

THEO1000 Approaches to Christian Studies

基督教基本研究方法

Prof. IP, Hon Ho Alex

9:30 am – 12:15 pm WMY 306

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.

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 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.
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%)	2 article readings. (Each reflection no more than 400 words)
2. Group Presentation (25%)	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. Field report (15%)	A report on visit to social enterprise or church visit. (Max. 1000 words)
4. Final paper (40%)	A final paper with word limit of <u>no more than</u> 4000 words (English) or 5000 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.

Final paper topic:

1. Biblical perspective:

Choose a New Testament text and try to interpret it in light of the relevant context and inner texture.

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 Christian 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

5. Learning schedule

Date	Main Lecture Topic	Tutorial 9:30-10:15
9/1	Course introduction: What are we going to study and how?	---
16/1	Approach 1: Approaching Christianity from Historical perspective (1)	---
23/1	Approach 1: Approaching Christianity from Historical perspective (2)	Movie discussion.
30/1	No Lecture : Prof. Ip will be out of town	
6/2	Approach 2: Approaching Christianity from Biblical Studies (2) New Testament	Reading reflection 1
13/2	Approach 3: Approaching Christianity from liturgical perspective Guest Speaker: Pastors from 聖公會靈風堂 Venue : 聖公會靈風堂	---
27/2	Approach 2: Approaching Christianity from Biblical Studies (3) Major Doctrine and faith from the bible	Reading reflection 2
6/3	Approach 4: Approaching Christianity from Practical perspective (2): From Educator to NGO Guess speaker: CEO of IEF Dr. Dannis Au	
13/3	Approach 4: Approaching Christianity from Practical perspective (3): Outing NGO visiting and/or Social Enterprise (社企)	

	visiting 冬蔭泰 Sharing: Mr. Joseph Chan	
20/3	Group Presentation	Group presentation
27/3	Approach 4: Approaching Christianity from Global problem perspective Christian perspectives and participation in Global problem: Poverty and Justice problem 關懷貧窮學校同工	Group presentation
3/4	Holiday	
10/4	Out of Town	
17/4	Approach 7: Approaching Christianity from Theological perspective	Group presentation

Relevant NT text will be discussed in every lecture.

6. Learning activities

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

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 and Church visit.

7. Recommended booklist (Tentative) :

Major references of the course:

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.