

BCRE23 Christology Jesus in the first century, at turning points of Christian thinking, in music and film

Semester: A

ECTS Credits: 5

Duration: 11 weeks

Contact Hours: 22

Quota: None

Prerequisite subjects: None

This course investigates Christology, the study of the person of Jesus Christ, and Soteriology, the understandings of his work of redemption as they were developed in different eras. The first part will begin with the worship of Jesus Christ in the first Christian communities and conclude with the first Christian councils from Nicaea to Chalcedon which tried to resolve disputes about the understanding of his person in the intellectual categories of Greek philosophical culture. The second part will follow the developments in the theological understanding of his person and his work of redemption from the Middle Ages to Modernity. Specific elements of the cultural history of reception of Christology will be exemplified in classical music and modern film.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Demonstrate a basic understanding of the main theoretical stances in the study of Christology and of their importance for early Christian history and contemporary theology. This includes, for example, knowledge of the different stages and positions within the Historical Jesus debate and of the most relevant textual evidence for its study, as well as a basic understanding of the Christological doctrines of the Councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus and Chalcedon.

Demonstrate basic familiarity with methods and tools of the study of Christology, including the ability to read primary sources and engage in summarising and explaining complex theological texts and formulations.

Understand the plural nature of the sources and recognise conflicting interpretations and contrasting theological positions (e.g. of Antioch and Alexandria, or Anselm and Thomas Aquinas) on the significance of the person and work of Christ.

Have learned how to handle academic bibliographies and textbooks and how to write an academic essay, and demonstrate the ability to communicate and explain the epistemological status and anthropological relevance of central questions and themes in the Christological debate (e.g. Resurrection), employing skills such as the ability to identify and synthesise classical Christological positions and to illustrate their significance for contemporary theology.

Have developed confidence in approaching classical and modern Christological texts and questions and the ability to undertake further study, understanding the role of Christology in the framework a pluralist theology of religions and its relevance for contemporary anthropological and ethical debates, such as feminist critiques and transhumanism.

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay

Names of lecturers

Professors Daniele Pevarello and Maureen Junker-Kenny