THEO 5230 Public Theology
1st Semester, 2022-2023

Date and Time: Sept 5 – Dec 3, 2022, Saturdays, 9:30-12:15
Teacher: Professor Kung Lap Yan 龔立人 (e-mail: kungly@cuhk.edu.hk)

1. **Course description**

   This course is to discuss the correlation between the Christian faith and our social and cultural lives and systems with an aim at bringing the earthly life closer to the order of creation and redemption. Public theology thus is not only about how the Christian faith can be engaged in public effectively and meaningfully, but also about how both the Christian faith and our social and cultural lives and systems are challenged, diversified and enriched through mutual engagement. Public theology thus is apologetics, contextual, dialogic, liberative and practical. In this course, students learn to develop their self-reflective imagination, deconstructive imagination and eschatological imagination critically and creatively so that they can practice theological discussion of common public and political issues beyond the community of the Christian church.

2. **Learning outcomes**
   - To have a critical understanding of the nature, content, methodology and practice of public theology.
   - To demonstrate a critical understanding of the discourse of public.
   - To be able to use theological resources engaging into the dialogue between theology and public issues critically and creatively.

3. **Course schedule**

Date	Topic	Relevant Readings
Sept 10 Lect 1	The "theology" of public theology	Hubenthal, C. and C. Alpers eds. (2022) *T&T Clark Handbook of Public Theology*, Chapters 5 and 6. Bloomsbury. (online) Lee, H. J. (2015) "Public Theology". In Hovey, C. and E. Phillips ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Political Theology*, Chapter 3. Cambridge University Press. (online) Smit, D. (2007) "Notions of the Public and Doing Theology". *International Journal of Public Theology* 1/3–4 : 431–454. 龔立人 (2016)：《在暗角言說上主》。香港：香港基督徒學會，第一章。

Sept 17 Lect 2	The "public" of public Theology	Hubenthal, C. and C. Alpers eds. (2022) *T&T Clark Handbook of Public Theology*, Chapters 1, 2 and 3. Bloomsbury. (online) Arendt, Hannah. (1958) "Chapter II, The Public and Private Realm, excerpt from *The Human Condition*". Gripsrud, J. Hallvard Moe, Anders Molander and Graham Murdock eds. (2010). *The Idea of the Public Sphere,* pp. 93-113. Lexington Books. (online) Habermas, Jurgen. (1964) "The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article". Gripsrud, J. et al eds. (2010) *The Idea of the Public Sphere*, pp. 114-120. Lexington Books. (online)
Sept 24 Lect 3	The theological traditions of public theology	Dorrien, G. (2011) *Social Ethics in the Making*. Wiley-Blackwell. (online) Hubenthal, C. and C. Alpers eds. (2022) *T&T Clark Handbook of Public Theology*, Chapters 8 and 9. Bloomsbury. (online) Moltmann, J. (1999) *God for a Secular Society: The Public Relevance of Theology*，Chapters 1-3 《俗世中的上帝》. SCM.
Oct 1 No class	National Day	
Oct 8 Lect 4	Theological tenets in public theology	Hubenthal, C. and C. Alpers eds. (2022) *T&T Clark Handbook of Public Theology*, Chapter 14, 16 and 18. Bloomsbury. (online) Marshall, C. D. (2014) "Parables as Paradigm for Public Theology." Neville, D. J. ed. *The Bible, Justice and Public Theology,* pp. 23-44. Sheffield Phoenix Press. Neville, D. J. (2014) "Parable as Paradigm for Public Theology: Relating Theological Vision to Social Life." Neville, D. J. ed. *The Bible, Justice and Public Theology,* pp.145-160. Sheffield Phoenix Press. Scott, P. and W. T. Cavanaugh eds. (2007) *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology*, chapters22-28. Blackwell. (online)
Oct 15 Lect 5	Doing public theology	Doak, M. (2004) *Reclaiming Narrative for Public Theology,* chapters 1 and 4. State University of New York Press. (online) Kim, S. (2017) *A Companion to Public Theology*, Chapter 3, 19 and 20. Brill. Kung, L. Y. (2022) "Christian Ethics, Experience and Qualitative Research". Ward, Pete and Knut Tveitereid eds. *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Theology and Qualitative Research,* pp. 175-184. Blackwell. Ziegler, P. (2002) "God and Some Recent Public Theologies". *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 4 (2): 137-155. 謝志斌（2016）:《何以公共?為何神學?漢語公共神學的回顧與前瞻》。

		香港中文大學崇基學院宗教與中國社會研究中心。
Oct 22 Lect 6	Theo-political imagination: civil disobedience, democracy and public theology	Tze, Justin and Jonathan Tan eds. *Theological Reflections on Umbrella Movement*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. (online) Kwok, Pui Lan and Francis Ching Wah Yip eds. (2021) *Hong Kong Protests and Political Theology*. Rowman and Littlefield. (online) 戴耀廷、朱耀明、龔立人等著（2013）：《公民抗命與佔領中環：香港基督徒的信仰省思》。雅歌出版社。 龔立人（2016）：《在暗角言說上主》。香港基督徒學會。 龔立人（2020）：《一個神學彌賽亞與反逃犯引渡條例抗爭的相互閱讀》。《思想》，40，頁 163-184。
Oct 29 Lect 7	Theo-political imagination: memory, liturgy and public theology	Fortier. T. and J. Rodriguez (2021). *Cultural Memory: Resistance, Faith and Memory*, Chapter 1. University of Texas. (online) Hubenthal, C. and C. Alpers eds. (2022) *T&T Clark Handbook of Public Theology*, Chapter 17. Bloomsbury. (online) Kung, L. Y. "Evocation and the June Fourth Tiananmen Candlelight Vigil: a Ritual-Theological Hermeneutics." Bogumil, Z. and Yuliya Yurchuk eds. (2022) *Memory and Religion from a Post-secular Perspective,* Chapter 8. Routledge. Volf, M. (2021) *The End of Memory*. Eerdmans.
Nov 5 Forum 1	Theological action in public: Social justice	Kung, L. Y. (2022) "Christian Mission and Social Action". Kim, Kirsteen et al eds. *Oxford Handbook of Mission Studies, p*p. 274-292. Oxford University Press. 香港基督徒學會、天主教正義和平委員會、基督教工業委員會、明光社
Nov 12 Lect 8	Theo-political imagination: disability, human dignity and public theology	Couser, G. T. (2006). "Disability, Life narrative, and Representation." Davis, L. J. ed. *The Disability Studies Reader,* pp. 399–404. Routledge. Creamer, D. B. (2012). "Disability theology." *Religion Compass*, 6 (7), 339–346. Eiesland, N. (1994). *The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability.* Abingdon. Kung, L. Y. (2022) "Salvation as Initiating a Liberating Course of Karma: Experiences of the Visually Impaired and the Blind." Forthcoming. 龔立人（2008）：《不正常信仰》。學生福音團契。
Nov 19	Theological action	羅永生、龔立人編（2010）：《宗教右派》。香港基督徒學會。

Forum 2	in public: gender equality and public theology	彩虹之約、眾樂教會、QTA
Nov 26 Lect 9	Theo-political imagination: aging and ageism; poverty and social exclusion.	Bytheway, B. (2005) "Ageism and Age Categorisation". *Journal of Social Issues*, 61(2): 361-374. Nelson, T. (2016) "The Age of Ageism". *Journal of Social Issues*, 72 (1): 191-198. Walker, A. (2005) "Towards an International Political Economy of Ageing". *Ageing and Society*, 25: 815-839. Walker, A. (2012) "The New Ageism". *The Political Quarterly*, 83 (4): 812-819. Saunders, P. et al. (2014) "Deprivation and Poverty in Hong Kong". *Social Policy and Administration*, 48 (5): 556-575. Taylor-Gooby, T. et al. (2015) "Can New Welfare Address Poverty through More and Better Jobs*?". Journal of Social Policy*, 44 (1): 83-104. Townsend, P. (1983) "A Theory of Poverty and the Role of Social Policy". M. Loney, et al eds. *Social Policy and Social Welfare*. Open University Press. 歐陽達初、黃和平 (2017)：《未完成的香港社會保障：批判的導論》。中華書局。
Dec 3 Lect 10 or Presentation	Theo-political imagination: ecology and public theology	

3. **Assessment scheme**

Task nature		Due date
1	A reflection on the social relevance and significance of a Christian doctrine or a biblical text (2000 – 2300 words), 30% A. To identify and explain a Christian doctrine or a biblical text; B. To explain its possible social relevance and significance and you may give example to support your correlation;	Carries 30% Oct 21

C. To reflect what possible new theological insights are derived from the reflection.		
2 A theological comment on any one of the cultural and social issues of everyday life. (2000-2300 words)	Carries 20% Nov 11	
3 A term paper on the theme "Public Theology - Salvation as Visions of Good Life" (4000-4500 words). It can be one of the followings: A. A conceptual paper; B. A project; C. A reflection on a practice.	Carries 50% Dec 23	

Marking scheme

A, A-   a more comprehensive understanding of relevant idea and knowledge with a clear presentation; a clear thesis and a certain extent of originality; dialogue with different scholarly works.

B+, B, B-   a good understanding of relevant idea and knowledge with a clear presentation and reference to scholarly works; a relatively less-defined and less argued thesis.

C+, C, C-   a relatively weak of understanding of relevant idea and knowledge; weak presentation; unclear thesis, and even contradiction; reference is limited.

D+, D, F   showing little understanding of relevant idea and knowledge; no reference to scholarly works; weak presentation.

4. References

Journals
International Journal of Public Theology
International Journal of Practical Theology

Books
Baker, Christopher R. and Elaine L. Graham eds. (2018) T*heology for Changing Times: John Atherton and the Future of Public Theology*. SCM.
Browning, Don S and Francis Schussler Fiorenze. (1992) *Habermas, Modernity and Public Theology.* Crossroad.
Cavanaugh, William T. (2002) *Theopolitical Imagination: Discovering the Liturgy as*

a Political Act in an Age of Global Consumerism. T&T Clark.

D'Costa, Gavin. (2005) *Theology in the Public Square.* Blackwell.

Djupe, Paul A. and Christopher P. Gilbert. (2009) *The Political Influence of Churches.* Cambridge University Press.

Dorrien, Gary J. (2008) *Social Ethics in the Making.* Blackwell.

Edwards, Michael. (2004) *Civil Society.* Polity.

Etzioni, Amitai. (2004) *The Common Good.* Polity.

Evans, Christopher H. ed. (2001) *The Social Gospel Today.* Westminster John Knox Press.

Goode, Luke. (2005) *Jurgen Habermas: Democracy and the Public Sphere.* Pluto.

Graham, Elaine and Anna Rowlands ed. (2005) *Pathways to the Public Square.* Lit Verlag.

Graham, Elaine Graham and Stephen Lowe. (2009) *What Makes a Good City? : Public Theology and the Urban Church.* Darton, Longman and Todd.

Groody, Daniel G. (2010) *Globalization, Spirituality and Justice.* Orbis.

Hainsworth, Deirdre King and Scott R. Paeth eds. (2010) *Public Theology for a Global Society.* Eerdmans.

Hansen, Len ed. (2007) *Christian in Public.* Stellenbosch University Press.

Harper, Ian R. and Samuel Gregg. (2008) *Christian Theology and Market Economics.* Edward Elgar.

Harrison, Beverly Wildung. (2004) *Justice in the Making: Feminist Social Ethics.* Westminster John Knox.

Hauerwas, Stanley. (1981) *A Community of Character.* University of Notre Dame.

Herbert, David. (2003) *Religion and Civil Society.* Ashgate.

Himes, Michael J. and Kenneth R. Himes. (1993) *Fullness of Faith.* Paulist. 中譯本：《信仰的完滿》。香港，道風。

Hollenback, David. (2002) *The Common Good and Christian Ethics.* University of Cambridge Press, 2002. (online)

(2003) *The Global Face of Public Faith.* Washington Georgetown University, 2003. 中譯本：《公共信仰的全球面相》。香港，道風。

Jenkins, Willis. (2008) *Ecologies of Grace.* Oxford University Press, 2008. (online))

Long, Michael G. ed. (2008) *Resist! : Christian Dissent for the 21st Century.* Orbis.

Malesic, Jonathan. (2009) *Secret Faith in the Public Square: An Argument for the Concealment of Christian Identity.* Brazos.

Martinez, Gaspar. (2001) *Confronting the Mystery of God: Political, Liberation and Public Theologies.* Continuum.

Mathewes, Charles. (2007) *A Theology of Public Life.* Cambridge University Press.

McCann, Dennis and Patrick D.Miller ed. (2005) *In Search for the Common Good.*

T&T Clark.

McCarthy, David Matzko (2009) *The Heart of Catholic Teaching: Its Origins and Contemporary Significance.* Brazos.

Moltmann, Jurgen. (1999) *God for a Secular Society: The Public Relevance of Theology.* Fortress.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. (1953) *Christian Realism and Political Problems*. Scribner.

(1952) *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. Scribner.

Ruether, Rosemary Radford. (2009) *Christianity and Social Systems: Historical Constructions and Ethical Challenges.* Rowman & Littlefield.

Scott, Peter and William T.Cavanaugh, *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology.* Oxford, Blackwell, 2004.

Simpson, Gary M. (2002) *Critical Social Theory: Prophetic Reason, Civil Society and Christian Imagination.* Fortress.

Spencer, Nick and Jonathan Chaplin. (2009) *God and Government*. SPCK.

Storrar, William F. and Andrew R.Morton eds. (2004) *Public Theology for the 21st Century*. T&T Clark.

Storrar, William F., Peter J. Casarella, & Paul Louis Metzger eds. (2011) A *world for All? : Gobal Civil Society in Political theory and Trinitarian Theology*. Eerdmans.

Tanner, Kathryn. (2005) *Economy of Grace.* Fortress.

Welker, Michael，林子淳編：《政治與公共》。香港，道風，2014。

謝品然、曾慶豹編：《上帝與公共生活》。香港：研道社，2009。

楊慧林、謝志斌編：〈漢語神學與公共空間〉，《基督教文化評論》，32 (2010)，頁 19-143。

5. **Academic honesty and plagiarism**

   Read http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

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. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.