

THEO1000 Approaches to Christian Studies

基督教基本研究方法

Prof. IP, Hon Ho Alex

10:30 am – 1:15 pm FYB UG01

1. Course Overview:

This course aims at introducing different methods and approaches to Christian Studies. 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.

Important Note to Students: The course material, PPT and readings, are mainly 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 basic understand of the theology and content of the Christian faith.
- 2.3 have a basic understand of 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 and its study method.	A brief introduction of the nature of bible, focusing on New Testament, and how to study as a contemporary and critical reader.
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
Liturgical tradition of Christianity	A brief introduction of different liturgies from different denominations. Liturgy is an important tradition in understand Christianity.

4. Assessment scheme:

Assessment(% Share):	Main Criteria:
1. Reading reflection (20%)	Short reading reflection of 4 articles (not more than 400 words each).
2. Group Presentation (20%)	Students will present a topic of their choice concerning any one of the approaches list in the course outline or any creative topic with the permission of Prof. Specific topics will be given in the second lecture.
3. Paper topic and outline (10%)	One page of paper outline introducing the question you are going to address, developed from your presentation, with reason and justification. Also, try to outline how would you address your question in a form of a table of content. (no more than one A4 page)
4. Final paper (50%)	A final paper with word limit of no more than 5000 words (English) or 6500 words (Chinese).

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.

5. Learning schedule

Date	Main Topic	Tutorial
10/1	Course introduction	---
17/1	Overview on Christianity and Christian Studies	---
24/1	Approach 1: Approaching Christianity from Historical perspective (1)	Reading reflection 1
7/2	Approach 1: Approaching Christianity from Historical perspective (2)	Reading reflection 2
14/2	Approach 2: Approaching Christianity from Biblical Studies (1)	Reading reflection 3
21/2	Approach 3: Approaching Christianity from creative media Guess speaker: 電影十年監製：蔡廉明	Reading reflection 4
28/2	Approach 2: Approaching Christianity from Biblical Studies (2)	Group presentation
7/3	Approach 4: Approaching Christianity from Practical perspective (1) Guess speaker: 著名經濟分析員：黃元山先生	Group presentation
14/3	No lecture (Conference week for Prof. IP)	
21/3	Approach 4: Approaching Christianity from Practical perspective (2) Outing NGO visiting and/or Social Enterprise (社企) visiting	Group presentation
28/3	Approach 5: Approaching Christianity from liturgical perspective Guess Speaker: Pastors from different denominations	Group presentation
4/4	Holiday	
11/4	Approach 6: Approaching Christianity from Global problem perspective	Group presentation
18/4	Approach 7: Approaching Christianity from Theological perspective	Group presentation

6. Learning activities

There are various learning activities in this course.

Individual work: A learning portfolio style of assessment to help students to construct their knowledge step by step.

Presentation and discussion: Portfolio presentation can help to stimulate the class knowledge as well as the awareness of the complex layers of Pauline letters.

Site visit: Social enterprise.

7. Recommended booklist:

Major references of the course:

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.

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

-----*Slavery as Salvation*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1982.

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:

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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.