



PMIN 203 The Mystery of Jesus Christ

Summer Session One

Monday, June 22 – Friday, July 10, 2009

Class will meet: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
Wednesday is a study day

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Course Description: Christology is the sub-discipline of theology which attempts to put into words the church's understanding of Jesus Christ, the center of Christian faith. This course sets three objectives for the student: (1) to understand in broad strokes the historical development of the church's doctrine of Christ; (2) to explore the challenges posed to christology by contemporary realities such as historical consciousness, social injustice, and religious pluralism; and (3) to examine one's own christology in light of the church's tradition, contemporary proposals, and one's own context.

Course Requirements:

1. A close reading of assigned texts.
2. Five one-page position papers based on the readings.
3. A final paper of 10-15 pages in which the student addresses a critical issue in Christology today.
4. Diligence, humility, and a sense of humor.

Required Readings (Complete Texts):

Thomas P. Rausch, *Who Is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology* (Liturgical Press, 2003; ISBN: 0814650783)

Jon Sobrino, *Jesus the Liberator: A Historical-Theological View* (1991; Orbis, 1993; ISBN: 0883449307)

READINGS (Articles and Excerpts; Some optional)

Karl Rahner, *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity* (1976; Crossroad, 1978), 176-212 (or 228), 311-321.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology* (Beacon, 1983), 116-138.

Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology* (Crossroad, 1990), 97-113.

Delores S. Williams, *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk* (Orbis, 1993), 153-77, 199-203.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Dominus Iesus* (August 6, 2000).

Paul F. Knitter, "Toward a Liberation Theology of Religions," in John Hick and Paul F. Knitter, eds., *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness: Toward a Pluralist Theology of Religions* (Orbis, 1987) 178-200.

Francis A. Sullivan, "The Impact of *Dominus Iesus* on Ecumenism"; Michael A. Fahey, "Am I My Sister's Keeper? The Vatican's New Letter on 'Sister Churches'"; and Francis X. Clooney, "*Dominus Iesus* and the New Millennium" in *America* 183 (October 28, 2000) 8-18.

OPTIONAL READINGS:

Roger Haight, S.J., "The Case for Spirit Christology," *Theological Studies* 53 (1992) 257-87.

John H. Wright, S.J., "Note: Roger Haight's Spirit Christology," *Theological Studies* 53 (1992) 729-35.

TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. Problems of Christology
2. Christologies of the Gospels
3. Development of the Christological Tradition
4. Christology of Vatican II
5. Liberation and Jesus Christ
6. Women and Jesus
7. Religious Pluralism and Jesus Christ
8. Current Issues in Christology

COURSE EVALUATION: Position papers (50%); term paper (30%); class participation (20%).