

ST 2391 Christology, Ancient and Modern

Spring 2008 Monday-Thursday 9.40-11 CDSP 113

Thomas Cattoi Room 103

Tel: 510 549 5005 Office hours: Thursday 2.30-4.30 and by appointment

Aims of the course: The first sessions of the course will explore the formative developments of Christology in the early centuries of the church, exploring how the Christological diversity of the New Testament is constrained towards the more metaphysical debates leading to Chalcedon (451). We shall then examine the extent to which the definition of Chalcedon truly answers the questions it seeks to settle, and briefly considers the later fate of “Antiochene” and “Alexandrian” emphases in Scholastic and Protestant Christology, focusing especially on the communication of idioms. We will then turn to the “liberal” Protestant critique of Chalcedonianism and compare it with a variety of modified Chalcedonian positions in the contemporary period, including feminist/queer/liberationist approaches. The course will conclude with a discussion of black/Asian/Latin American approaches, emphasizing the need to reinterpret the Chalcedonian idiom in different cultural contexts.

Requirements:

- 1) Regular attendance and active participation in the discussions.
- 2) A weekly 1-1.5 page reflection paper on the assigned reading, to be handed in at the relevant session.
- 3) One presentation during the semester based on the reflection paper for that week. The goal of this exercise is to present a number of basic themes so as to facilitate the discussion.
- 4) A final research paper of 15-18 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt.). Students are expected to discuss their topic with the professors well in advance of the date when the paper is due. Masters students may choose to write two shorter papers (7-9 pages each).

The final grade will take all these elements into account. Late reflection papers may be penalized by one whole grade, and will not be accepted later than one week after they were originally due.

Required reading

The following books ought to be available in the bookstore:

Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*, Mahwah, N.Y.: Paulist Press, 1994

Tatha Wiley (ed.), *Thinking of Christ: Proclamation, Explanation, Meaning*, New York: Continuum, 2003

- Roger Haight, S.J., *The Future of Christology*, New York: Continuum, 2005
Donald E. Waltermire, *The Liberation Christologies of Leonardo Boff and Jon Sobrino: Latin American Contributions to Contemporary Christology*, Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1994
R.S. Sugirtharajah (ed.), *Asian Faces of Jesus*, Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1993

Other shorter articles which are not available on line will be collected in a reader, or will be distributed in class.

Course schedule

Week 1 Introduction. Problematizing New Testament Christology (I).

- 02/04 Introduction. Methodological reflections on the need for contextual Christologies. The text used to guide our discussion is Tatha Wiley's reflections on Christology in Tatha Wiley (ed.), *Thinking of Christ: Proclamation, Explanation, Meaning*, Ch. 1 (13-26)
02/07 Raymond Brown, *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*, Ch. 1-5

Week 2 Problematizing New Testament Christology (II).

- 02/11 Raymond Brown, *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*, Ch. 6, Appendices II-IV
02/14 Raymond Brown, *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*, Preface to the discussion (105-109), Ch. 7-10

Week 3 The Road of Nicaea: Biblical Diversity and Hellenist Metaphysics

- 02/18 President's day- no class
02/21 John Behr, *The Nicene Faith: Formation of Christian Theology*, Vol. 2, 21-36, 123-161

Week 4 Athanasios and Cyril: towards the Chalcedonian synthesis

- 02/25 Athanasios, *On the Incarnation*, Ch. 1-5, available online at <http://www.theologywebsite.com/etext/athanasius/incarnation.shtml>
Khaled Anatolios, *Athanasius*, Ch. 2;
02/28 Cyril, *On the Unity of Christ*, pp. 49-72
J.A. McGuckin, *St. Cyril of Alexandria on the Unity of Christ*, Introduction, pp. 193-222

Week 5 The Chalcedonian synthesis and its later developments

03/03 John Meyendorff, *Christ in Eastern Christian Thought*, Ch. 3 (the Origenist crisis), Ch 7 (Maximus the Confessor). A handout will be distributed with excerpts from Maximus the Confessor's *Ambiguum 10*.

03/07 John Meyendorff, *Christ in Eastern Christian Thought*, Ch. 6 (on spirituality), Ch 8 (on John Damascene)

Week 6 Critiques of Chalcedon and scholastic refinement

03/10 Sarah Coakley, "What does Chalcedon Solve and What Does it Not?", in S. Davis, D. Kendall, G. O'Collins, *The Incarnation: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Incarnation of the Son of God*

John Hick, "The Logic of God Incarnate", *Religious Studies* 25 (1989)

03/14 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, 3a q.1, art. 1 and 2; 3a q. 2, art.1-5 (Blackfriars edition of ST, vol. 48, pp. 5-15; 35-59); also available online at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/4.htm>

E. Stump, "Aquinas' Metaphysics of the Incarnation", in S. Davis, D. Kendall, G. O'Collins (eds.), *The Incarnation: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Incarnation of the Son of God*

Week 7 The Protestant Reaction: Chalcedon Questioned...

03/17 Martin Luther, "Heidelberg Disputation", available online at <http://www.augsburgchurches.org/Library/heidelbergdisputation.pdf#search='luther%20heidelberg%20disputation'>

03/20 F.D.E. Schleiermacher, *The Christian Faith*, Vol. II, 91-99 (pp. 371-424)

Week 8 Spring break (if you choose to write two papers, the first paper is due on the first class after spring break or earlier)

Week 9 Chalcedon defended; Chalcedon rejected?

03/31 K. Barth, *Church Dogmatics* IV/1, pp. 157-210

04/03 March 20 E. Troeltsch, "The Significance of the Historical Jesus for Faith", in R. Morgan and M. Pye (eds.), *Ernst Troeltsch: Writings on Theology and Religion*, pp. 182-207

Week 10 The future of Christology

04/07 Roger Haight, *The Future of Christology*, Ch.1-4

04/10 Roger Haight, *The Future of Christology*, Ch. 5-9

Week 11 Christology and Feminist Critique

04/14 P. Wilson-Kastner, *Faith, Feminism and the Christ*, Ch. 3-5

04/17 Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Christology and Patriarchy", in Tatha Wiley (ed.), *Thinking of Christ: Proclamation, Explanation, Meaning*, Ch. 7 (122-134); Ada-

Maria Isasi Diaz, "Christ in Mujerista Theology", in Tatha Wiley (ed.), *op. cit.*, Ch. 9 (157-176).

Week 12 The Oppressed Jesus: Black/Womanist Perspectives

04/21 James H. Cone, *God of the Oppressed*, Ch. 5, Ch. 6, Ch. 8.

04/24 Mofokeng, Takatso, "Hermeneutical Explorations for Black Christology", in E. Pobee (ed.), *Exploring Afro-Christology*, pp. 85-94

J. Grant (ed.), *White Women's Christ and Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*, Ch. 4, Ch.6, Ch.7.

Week 13 Latin American/Liberationist Perspectives

04/28 Donald E. Waltermire, *The Liberation Christologies of Leonardo Boff and Jon Sobrino*, Ch. 1-2

05/01 Donald E. Waltermire, *The Liberation Christologies of Leonardo Boff and Jon Sobrino*, Ch. 3-5

Week 14 Towards an Asian Christology (I): the Christ of the Asian peoples

05/05 R. S. Sugirtharajah (ed.), *Asian Faces of Jesus*, Ch. 9-11

05/08 R. S. Sugirtharajah (ed.), *Asian Faces of Jesus*, Ch. 12-14

Week 15 Towards an Asian Christology (II): the Christ and the plurality of mediations

05/12 R. S. Sugirtharajah (ed.), *Asian Faces of Jesus*, Ch. 6-7; Ch. 5 (read them in this order)

05/15 R. S. Sugirtharajah (ed.), *Asian Faces of Jesus*, Ch. 1-2

Week 16 Conclusion

05/19 A Tibetan Christology? In this class I will discuss my work on the development of a contextual Tibetan Christology. I will hand my paper, *The cosmic Christ and the dharmakāya: embodied manifestations of the cosmic order in Maximos the Confessor and Tsong kha pa*