Boston College
School of Theology and Ministry

TMST 7024.01
CHRISTOLOGY
Jesus: “Who Do You Say That I Am?”
Summer 2015

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Course Description (catalogue):
This course seeks to clarify what it means to confess that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, and why this is a significant claim. The course examines the New Testament, the early councils of the Church, the writings of early and medieval Christian theologians, the dogmatic teachings of the Church and the contributions of contemporary theologians. Two main questions will be addressed: Who is Jesus? How does Jesus save us?

Additional note: This course is two credits and conducted entirely online. There is an option to take the course for three credits.

Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, a participant will be able to:
1. discuss key Christological themes, e.g., meaning of the cross, resurrection, incarnation
2. identify key 21st century questions and challenges related to Christology
3. articulate one’s own Christological framework and its roots in Scripture and Tradition
4. Explore the pastoral implications of one’s operative Christology

Text
You will probably want to purchase or rent these books. If you are on campus, they will be put on reserve at the library and ordered in the bookstore. They are probably also available at your favorite online bookstore. Two of the books are available for a digital reader like a Kindle. Other readings will be indicated on the course site and available online.


James Martin S.J. Jesus: A Pilgrimage. HarperOne, 2014 (There is a Kindle edition.)
How This Course is Conducted
This course is conducted entirely online. It is asynchronous, i.e., there is no requirement for you to be online at a particular time. Through the use of a discussion board, students interact with each other and with me, the instructor.

There are seven learning modules, each of which is built on a theme. For the first three weeks, a module will be released on Sunday evening and another on Wednesday evening. In the last week of the course, there will only be one module that will be released on Sunday evening.

You consult the syllabus for the readings and use the material in the learning module to prepare for discussion. The learning module always includes my introductory comments and questions to focus our discussion. In a discussion board forum, I post the discussion questions. The minimum expectation is that you will post two responses per module, a total of four responses a week. These responses can be to one or two of the questions or it can be a reply to another participant. I will be present online every day and will be part of the ongoing discussion. I read every post.

To keep the conversation going, I hope all four posts will be uploaded by the end of the week (Saturday evening). However, because this is summer and one may have other commitments, there is a grace period of a week for all posting except for the last week.

Evaluation
If you are taking the course for 2 credit, your grade will be based on 100 points total:

- your discussion forum participation (60 points)
- a research exercise – to find and annotate three academic articles that build on or challenge the readings for three different modules. This exercise can be completed by using full text features of data bases for theological journals available online through the Boston College library. (15 points)
- a final paper – There will be an option of a take-home final or a paper (approx. 8 pp). The paper involves synthesis, reflection and pastoral application but it is not a research paper. (25 points)

If you are taking the course for 3 credit, your grade will be based on 100 points total:

- your discussion forum participation (60 points)
- a research exercise - to find and annotate three academic articles that build on or challenge the readings for three different modules. This exercise can be completed by using full text features of data bases of theological journals available online through the Boston College library. (10 points)
- a final paper -- There will be an option of a take-home final or a paper (approx. 8 pp). The paper involves synthesis, reflection and pastoral application but it is not a research paper. (20 points)
- reporting on additional reading– This exercise will involve both a brief paper (2-3 pp) and reporting online to the class participants. (10 points)
Complete directions for each assignment will be provided in the requirements folder on the course site.

**Grading Scale for This Course**

A = 93 – 100 points
A- = 90 – 92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C = 70-79
F = 69 and below

**Schedule**
The reading schedule for all modules will be available the first day of class. If you wish to begin your reading, I suggest starting with Lohfink.