

Chinese University of Hong Kong

Divinity School of Chung Chi College

THEO3226/5953: Special Topics on Theological Studies II

Body Theologies 身體神學 (For BD, MDiv & MACS)

Summer Term, 2024–25 Mon & Thur 7:00–9:30 pm Classroom: WMY 301	Instructor: WONG Wai Yin Christina Email: wycwong@cuhk.edu.hk Office Hours: Thursdays, 5:00–6:00pm
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Course Overview

Christian theology rightly claims to be an incarnational theology, in which the human body is situated at the centre of salvation. However, the mind/body dualism, and the doctrine emphasis on the sinfulness of the body made Christian theology turn to the opposite move. Based on contemporary multidisciplinary scholarships including theories from anthropology, theology, philosophy, sociology, gender studies, and cultural studies, this course explores the debates and challenges on embodied theology. The class will examine concepts, symbols, and practices of the body from our Scripture and Christian traditions. The class will explore how bodies shape theological knowing through particular circumstances and situations. Hope this class can stimulate us think differently about theology, bodies, and religious knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course with a final grade of B or above, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze some of the critical concepts, methods, and debates on body theologies;
- Identify problems surrounding bodies in Christianity and society;
- Reflect on our own experiences of bodily knowing in diverse contexts;
- Be aware of the body sensations and experience shaping the formation of our self-subject.

Pedagogical Commitments

1. The taboo of sexuality and the claim of body's sinfulness will move us to zones of discomfort and anxiety. Let us be humble, open-minded, and respectful to each other.
2. Learning is dialogical and communal. We hope to build up a learning circle. We treasure

this communal learning process and are willing to build up a trustful and respectful environment.

3. Your experience is a primary source of knowledge and wisdom. In all written works and class discussions, you are encouraged to integrate the course's theoretical resources with your own experience.

Procedure

This course will involve lectures by the instructor, extensive class discussions in a variety of formats, tutorial, student presentations, and power point presentation, striving to engage a diversity of body theologies through a multiplicity of resources.

Lecture (hr) in/ out class		Reading (hr) in/ out class		Project or Term Paper (hr) in/ out class		Retreat (hr) in/ out class	
1.5hr			2hr		3hr	1hr	
M	N/A	N/A	M	N/A	M	O	N/A

M: Mandatory activity in the course; O: Optional activity in the course

N/A: Not applicable

Assessment Scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
1. Participation	To attend two guest lectures (each 2%) and at least write THREE questions and THREE responses on the discussion forum of the Blackboard for Tutorial Readings (each 1%)	10%
2. Your Journal Booklet Or Book Report; Due Date: 16 June 2025	a. According to the retreat camp, make your journal booklet about your connection with the body. Words: 1000 for the journal booklet; b. Words: 2000 for Book Report .	35%
3. Quiz: 19 June 2025	Quiz in the class on the concepts of body theories and theologies. Ref.: 1. Cavallaro, Dani and Carline Vago. <i>The Body for Beginners</i> . New York: Writers and Readers, 1998; 2. Lecture Notes and Tutorial Readings	20%
4. Self-Reflection Paper or Research Paper or Project Presentation; Due Date: 3 July 2025; Project Presentation Day: 26 June 2025.	a. Self-Reflection Paper: reflect on your personal body experience with at least 5 references. Around 3000 words. (The Highest Grade will be A-.) b. Research Paper: Words: 5000–6000 in Chinese or 3000–4000 in English. (The Highest Grade will be A.) c. Project Presentation: Creative Form to express your reflection. Please discuss your proposal with the	35%

	Instructor. A supplementary notes is needed. (The Highest Grade will be A.)	
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We encourage students using Chinese to write an academic term paper. Hope you can express the best for your work. For those English as a second language, please go to the independent learning centre for editing support: <https://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/CH/mission.aspx>

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic and Required Reference
1	12/5	<p>Introduction: Our Body Turn: New Academic Quest</p> <p>* McGuire, Meredith B. “Religion and the Body: Rematerializing the Human Body in the Social Sciences in Religion.” <i>Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion</i> 29 (1990): 283–96. (E-Journal)</p> <p>Turner, Bryan S. “Introduction: The Turn of the Body.” In <i>Routledge Handbook of Body Studies</i>, ed. Bryan S. Turner, 1–17. New York: Routledge, 2012. (E-Book)</p> <p>Cavallaro, Dani and Carline Vago. <i>The Body for Beginners</i>. New York: Writers and Readers, 1998. (@archive.org/ borrow 14 days; https://archive.org/details/bodyforbeginners0000cava)</p>
2	15/5	<p>Methodology: Doing Body Theologies</p> <p>* Sigurdson, Ola. 2008. “How to Speak of the Body?: Embodiment between Phenomenology and Theology.” <i>Studia Theologica</i> 62 (1): 25–43. (E-Journal)</p> <p>Tutorial 1: Isherwood, Lisa, and Elizabeth Stuart. <i>Introducing Body Theology</i>. Ch3: “A Difficult Relationship: Christianity and the Body,” 52–77. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998. (E-Book)</p>
3.	19/5	<p>Empire and Disciplined Body in Greek Christianity</p> <p>Liew, Tak-siong Benny. 2008. “Redressing Bodies in Corinth: Racial/Ethnic Politics and Religious Difference in the Context of Empire.” <i>What is Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics? Reading the New Testament</i>, 75–97. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press. (E-Book)</p> <p>Tutorial 2: Asher-Greve, Julia M. “The Essential Body: Mesopotamian Conceptions of the Gendered Body.” <i>Gender & History</i> 9, no.3(1997): 432–61. (Blackboard) Please see the video lecture, “Hebrew and Ancient Near Eastern Traditions on Body” by Prof. Sonia WONG on the Panopto Video</p>
4.	22/5	<p>Catholic Tradition on Body</p> <p>Louth, Andrew. “The Body in Western Catholic Christianity.” In <i>Religion and the Body</i>, ed. Sarah Coakley, 111–30. Cambridge:</p>

		<p>Cambridge University Press, 1997. (Blackboard)</p> <p>Tutorial 3: Thiel, John E. “Augustine on Eros, Desire, and Sexuality.” In <i>The Embrace of Eros: Bodies, Desires, and Sexuality in Christianity</i>, ed. Margaret D. Kamitshuka, 67–82. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010. (Blackboard)</p> <p>Please see the video lecture “Augustine’s Body” by Prof. YAM Cheuk Yin Colten on the Panopto Video</p>
5.	26/5	<p>Rethinking Incarnation</p> <p>*Ward, Graham. “On the Politics of Embodiment and the Mystery of All Flesh.” In <i>The Sexual Theologian: Essays on Sex, God and Politics</i>, ed. Marcella Althaus-Reid and Lisa Isherwood, 71–85. London: T & T Clark. (Blackboard)</p>
6.	29/5	<p>Food & Religious Ritual</p> <p>* Bynum, Caroline Walker. “The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages.” In <i>Fragmentation and Redemption: Essays on Gender and the Human Body in Medieval Religion</i>, 181–238. New York: Zone Books, 1992. (E-Book)</p> <p>Moschella, Mary Clark. “Food, Faith, and Formation: A Case Study on the Use of Ethnography in Pastoral Theology and Care.” <i>Journal of Pastoral Theology</i> 12, no. 1 (2002): 75–87. (E-Journal)</p>
7.	2/6	<p>Divine Love and Human Intimacy</p> <p>Gugliermetto, Gianluigi. “Love and Desire.” In <i>Contemporary Theological Approaches to Sexuality</i>, ed. Lisa Isherwood and Dirk won der Horst, 247–68. London: Routledge, 2018. (E-Book)</p> <p>*Fudgé, Thomas A. “Sensuality, Spirituality, and Sexuality in the Religious Experience of Female Mystics.” In <i>Medieval Religion and Its Anxieties: History and Mystery in the Other Middle Ages</i>, 157–81. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. (E-Book)</p>
8.	8-10/6	<p>Spiritual Retreat: 長洲聖公會靜修院</p> <p>Facilitated by: Vicky SHIU and Christina WONG</p> <p>Lee, Bo Karen. “Body and Imagination: Healing Trauma through Ignatian Meditation and Bio-Spiritual Focusing.” <i>Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality</i> 24, no.2 (Fall 2024): 193–213.(E-Journal)</p>
9.	16/6	<p>Guest Lecture 1: Neurological Perspective on Body Mind Integration: Implications for Counselling and Pastoral Care, By Prof. Timothy Leung (Social Work Department, CUHK)</p>
10.	19/6	<p>Medicalized Bodies</p> <p>約珥舒曼、布雷恩福爾克著，陳永財譯：《取回我們的身體：忠</p>

		於信仰地運用現代醫藥》。香港：基道出版社，2010。 Quiz
11.	23/6	Guest Lecture 2: Queer Bodies by Dr Joseph Goh, a Lecturer in Gender Studies at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University, Malaysia 1. Goh, Joseph N. “Songsang, Confessions, and Theologizings of Divine Lavishness.” In <i>Unlocking Orthodoxies for Inclusive Theologies: Queer Alternatives</i> , ed. Robert E. Shore-Goss and Joseph N. Goh, 51–69. New York: Routledge, 2020. (Blackboard) 2. Hero, Jakob. “Toward a Queer Theology of Flourishing: Transsexual Embodiment, Subjectivity, and Moral Agency.” In <i>Queer Religion</i> , ed. Donald L. Boisvert and Jay Emerson Johnson, 2, no.2 (2012): 143–65. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger. (Blackboard) 3. What is SOGIESC? [Hayden Royalty]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_m8wNCUaYks
12.	26/6	Disabled Bodies and Round Up: Rethinking Body of Christ and Apophatic Bodies *Stuart, Elizabeth. “Disruptive Bodies: Disability, Embodiment, and Sexuality.” In <i>Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection</i> , 2 ^d , ed. Marvin M. Ellison and Kelly Brown Douglas, 322–37. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Know Press, 2010. (Blackboard)

#Course schedule is a **guideline** and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and in dialogue with students.

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