THEO1000 Approaches to Christian Studies

基督教基本研究方法 (2020-2021)

Prof. IP, Hon Ho Alex

9:30-12:15 (Tur) TBC

1.   Course Overview:

This course aims at introducing different methods and approaches to Christian Studies and the core values of Christianity. Christianity is religion with more than two-thousand-year history, assuming Jesus Christ is the the beginning of the religion, it is very complicated to approach it from our contemporary society. In order to understand this religion, we have to bear in mind that there are different perspectives to approach it. The purpose of this course, therefore, is to introducing method to study such multi-perspectives religion.

In order to cater the new challenges in our world, new topics including, charity work and peace and reconciliation work of Christianity, will be introduced. The course will also make use of more online resources to facilitate the need of online learning.

Important Note to Students: The course material, PPT and readings, are <u>mainly</u> in **English** and be delivered in Cantonese during lecture. Chinese translation of PPT will be provided on some key ideas from time to time.

2.   Learning outcome:

After the course, students are expected to be equipped with:

Knowledge:

    2.1 have a basic understand of the history and development of the religion.

    2.2 have a critical understand of the theology and content of the Christian faith.

    2.3 have a critical reflection on how the religion could be manifested and understood from different practical perspectives.

Skills:

    2.4 have a basic skill in reading bible, especially New Testament, as a text written in two thousand year ago.

3. List of Topics:

Topic	Content
History of Christianity	A brief introduction of the history and development of Christianity from Jewish sect to a world religion.
Bible as a ancient text, its study method and some key texts that form the foundation of Christianity	A brief introduction of the nature of bible, focusing on New Testament, and how to study as a contemporary and critical reader.
Internationalization perspective of Christianity	Christian works in different Asian in the following to topics: 1) Charity Work 2) Peace and reconciliation work
Christianity as a faithful religion	From a practical perspective, we will try to understand the influence of the religion through some concrete contemporary examples of Christian practitioners in HK

4. Assessment scheme:

Assessment(% Share):	Main Criteria:
1. Reading reflection (20%)	Two articles reflection out of five given articles. Each reflection no more than 500 words. All material is online accessible.
2. Two video reports (30%)	Two Video reports. Students will be asked to see two videos and write two reading reflections according to some guiding questions.
3. Final project (50%)	Final project have three different choices: 1) A final paper with word limit of no more than 4000 words (English) or 5000 words (Chinese). 2) Creative project to be discussed with Prof. IP. Creative project generally consisted of two main components including the creative element and the articulation part. 3) Group project on topics in related to internationalization of Christianity

Assessment policy: All works have to be submitted through the Blackboard. Mark will be deducted unless approval granted before the deadline. 1 mark for each day for the first five days (1,2,3,4,5). 2 Marks will be deducted (7,9,11,13,15) after the fifth day till the tenth day. Deferred work will be accepted only with teacher's approval.

Final paper and presentation topic:

1. Biblical perspective:

Choose a New Testament text and try to interpret it in light of the relevant context and inner texture. (The method of interpretation will be introduced in later lecture)

2. Practical Perspective:

Choose a Christian organization (NGO or Social Enterprise), do a detail investigation on that organization and reflection on its practice with respect to relevant Christian values and beliefs.

3. Historical Perspective:

Choose an important historical event, do a detail investigation and reflection on its impact on the development of Christianity.

4. Free topic to be approved by Prof. IP. Please write a tentative topic and short description on what you want to investigate and submit to Prof. IP on or before

4.   Learning schedule

Date	Main Lecture Topic (2 hours)
10/9	Course introduction: What are we going to study and how? 基督教：呢科係乜料？為乜咁催淚？
17/9	No Lecture: Prof. IP will be out of HK for conference
24/9	教會以前搞邊科 Historical Perspective 1: Early Christianity and its contexts
1/10	Holiday
8/10	聖經呢味野 Biblical issue 1: How did the Bible come into existence?
15/10	新約 12 道鋒味 Biblical Issue 2: Nature of New Testament
22/10	聖經"古"你唔到 Biblical issue 3: Bible and archaeology
29/10	聖經"釋"條鐵 Biblical issue 4: Interpretation and Context
5/11	Internationalization 1: Christian Charity work in different countries
12/11	Internationalization 2: Peace and Reconciliation work in different countries

19/11	Graduation ceremony – no lecture
26/11	愛不是傳說，我不做耶 L Theological issue 2: Love and ethic
3/12	在天敬拜，在地實踐 Practical issue 2: Worship and Serving Poor

5.   Rubric of assessments:

5.1. Article reflection: 10% each

	Excellent (9-10)	Good (6-8)	Fair (4-5)	Fail (0-3)
Criteria: 1. Understanding of the key ideas	Fully	Fully	Fairly	Not fulfilled at all
2. Critical thought	Well demonstrated	Critical thought shown but not enough	Barely shown a critical thought	No critical thought shown

5.2 Video reflection: 15% each

	Excellent (13-15)	Good (9-12)	Fair (5-8)	Fail (0-5)
Criteria: 1. Understanding of the key ideas	Fully	Fully	Fairly	Not fulfilled at all
2. Critical thought	Well demonstrated	Critical thought shown but not enough	Barely shown a critical thought	No critical thought shown
3 Reflection	Deep and with new insights	Relative deep with no insights	Fair reflection shown	No reflection shown

5.2. Final Project (40%)

	Excellent (35-40)	Good (28-34.9)	Fair (20-27.9)	Fail (under 20)
Criteria: 1. Content: Provide relevant points and information to	Strong arguments are well presented	Relevant arguments are well provided. May have	Some arguments provided but	Only weak and incomplete argument provided

support the argument (50%)		weaknesses in some points	not substantial enough	
2. Logically sound of argument and critical thought reflected (25%)	Well and clearly argued. Critical thought demonstrated	Well and clearly argued	Overall a logical presentation provided but no critical thought shown	Cannot provide a logical argument throughout the paper
3. Coherence: the question is clear and the flow of the paper is addressing the question (25%)	Tightly connected and argued throughout the paper	Coherently argued overall with some parts may not be totally connected with the flow.	Either the question is not clear enough or the structure of the answer may not totally connected.	Simply incoherent due to unclear question or structure of answer.

6.   Learning activities

There are various learning activities in this course in order to broaden the horizon of student in understanding Christianity.

Online interview students and scholars from other countries.

Individual work: Final paper and Article reflections.

Presentation and discussion: Discussion Paper presentation can help to stimulate the class knowledge as well as the awareness of the complex layers of Christianity.

7.   Recommended booklist　（Tentative）：

Major references of the course:

Major required reading: 哈維・考克斯 (Harvey Gallagher. Cox)。《耶穌在哈佛的 26 堂課：現代人的道德啟示錄》。（台灣： 啟示，2006）

DeSilva, David A.. An Introduction to the New Testament: Context, Methods and Ministry Formation. Illinois, IVP Academic, 2018. (With Chinese Edition)

Aune, David ed. The Blackwell Companion to The New Testament. West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, 2010. (E-book available in Library)

華倫・卡特 (Warren Carter)。譯者：顧華德《羅馬帝國與新約聖經要點指南》（聖經資源中心：2016）

白德培。《分久必合，合久必分：從耶穌時代到改革前夕的西方基督教批判史》。（香港：明風，2016）

C.S. Lewis. Mere Christianity

N.T Wright. Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

Martin, Dale B. *New Testament History and Literature.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.

Other References:

Dunn, James. *New Testament Theology in Dialogue*. London: SPCK, 1987.

------. *Unity and diversity in the New Testament: an Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity.* London: SCM, 1990.

Furnish, Paul. *The Love Command in the New Testament.* Tennessee: Abingdon, 1972.

------. *The Theology of the First Letter to the Corinthians.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

------. *Theology and Ethics in Paul*. Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Meeks, Wayne. *The First Urban Christians: the Social World of the Apostle Paul.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.

Robbins, Vernon. *Exploring the Texture of Texts: A Guide to Socio-rhetorical Interpretation.* Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1996.

------. *The Invention of Christian Discourse.* Dorset: Deo, 2009.

------.*The Tapestry of Early Christian Discourse: Rhetoric, Society and Ideology.* New York: Routledge, 1996.

Wright, N. T. *Colossians and Philemon,* TNTC. Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1986.

------. *The climax of the covenant : Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1991.

------. "Putting Paul Together Again," in *Pauline Theology*, vol. 1, ed. Jouette M. Bassler. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994, 203.

葉漢浩 經濟與信仰 (12 月 2016). 基督教文藝出版社.

――― 看見鄰舍、看見使命 （1 月 2016) FES Press.

――― *社會企業：信仰實踐與反思 (Fall 2013).* 基督教文藝出版社.

――― *再思青少年牧養：現況、理念與策略* "Pastoral Ministry under the Capitalist System," *Rethinking Youth Ministry* (Fall 2011). Chung Chi Divinity School. Pages 153-161.

――― *尋找豐盛生命* (Fall 2011). 匯美出版社

8.   Contact details:

Email: dripromans2015@gmail.com

9.   Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such

policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide. The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submission. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic.

10. Feedback for evaluation
Feedback and recommendation are welcome. Students are advised to either give feedback during lecture or through email. Response will be made promptly based on the need of students.