

# CHRISTOLOGY

David DAWSON VASQUEZ

First semester 2017-18

Friday 10.50-12.25

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[www.romestudy.org/jesusbeda.html](http://www.romestudy.org/jesusbeda.html)

The course will introduce the student to the understanding of Jesus Christ in the Christian tradition, particularly as understood by Roman Catholics. Through the reading of primary texts, class lectures, and class discussion, the student will develop a critical appreciation of the following: (a) the Christian understanding of the Old Testament and its relationship to Jesus, (b) the different theological understandings of Jesus in the early Church, culminating in the issues involved in the conciliar definitions, (c) the Christological dogma expressed by the first seven ecumenical councils, both in its meaning and in relation to the controversies that gave rise to them, (d) the understanding of atonement and salvation, (e) Protestant and Catholic perspectives on Jesus, (f) modern Christological perspectives, especially those of Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar, (g) contemporary issues including postcolonial Christologies and the questions of the universality of Jesus's person and work.

## Class schedule

Fri, Oct 13 (no class)

- Assignment: N. T. Wright, "Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead," lecture of 16 March 2007, found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnkNKIJ\\_dnw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnkNKIJ_dnw) or N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003).

1. Fri, Oct 20: Introduction

- Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:2

2. Saturday, Oct 21: The hope of Israel

- Reading: Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 12—15:1; Psalm 19; Isaiah 6:10-17, 9, 11, 12, 49, 52-55, 61; Baruch 3; Ezekiel 36-37; Daniel 7; Zechariah 9

3. Fri, Oct 27: Early articulations

- Reading: Melito of Sardis, *On Pascha*; Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies* (excerpts in Norris)

4. Fri, Nov 3: Third and fourth century issues

- Reading: Tertullian, *Against Praxeas*; Tertullian, *On the Flesh of Christ*; Athanasius, *Orations against the Arians*. The excerpts are found in Norris.

5. Saturday, Nov 4: The person of Jesus: Ephesus and Chalcedon

- Reading: Theodore of Mopsuestia, fragments; Nestorius, "First Sermon against the Theotokos", Second letter to Cyril; Cyril of Alexandria, Second letter to Nestorius, Letter to John of Antioch; Leo the Great, *Tome*. The excerpts are found in Norris.

6. Fri, Nov 10: The person of Jesus: From Chalcedon to Nicea II

- Reading: Maximus the Confessor, *Ambigua* 7, 11

7. Fri, Nov 17: The power of the Cross: Anselm

- Reading: Anselm of Canterbury, *Why Did God Become Human?*

Fri, Nov 24 (no class)

8. Fri, Dec 1: The power of the Cross: Reformation perspectives

- Reading: Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*

9. Fri, Dec 15: Living the life of Christ: Trent and beyond

- Assignment: Visit and reflect on the Christology evidenced in the following churches: il Gesù, S. Ignazio, SS. Carlo e Ambrogio al Corso
10. Fri, Jan 12: Twentieth century Christology
    - Reading: Karl Rahner, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*
  11. Fri, Jan 19: Contemporary Issues
    - Reading: Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Dominus Jesus*
  12. Fri, Jan 26: Conclusions

### Primary texts: essential

- Richard Norris, *The Christological Controversy* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1980), texts from the first five centuries of Christianity with a helpful introduction.
  - Melito of Sardis, *Homily on Passover*
  - Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies*, 3.18-19, 5
  - Tertullian, *Against Praxeas*
  - Tertullian, *On the Flesh of Christ*
  - Athanasius, *Orations against the Arians*
  - Theodore of Mopsuestia, fragments
  - Nestorius, "First Sermon against the Theotokos", Second letter to Cyril
  - Cyril of Alexandria, Second letter to Nestorius, Letter to John of Antioch
  - Leo the Great, *Tome*
- Maximus the Confessor, *Ambigua* 7, 11
- Anselm of Canterbury, *Why Did God Become Human?*
- Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*
- Karl Rahner, *Foundations of the Christian Faith* (London: Darton, Longman, & Todd, 1978)

### Primary texts: supplementary

- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*
- John of Damascus, *On the Defense of the Holy Icons*
- Bonaventure, *The Tree of Life* and *The Life of St. Francis*
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* III, qq. 1-59
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 2, Chapters 16–17
- Friedrich Schleiermacher, *The Christian Faith*, §93–5, §100
- Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Mysterium Paschale* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1990)

### Texts to accompany the primary texts

- Gerald O'Collins, *Christology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009);
- Aloys Grillmeier, *Christ in Christian Tradition* (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster John Knox, 1988).

### Supplemental Commentaries

- J.D.G. Dunn, *Christology in the Making* (London: SCM Press, 1989).
- Jean Galot, *Who is Christ? A Theology of the Incarnation* (Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago, 1981)
- Walter Kasper, *Jesus the Christ*, trans. V. Green (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1976).
- Roch A. Kereszty, *Jesus Christ: Fundamentals of Christology* (New York: Alba House, 2002).
- Elizabeth Johnson, *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology* (New York: Crossroad, 1990).
- William P. Loewe, "Jesus Christ," *New Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Joseph A. Komonchak, Mary Collins, and Dermot Lane (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1987), 836-851.

- L. F. Matteo Seco, F. Ocariz, J. A. Riestra, *The Mystery of Jesus Christ*, 2nd ed. (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2004).
- Brian McDermott, *Word Become Flesh: Dimensions of Christology* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993).
- John Macquarrie, *Jesus Christ in Modern Thought* (London: SCM Press, 1990).
- John Meyendorff, *Christ in Eastern Christian Thought* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press).
- Jürgen Moltmann, *The Way of Jesus Christ* (London: SCM Press, 1990).
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Jesus: God and Man* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1968).
- Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1999).
- Joseph Ratzinger / Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, trans. Adrian J. Walker (New York: Doubleday, 2007).
- Joseph Ratzinger / Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week: from the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, trans. Adrian J. Walker (New York: Doubleday, 2011).
- Jon Sobrino, *Christology in the Making* (London: SCM Press, 1978).
- Alan J. Spence, *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2008).
- Paul Tillich, *Existence and the Christ*, vol. 2 of *Systematic Theology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967).
- Thomas F. Torrance, *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2009).