

## CHRISTOLOGY

July 16, 2018—Aug. 2, 2108, Mon—Thurs 6:00—9:00pm

This course is a biblical, historical, and systematic theological study of the person and significance of Jesus Christ. After exploring the richly diverse ways Jesus is portrayed in the Gospels, the course traces the theological debates concerning Jesus' identity and saving significance leading up to the christological councils of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. Drawing upon the enduring questions and insights generated by these debates, the course places conciliar christology in conversation with select contemporary issues (e.g., cosmology, violence, gender, suffering, etc.) that bear upon the ongoing theological task of responding to the classical christological question, "Who do you say I am?" The course will be conducted as a mixture of lectures and in-class discussion.

Requirements for the course include attendance and participation (15%), a pre-class assignment (15%), and weekly papers (3 papers-15% each).

### PRE-COURSE WORK

**Read:** Hays, *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness* (entire book).

**Write:** An essay of 1200-1500 words, responding to the following questions:

- According to Hays, what is "figural interpretation," how is it different from modern historical criticism, and what significance does the phrase "reading backwards" take in his approach to interpreting the Gospels?
- Describe one way each of the four Gospels uses figural interpretation to narrate or disclose the identity of Jesus.
- Describe one meaningful implication you draw from the "retrospective reading" developed by Hays.

### REQUIRED READING

- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. Trans. John Behr. New York: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011.
- Edwards, Denis. *Jesus and the Cosmos*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1991.
- Hays, Richard B. *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2014.
- Ed., Norris, Richard A., Jr. *The Christological Controversy*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1980.
- Other assigned texts will be available on-line via the Boston College Canvas Course Management System.

BOSTON COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

## SUMMER AT STM 2018

### BRIAN D. ROBINETTE

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Theology  
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Brian D. Robinette joined the faculty at Boston College in 2012. Prior to that, he taught at Saint Louis University (2003-2012). He obtained his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the University of Notre Dame in 2003. He is married and has two sons. His research includes Phenomenology; Hermeneutics; Mimetic Theory; Theological Aesthetics; Mystical Theology; Theologies of Creation

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Notre Dame  
M.A., Saint John's University (Collegeville)  
B.A., Belmont University

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