

# **THEO 5929 History of Christian Thought**

Course for M.A. (Christian studies); CUHK 2017 spring term

Wed 7:00-9:15pm ELB308

Lecturer: Prof. Jason Lam (林子淳; [Jason.lam@cantab.net](mailto:Jason.lam@cantab.net))

## **A. Course description:**

This is a foundational course for theology students, providing a critical survey of the history of the development of Christian (mainly theological) thought. It will concentrate on several decisive phases of development and will attempt to show the interaction between Christian thought and its historical circumstances.

## **B. Schedule of the course:**

### Introduction

1. The definition of the title and the aims and structure of this course

### The Early Church and the Formation of Catholicism

2. The emergence of Christianity from the second temple Judaism
3. The way the scriptures were interpreted and the formation of the early tradition
4. The significance and development of early creeds, dogma and doctrines

### The Medieval Period and Eastern Thought

5. A brief outline of the development of the Eastern Christian thought
6. Augustine's thought and his influence: a person one cannot avoid
7. Is the medieval period really dark? Plus a survey of scholasticism and mysticism

### The Reformation and its Consequence

8. Is the Reformation really a break? The tension of Christian thought at the time
9. The afterlife of the Reformation: from enchantment to disenchantment?
10. At the dawn of the Enlightenment: Orthodoxy, Rationalism, Pietism, and so on

### The Enlightenment and Beyond

11. The challenges of modernity to Christianity and the rise of new thought waves
12. The rapid change of theological drama of the "short" twentieth century
13. The so-called post-modern shift and the search for Christian identity
14. Roundup and conclusion

\* Due to time constraint, some of the topics mentioned above may not be covered.

### **C. Learning outcomes:**

After completing this course, the student is expected (a) to have an overview of the development of Christian thoughts, including the diversity of views, major historical developments, and significant issues involved, and their interrelations; (b) to be able to understand and appreciate some important theologians including their life and thoughts; (c) to be able to critically articulate the relevance of Christian thoughts in personal life, churches, and society.

### **D. Coursework requirement:**

#### 2 take-home exams

Each exam contains 50% of the total marks and will include 2 parts.

In the first part students are asked to write a brief outline of a history of Christian thought for a certain period of time. The main themes and important phrases of the history should be articulated, and the reason of any major transformation as well (20%; < 3000 for Chinese, <2000 for English).

In the second part there are essay-type questions covering different periods discussed in the course. Students are expected to answer in each exam paper a total of 2 questions out of 4; each carries equal marks (15% each; < 1500 for Chinese, < 1200 for English).

The exam papers will be posted on the eLearning system on 8 Mar & 19 Apr. Students are supposed to submit within 14 days after the exam papers are posted. No late submission is allowed for examinations.

### **E. Suggested references:**

This is by no means an exhaustive list of references. Part I includes suggested texts for beginners. Part II includes classical works for advanced students. Part III includes other general and relevant introductory readings. Readings useful for particular periods will be mentioned in respective parts of the course.

#### I. Suggested texts:

1. Hans Küng, *Christianity* (London: SCM, 1995) [簡本：漢斯·昆著，包利民譯，《基督教大思想家》（香港：漢語基督教文化研究所，2014 修訂版）。Please don't do your outline relying on this simplified version ]
2. William C. Placher, *A History of Christian Theology: an introduction* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983)
3. Justo L. González, *A History of Christian Thought* 3 vols. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1987) [胡斯都·L.岡察雷斯，《基督教思想史》（上海：譯林出版社，2008）]

#### II. Classical works:

4. Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Christian Tradition* 5 vols. (Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1971) [第

一、二卷已有中譯]

5. Adolf von Harnack, *History of Dogma* 7 vols. (NY: Dover, 1961)

### III. Other useful references:

6. 大衛·班特哈特著，王聖綦譯，《基督教的故事》（台中：好讀，2013）。
7. 蔡麗貞，《我信聖而公之教會》（台北：校園，2004）。
8. 林鴻信，《教理史》（台北：禮記，2001）
9. 林榮洪，《基督教神學發展史》（香港：中神／宣道，1990-）。
10. Paul Tillich, *A History of Christian Thought* (San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1968) [蒂利希著，尹大貽譯，《基督教思想史》（香港：道風書社，2004 第二版）／（北京：東方，2008）]
11. 潘能伯格，《神學與哲學》（香港：道風，2006）／（北京：商務，2013）
12. Colin Brown, *Christianity and Western Thought vol.1* (IVP, 1990) [科林·布朗著，查常平譯，《基督教與西方思想（卷一）》（北京：北京大學出版社，2003）]
13. Alan G. Padgett & Steve Wilkens, *Christianity and Western Thought vol.2* (IVP, 2000) [威爾肯斯、帕杰特著，劉平譯，《基督教與西方思想（卷二）》（北京：北京大學出版社，2005）]
14. Roger E. Olson, *The Story of Christian Theology* (IVP, 1999) [奧爾森著，吳瑞成、徐成德譯，《神學的故事》（台北：校園，2002）／《基督教神學思想史》（北京：北京大學出版社，2003）]
15. Alister E. McGrath, *Historical Theology: an Introduction to the History of Christian Thought* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998) [麥格夫著，趙崇明譯，《歷史神學》（香港：天道，2002）]

### **F. Learning platform:**

Besides lectures in class, the course also uses a web-based learning platform (<http://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk/>) for teaching.

- Course announcements (including changes in class schedule) will be posted on the My Announcements.
- All assignments should be submitted electronically (in Word format). (Do not submit hardcopies)
- Students are encouraged to make use of the platform to communicate with fellow students, to discuss issues related to the course, and to give feedback.

### **G. Important Notice on Academic Honesty:**

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/>.

Besides submitting the assignments electronically, students should at the same time submit a copy of each assignment to VeriGuide ([https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login\\_CUHK.jspx](https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx)) for plagiarism checking. VeriGuide will issue a statement (in the form of a receipt) on which the student declares that they are aware of the policies, regulations, guidelines, and procedures on academic honesty. Please submit a scanned PDF copy of the signed receipt with the assignment.