

ST 65 – CHRIST & TRINITY I

Mount Angel Seminary, Fall 2021

Wed: 9-10am / Fri 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm

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Office Hours

Students are always welcome in my office and are encouraged to see me whenever they may require my aid or support. My teaching schedule and weekly office hours will be announced after the first week of classes and will be posted on SONIS [massonis.jenzabarcloud.com]. Appointments may be made in person but should be confirmed via email.

Catalog Course Description

Christology in the Christian scriptures: the person and mission of Jesus Christ is considered in the first semester. The course continues with the emergence of classic Christology and Trinitarian theology; the eclipse of Trinitarian doctrine and its 20th century reformulation; and lived Trinitarian faith, confessed in the creed and celebrated in the sacraments.

Goals & Outcomes

The course will provide students with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the themes, questions, controversies and affirmations central to the history of the Church's reflection on the identity and mission of Jesus of Nazareth, and, to deepen their understanding of the Church's faith in that same Jesus.

Students who satisfactorily fulfill course requirements should be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge and basic understanding of the events, people and doctrines central to the development of Christology; articulate the fundamental content, claims, and implications of Catholic Christology [I.1.a, b];
- Articulate a growing appreciation for the historical and contextual nature of theology [I.1.c, d];
- Identify and distinguish historical investigation from theological evaluation; articulate and correlate distinct and interrelated modes of discourse and analysis [I.1.a, d, e; I.3.e; I.4.b, d, e; I.5.a-c];
- Articulate the contemporary relevance and pastoral significance of Jesus Christ [I.5.c-e];
- Correlate the course content to that of other courses in the Graduate School of Theology, demonstrating how Communion Ecclesiology provides not only the foundation of our entire theological curriculum but also the unifying principle of our entire formation program addressing the four dimensions of priestly formation [I.2.a, b, d, e].

Required Texts (in addition to class handouts)

O'Collins, *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus*, 2nd ed. (OUP: 2009)

Cantalamesa, *Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God* (Liturgical Press, 1991 / Wipf and Stock reprint 2018)

Christology of the Later Fathers, ed. E.R. Hardy (WJK Press, 1954)

It is the responsibility of each student to understand and abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures of Mount Angel Seminary, in particular as they pertain to Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism Policy

All work submitted by students as their own work should indicate sources, published and unpublished, which were consulted and/or cited. It is the student's responsibility to know the proper method of citation as well as how to acknowledge sources when not citing directly. Failure to acknowledge source material is plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly with disciplinary measures ranging from failure of the assignment, the course, or dismissal from the Seminary. In such matters, the judgment of the appropriate Academic Dean and the President-Rector is final.

Accessibility Statement

Mount Angel Seminary is committed to providing accessibility to its services, programs and activities for students with disabilities, recognizing its responsibilities to ensure the rights of students with disabilities and to identify and maintain the standards that are required to provide its academic and formational programs. Mount Angel Seminary will strive to accommodate students with disabilities, unless the accommodation would pose an undue burden to the Seminary or compromise the mission or integrity of the program.

Students seeking accommodation(s) must:

- Provide a written statement to the Vice President of Administration requesting an accommodation that includes a description of the specific disability, how the student is limited and the expected duration of the limitation.
- Submit proper professional/medical verification of the condition(s) that necessitate the request to the Vice President of Administration.

Grading Scheme

A+	>100	4.333	Numinous [and ultimately unattainable as a final grade]
A	96-100	4.000	Wonderful
A-	93-95	3.667	Excellent
B+	89-92	3.333	
B	86-88	3.000	Good
B-	83-85	2.667	
C+	79-82	2.333	Adequate
C	74-78	2.000	Acceptable
C-	70-73	1.667	Unacceptable
D	60-69	1.000	
F	0-59	0.000	

A graduate student who fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average of 2.5 will automatically be placed on probation and may be asked to withdraw from the degree program. Other than in language classes, C is the lowest grade to earn graduate credit. This applies to those electives whose course numbers terminate in a "G": in such cases, graduate students must earn a C or above to gain credit for that course. C- is counted as a failure.

Grading Criteria & Evaluation Standards

C / C+

- demonstrates adequate knowledge of course content and an ability to communicate that knowledge clearly in a basic way without serious error.
- provides written and oral communication that is adequately intelligible, even if marked by errors of grammar or pronunciation.

B- / B / B+

- demonstrates solid knowledge of course content and an ability to communicate that knowledge clearly in a coherent and sometimes even creative way with few errors.
- demonstrates solid understanding of course content and has advanced into the initial stages of critical analysis, i.e., demonstrates an ability to respond competently to questions of 'why' as well as 'what'.
- provides written and oral communication that is quite good and characterized by a pleasing overall style.

A- / A

- demonstrates in-depth knowledge and excellent understanding of course content which extends beyond the assigned readings and an ability to communicate that knowledge clearly in an accurate and interesting way.
- demonstrates critical engagement with issues, questions and themes arising from course content and an ability to respond precisely and reflectively to questions of 'so what' and 'what if' as well as 'why' and 'what'.
- provides written and oral communication that is excellent, i.e. pleasing, critical, creative, interesting, integrated, synthesizing, reflective, incorporating material other than the assigned readings, relating course content to other courses as well as to the other dimensions of formation.

Grading Assessment & Evaluation

Students must complete each of the following assignments in order to fulfil the basic course requirements. Students who have not completed one or more of the following assignments by the conclusion of the final examination period will not receive a passing final grade for the course.

≈ ∞ Attendance & Participation

Students are expected to devote a minimum of 1.5–2 hours to preparation for each class meeting and should come to class prepared to contribute to a critical discussion that moves beyond the introduction of basic information. Punctual and regular attendance is a required norm; full, conscious and active participation is a basic expectation. Students may be asked at random to open class meetings with a 3–4 minute summary of their preparation for that meeting. Three unexcused absences may result in the student's failure of the course.

30% Classroom Discussion, Seminar Participation, and In-class Essays [2× 15%]

Two class meetings will be devoted to the composition of an essay building upon classroom discussions, independent reading, and seminar texts. While these essays should demonstrate a sound comprehension of the material, they are a primary opportunity to articulate and support, in analytical and exploratory fashion, a critical, creative and independent argument. Both seminar participation and in-class essays will form the basis for this evaluation.

10% In-class Essay revision, with Annotated Bibliography

Students will write a research paper in which they revise and develop their first in-class essay. These papers will remain based on primary sources but should reflect a critical engagement with appropriate secondary literature. Papers must not exceed 2400 words, excluding the appended annotated bibliography. Papers must be submitted by November 24th.

20% Midterm Examination

At the midpoint of the semester students will demonstrate their overall mastery of course content by means of an examination testing their knowledge of fundamental and basic details of information.

40% Final Examination (The Christ & Trinity I Challenge)

At the conclusion of the semester students will demonstrate their overall mastery of course content by means of an examination testing their knowledge of fundamental and basic details of information. Students must earn a passing grade on the final examination to pass the course.

Wed Aug 25	Syllabus and Course Introduction
Fri Aug 27	Prolegomena I. Select Questions on Christology
Fri Aug 27	Prolegomena II. Theology, Christology, and Anthropology
Wed Sept 1	Prolegomena III. The Identity and Mission of Jesus: Four Theses
Fri Sept 3	Biblical Christology I. Sources, Methodologies, Aims
Fri Sept 3	Biblical Christology II. The Faith of Israel
Wed Sept 8	Biblical Christology III. Jesus of Nazareth and the God of Israel
Fri Sept 10	Historical Christology I. Ante-Nicene Christology
Fri Sept 10	Historical Christology II. Nicene Christology
Wed Sept 15	Historical Christology III. Nicene Soteriology
Fri Sept 17	Historical Christology IV. From Chalcedon to Nicaea II
Fri Sept 17	SEMINAR I. Athanasius, <i>De Incarnatione</i>
Wed Sept 22	SEMINAR II. Athanasius, <i>De Incarnatione</i>
Fri Sept 24	SEMINAR III. Gregory of Nazianzus, <i>letters against Apollinarianism</i>
Fri Sept 24	SEMINAR IV. Leo the Great, <i>Tome</i> and <i>letter to monks of Palestine</i>
Wed Sept 29	SEMINAR V. Conciliar canons from Chalcedon to Nicaea II
Fri Oct 1	IN-CLASS ESSAY I
Fri Oct 1	Historical Christology V. Anselm and Medieval Soteriology
Wed Oct 6	Historical Christology VI. Thomas Aquinas on Incarnation and Redemption
Fri Oct 8	CLASS CANCELLED
Wed Oct 13	MIDTERM
Fri Oct 15	CLASS CANCELLED
Wed Oct 20	Historical Christology VII. Reformation Christology and Soteriology
Fri Oct 22	Historical Christology VIII. The Rise of Modern Christologies
Fri Oct 22	Systematic Christology I. <i>Cur Deus Homo?</i>

Wed Oct 27	Systematic Christology II. <i>Et Verbum caro factum est</i>
Fri Oct 29	Systematic Christology III. ... <i>in omnibus nobis similis excepto peccato</i>
Fri Oct 29	Systematic Christology IV. <i>Tota Christi vita mysterium est Redemptionis</i>
Wed Nov 3	Systematic Christology V. ... <i>passus sub Pontio Pilato</i>
Fri Nov 5	Systematic Christology VI. ... <i>didicit ex his, quae passus est, oboedientiam</i>
Fri Nov 5	Systematic Christology VII. ... <i>potens est eis, qui tentantur, auxiliari</i>
Wed Nov 10	CLASS CANCELLED
Fri Nov 12	SEMINAR VI. Cantalamessa's <i>Jesus Christ: The Holy One of God</i>
Fri Nov 12	SEMINAR VII. Cantalamessa's <i>Jesus Christ: The Holy One of God</i>
Wed Nov 17	SEMINAR VIII. Cantalamessa's <i>Jesus Christ: The Holy One of God</i>
Fri Nov 19	IN-CLASS ESSAY II
Fri Nov 19	Modern Quests for the Historical Jesus
	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Wed Dec 1	Christology & Priestly Formation
Fri Dec 3	Christology & Communion Ecclesiology I
Fri Dec 3	Christology & Communion Ecclesiology II