuesdays from 7 – 9 P.M. (CT), 8 – 10 P.M. (ET)

**Delivery:** Hosted via Zoom

**Instructor:** Jeremy Frost, MTh, PhD (Candidate -ABD)

**Contact:** jeremypfrost@gmail.com **Phone:** 289-456-9842

**Course Description**

This course will be based on a close reading of a representative number of the great Christological texts from the principal periods of Christian history. We will seek to come to an understanding of how Christ's divine and human status were conceived and how his salvific activity was portrayed by writers of the Biblical, Patristic, Medieval, Reformation, and Modern periods. We will also look at various artistic representations of Christ through the ages.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students will:

* Be familiar with representative Christological writers and texts from the New Testament, 4th and 11th centuries, Reformation, and Modern period.
* Possess an understanding of how these writers and texts portray Christ's divinity and humanity.
* Understand how these writers view Christ's saving work.
* Be able to identify great artistic representations of Christ from various periods.
* Explore and formulate who Jesus is today for the student and in the life of the Church.

**Required Texts / Study Documents**

The Principal Texts/Documents for this course will be:

The Gospel of John
Athanasius: *De Incarnatione* (On the Incarnation)

Anselm: *Why God Became Human*

Luther: *Sermons on John*, *Commentary on Galatians*
Barth: "Very God and Very Man"
Ruether: "Can a Male Saviour Save Women?"

Richard Twiss, *Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys: A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way*

Michael Mawson, “Unsettling Jesus Christ: Indigenous and Settler Christologies in the Aftermath of Colonisation.”

Optional Readings:
Markus Bockmuehl, *The Cambridge Companion to Jesus*

Neil MacGregor and Erika Langmuir, *Seeing Salvation*

John MacQuarrie, *Jesus Christ in Modern Thought*

**These documents will be made available in electronic (pdf) format, free of cost, for all students in the course.**

**Course Outline/Plan**

**Week 1**

1. Introduction and first discussion: The Gospel of John chapters 1, 14-17

Reflection: In what ways do Jesus’ humanity and divinity overlap in these
 chapters? Is more emphasis placed on one than the other?

**Week 2**

1. Student Reflections
Athanasius: *De Incarnatione*Reflection: Why does Athanasius begin with a critique of idol worship? How does it relate to his view of Jesus?

 **Week 3**

1. Student Reflections
Anselm: *Why God Became Human*Reflection question: In what ways are the necessity of satisfaction, God’s mercy and justice, and Jesus related?

**Week 4**

1. Student Reflections
Luther: *Sermons on John*

Reflection question: What role does “reason” play for Luther? Are there different kinds
 of “reason” for him?

 **Week 5**

1. Student Reflections
Barth: "Very God and Very Man", Essay Discussion

Reflection question: What distinction does Barth make between “flesh” as such, and
 “human existence or essence”? Why is this important?

 **Week 6**

1. Student Reflections
Ruether: "Can a Male Saviour Save Women?" *Sexism and God-talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*
Reflection question: "In what ways does Ruether believe the patriarchalization of Christology was a betrayal of the original gospel?"
Essay Outline Discussion

**Week 7**

1. Student Reflections
Sobrino, *Jesus the Liberator*Reflection question: How does viewing Jesus primarily as a liberator change traditional images of Christ and what does this mean for personal faith, communal identity, and spiritual practice?
Essay Due Date TBD

**Week 8**

1. Student Reflections
Richard Twiss, *Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys: A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way*
Reflection question (taken from the text): “Does blending or mixing cultural ways/beliefs complement/positively inform varying faith perspectives, or does it result in the rejection of the centrality of the biblical, historical Jesus Christ as Creator—the incarnation of Creator among us?”

**Method of Evaluation and Criteria for Grading** (only for students choosing to be evaluated for full course credit)

Non-credit students are encouraged to write the course reflections as a learning and self-development tool. All of the below exercises will be completed by each student seeking evaluation for full LTh credit.

 **1. Class Engagement/Participation - 20%**Students are expected to attend all classes prepared to participate in discussion with their fellow classmates and instructor. Discussion topics will range from our weekly readings to subjects raised in class.

**2. Course Reflections - 25%**Weekly reading reflections will be submitted at the end of each class so that students will have their thoughts on hand during class discussion. Reflections will be approximately 150-200 words in length, double-spaced, and touch on the main elements of the classroom lecture and discussion of the previous class. We will set aside time to discuss our reflections as a group, as well as their relevance to the general themes of the course.

**3. Essay Outline - 15%**
The essay outline will be one page, point form format, outlining the major thesis and supporting elements of the essay. Further details regarding the essay outline will be discussed in class.

**4. Final Essay – 40%: “Who is Jesus Today?” Details to be discussed in class**
Essays are to be 3-5 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 font size or equivalent. Please use Turabian style (for help with Turabian style writing please visit the “Citations Guide” section of your university library website: https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html, or for a quick guide visit: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\_citationguide.html).

\*P.S.

I understand that not everyone will have experience writing essays and may feel intimidated by this exercise. If students have any concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out and speak with me. I have ample experience working with new essay writers and possess various tools that can be shared with the student to ensure success. You can do it!

**Huron Grade Descriptors**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  A+   |  90-100    |  One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
|  A |  80-89   |  Superior work which is clearly above average |
|  B |  70-79 |  Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
|  C |  60-69 |  Competent work, meeting requirements |
|  D   |  50-59 |  Fair work, minimally acceptable |
|  F |  below 50 |  Fail |

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf.

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recording are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the course instructor or the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca.



THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HURON’S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

FOR THE FALL TERM OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2024.