

CHRISTOLOGY

Pontifical Beda College

First Semester 2018-19
Wednesdays, 9.00-10.35
David Dawson Vasquez
dawson@romestudy.org
www.romestudy.org/jesusbeda.html

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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, class discussion, and a written assignment, the student will develop a critical appreciation of various issues related to Christology.

LEARNING GOALS

The successful student will be able to clearly articulate the following, with reference to the relevant texts from the tradition.

- The Christian understanding of the Old Testament and its relationship to Jesus
 - Including the messianic expectations, and the Christian interpretation of central themes prefiguring Jesus, like the paschal lamb, the priesthood, the crossing of the Red Sea, the giving of the law, the ark of the covenant, the temple, the Son of Man in Daniel 7, the suffering servant, the Wisdom of God
- The different theological understandings of Jesus in the Patristic era
- What was at stake in the Seven Ecumenical Councils, the various positions involved, and the Christological dogma expressed, including an understanding of the position and error of the heresies of Docetism, Adoptionism, Sabellianism, Arianism, Nestorianism, Monophysitism, Monothelitism, Iconoclasm. A clear understanding of the terms involved, like *homoousios*, *communicatio idiomatum*, person, nature, hypostatic union, etc.
- The various issues surrounding the person of Jesus as expressed in the patristic debates
- Various theories of atonement: the patristic era (particularly Irenaeus, Anselm, Maximus), Anselm, Bonaventure, the Protestant Reformation, and the Counter-Reformation
- Issues surrounding the Resurrection
- Modern Christologies as expressed by Karl Rahner, Edward Schillebeeckx, Hans Urs von Balthasar, as well as liberation and feminist perspectives and issues surrounding Christology a pluralistic world

COURSE SCHEDULE

BASICS

1. October 10: Introduction
Genesis 1:1—2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 12:1—15:18; Isaiah 7–14, 40–66; Baruch 3; Ezekiel 36; Daniel 7
Psalm 16, 19, 22, 30, 31, 33, 42, 104, 116, 118
2. October 17: New Testament
Gospels
3. October 24: Patristic Perspectives
Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies* (excerpts)

THE PERSON OF JESUS

4. October 31: Arianism and Nicea/Constantinople
Athanasius of Alexandria, *Orations against the Arians*
5. November 7: Ephesus and Chalcedon
Nestorius's Sermon on the Theotokos, Cyril of Alexandria's Second Letter to Nestorius, Nestorius's Second Letter to Cyril, Cyril's Letter to John of Antioch, Tome of Leo the Great, Definition of Chalcedon
6. Saturday, November 17 (9-10.35): Monophysitism, Monotheletism, Iconoclasm
Declarations of Constantinople II, Constantinople III, and Nicea II

SALVATION

7. November 28: Medieval Atonement
Anselm, *Why God became Man*
8. December 5: Reformation debates about atonement
Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

9. December 12: Contemporary Christological Issues
Karl Rahner, *Foundations of the Christian Faith* (excerpt)
10. January 9: Contemporary Questions, Feminism
11. January 16: Contemporary Questions, Pluralism
12. January 23: Resurrection
Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 21; 1 Cor 15; Revelation

EXAM: JANUARY 30 (AFTERNOON)

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

TEXTS FROM THE TRADITION

- Texts collected in Richard A. Norris, Jr., *The Christological Controversy* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980)
- Ignatius of Antioch, *Letters*
- Justin Martyr, *First and Second Apology*
- Ignatius of Lyons, *Against Heresies*, esp. books 3 & 5
- Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation*
- Athanasius of Alexandria, *Orations against the Arians*
- Gregory of Nazianzus, *Theological Orations*
- Maximus the Confessor, *The Early Ambigua*
- Anselm of Canterbury, *Cur Deus Homo*
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, III qq. 1-59.
- Bonaventure, *Tree of Life*
- Bonaventure, *Life of St. Francis*
- Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*
- Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*
- Twentieth Century
 - Karl Rahner, *Foundations of the Christian Faith* (London: Darton, Longman, & Todd, 1978).
 - Edward Schillebeeckx, *Jesus: An Experiment in Christology* (London: Collins, 1979).

- Edward Schillebeeckx, *Christ: The Experience of Jesus as Lord* (London: Collins, 1988).
- Paul Tillich, *Existence and the Christ*, vol. 2 of *Systematic Theology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967).
- Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Mysterium Paschale* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1990).

CONTEMPORARY TREATMENTS

INTRODUCTIONS

- Roch A. Kereszty, *Jesus Christ: Fundamentals of Christology* (New York: Alba House, 2002).
- L. F. Matteo Seco, F. Ocariz, J. A. Riestra, *The Mystery of Jesus Christ*, 2nd ed. (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2004).
- Gerald O'Collins, *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
- Alan J. Spence, *Christology: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2008).

BIBLICAL

- Dale C. Allison, *Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013)
- 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).
- N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God* (London: SPCK, 1996).
- N.T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (London: SPCK, 2003).

DOCTRINAL

- William Brownsberger, *Jesus the Mediator* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2013).
- Oliver D. Crisp, *Divinity and Humanity: The Incarnation Reconsidered* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- Ingolf U. Dalferth, *Crucified and Resurrected: Restructuring the Grammar of Christology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015).
- Simon Francis Gaine, *Did the Saviour See the Father?: Christ, Salvation, and the Vision of God* (London: Bloomsbury, T&T Clark, 2015).
- Aloys Grillmeier, *Christ in the Christian Tradition* (Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox, 1975), various volumes.
- Aaron Riches, *Ecce Homo: On the Divine Unity of Christ* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016).
- Thomas F. Torrance, *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2009).
- Thomas Joseph White, *The Incarnate Lord: A Thomistic Study in Christology* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2017).

SPECIFIC ISSUES

- Jacques Dupuis, *Toward a Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism* (New York: Orbis Books, 1999).
- Denis Edwards, *Jesus the Wisdom of God: An Ecological Theology* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1995).
- Roberto S. Goizueta, *Caminemos con Jesús: Toward a Hispanic/Latino Theology of Accompaniment* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1995).
- Roger Haight, *Jesus: Symbol of God* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999).
- Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *Christology: A Global Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016).

- Volker Kuster, *The Many Faces of Jesus Christ: Intercultural Christology* (Norwich: SCM Press, 2001).
- John Meyendorff, *Christ in Eastern Christian Thought* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press).
- Charles Nyamiti, *Christ as Our Ancestor: Christology from an African Perspective* (Mambo Press, 1984).
- Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1999).
- Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *Jesus: Miriam's Child, Sophia's Prophet* (New York: Crossroad: 1996).
- R. S. Sugirtharajah, ed., *Asian Faces of Jesus* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993).
- Jon Sobrino, *Christology in the Making* (London: SCM Press, 1978).