

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Course	TOPICS IN CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE: CHRISTOLOGY THEO 0631
Date and Time	SEPTEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 9, 2021 THURSDAYS, 2:15 – 5:05 PM (LIVESTREAM)
Instructor	PATRICK FRANKLIN, PhD Email: pfranklin@tyndale.ca
Class Information	The classes will include livestream lectures and discussions (large group and small groups). Classes end at 5:05 PM. Students may participate in virtual office hours as posted on the course page.
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only. Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A seminar in systematic theology in which one major Christian doctrine, such as the doctrine of Trinity, Christ, salvation, etc., is studied.

Christology, the study of the person of Christ, has been the centerpiece of theological reflection in the Christian tradition, from the earliest times to the present day. This course will examine the development of Christology, from its New Testament roots, through its classical expression in the patristic tradition and its extension through medieval and Reformation eras, to its response to the challenges and opportunities of modernity and contemporary culture. Special attention will be given to the integral unity of Christ’s Person and Work, the outworking of this historically in various atonement theologies, and the importance of mission and culture to the church’s contextual expression and embodiment of the gospel.

Prerequisite: THEO 0531 Systematic Theology

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the mystery and wonder of the incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in order to inspire and enrich devotion and worship
2. Express a clear understanding of the crucial interconnection between the person and work of Jesus Christ in relation to our salvation
3. Examine the multifaceted breadth of Christ's saving work, as witnessed in Scripture and the history of the Christian tradition
4. Identify various atonement metaphors and theologies and apply implications for practical Christian life (e.g., worship, church, evangelism, spirituality, justice, etc.)
5. Analyze primary texts in the history of Christian thought in the area of Christology
6. Identify and critically synthesize diverse expositions and expressions of Christology from the broader, global church

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Macleod, Donald. *The Person of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.

Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Pantianos Classics; Create Space, 2017.

Green, Gene L., Stephen T. Pardue, and K. K. Yeo, eds. *Jesus Without Borders: Christology in the Majority World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. [NOTE: This book is out of print; you will be able to access the book on reserve at the Library, and you will receive your assigned chapter from the professor – see assignment #2.]

NOTE: Selected primary texts in historical and contemporary theology will be posted as PDF documents online in Moodle, freely accessible (see Table in Section IV below).

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Preparatory Reading Submissions (10 total; worth: 3% each x 10 = 30% / 25% for ThM):

This assignment is related to outcomes 3 and 5.

Careful reading of the material is important if we are to maximize the value of our class time together. Thoughtful questions and shared insights will serve to enrich our classroom conversations. It is expected that students will read all of the required readings prior to the scheduled class.

Assignment:

Beginning with week 2, students are expected to submit – by 11:59 p.m. on the evening before class (e.g., the first one is due on Sept. 22) – a reading report (1 page max, 1.5 or double spacing) for the *primary text reading* assigned for the next day’s class (if more than one reading is assigned, read all of them, but choose just one to write about). See the table in Part IV of the syllabus for details.

Of the 11 possible weeks, submit 10 reports total. I will also **drop** your lowest two grades (so, you may choose to submit only 8 reports if you wish).

Each reading report should include:

- a) A brief description of the argument of the text, i.e., its central thesis/theme and an explanation of key terms (3/4 page)
- b) A theological, critical, or practical reflection on the text (about a paragraph)

2. Primary Text Analysis (Due: Nov. 4; worth 30% / 25% for ThM students)

This assignment is related to learning outcomes 2, 3, and 5.

Write a textual analysis of Athanasius's *On the Incarnation of the Word*. The analysis should be approximately 8-9 pages and include:

- a) A brief introduction to the author
- b) A brief introduction to the text (e.g., date written, historical context, authorial purpose, intended audience, key terms, etc.)
- c) A re-statement (in your own words) of the text's thesis or main theme
- d) A description of how the author defends the thesis or expounds the main theme (include major arguments, concepts, themes, key biblical texts, key criticisms of opponents' views)
- e) An analysis of how the Person and Work of Christ are related in the text
- f) Your own theological reflection on the text (this might include how the text challenged or informed you, things you found compelling or disagreeable, something that inspired you, or a reflection on the text's relevance to Christian/Church life)

NOTE: (a-c) should take about 2 pages; (d-e) about 5-6 pages; and (f) about 1 page.

3. Presentation and Handout (Due: TBA; worth: 15% / 10% for ThM students)

This assignment is related to learning outcomes 4 and 6.

Give a 15-minute presentation to the class, accompanied by a 1-paged handout (you can use front and back if you wish), on an assigned chapter of *Jesus Without Borders: Christology in the Majority World*. You are welcome to use a PowerPoint presentation if you wish (if so, please email it to the Professor in advance of your presentation day). In your presentation, please include:

- a) A summary of the major thesis and key concepts/ideas of the chapter
- b) Identify connections (explicit or implicit) to classic Christological themes and theologians of the Christian tradition
- c) Identify any ways in which the piece contributes uniquely to the classical tradition

- d) Provide theological analysis and reflection on the chapter (e.g., appreciate, critique, evaluate, development implications, apply insights gained to mission and evangelism, etc.) and formulate 1-2 questions regarding its argument(s) or aim(s)
- e) Please provide a one-page (one or two sided) handout for the class, emailed in advance of class to the Professor

4. Theological Paper on Christology, Gospel, Church & Mission (Due: Dec. 2; worth 25%)

This assignment is related to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

Drawing on the sources for this class (Macleod text, *JWB* text, primary text readings, lecture material), write an 8-10 paged paper reflecting theologically on the relationship between Christology, Gospel, and Mission. Begin with the following question in mind: How does a robust and holistic (biblical, historical, experiential, coherent/rational) Christology helpfully inform our understanding of the gospel, the church, and Christian mission in the world? Along the way, you might also mention how such a Christology corrects problematic approaches to gospel, church, and mission that are operative in contemporary culture.

The paper should be both theologically grounded (in Scripture and Tradition via historical sources) and contextually applicable (i.e., how does robust reflection on the Person and Work of Christ help you to understand, preach/share/articulate, and embody the gospel in your own context, e.g., your neighbourhood, or friends, or collegial relationships, or church and mission, or your vocation, etc.?). It should argue *a specific thesis* concerning Christology and then draw implications for gospel, church, and mission.

No extra research, beyond the course texts and readings, is necessary for this assignment (unless you make claims that need additional evidential support). If you do use other sources, please be sure to include them in your footnotes and bibliography, so as to give them due credit.

Two supporting documents will be posted on Moodle to help you: (i) a Grading Rubric Grid; and (ii) an Instruction Document for formulating and arguing a thesis.

5. ThM Research Paper (Due: Dec. 9; worth 40%; ThM students only)

This assignment is related to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

In lieu of the previous assignment (#4), write a research paper (20-25 pages) on a topic of your choice (to be approved by the Professor) related to Christology. Your research should include both primary and secondary research, drawing on historical/classical and contemporary sources. It is best to centre your research on one major theologian and their

writing(s) and then use secondary sources to better understand that thinker as well as the chosen topic. In Chicago/Turabian style, the essay should be rigorously documented, with a minimum of 35 footnotes from 20 sources (10 books and 10 journal articles). It should not simply report or summarize, but demonstrate thorough reflection, analysis, and embody a conceptual argument in which various angles of the question are explored in fairness and at length. For more detail, please consult the supplementary documents *Research Paper Instructions* and *Grading Grid* (posted in Moodle).

F. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	Weight	ThM
Reading Submissions	Weekly	30%	25%
Text Analysis Paper (on Athanasius)	Nov. 4	30%	25%
Presentation	TBA	15%	10%
Theological Paper on Christology, Gospel, & Mission	Dec. 2	25%	n/a
ThM Research Paper (ThM students only)	Dec. 9	n/a	40%
Total Grade		100 %	100%

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Due dates & times (and late penalties): Assignments are to be uploaded to the assignment submission section of the course page in pdf or Microsoft Word format by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date. Papers submitted after 11:59 PM on the due date will receive a 1/3 grade deduction (i.e., B+ to B) per day (or part thereof) following the due date (to a maximum of 1.5 GP deduction per week). This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no extension has been granted. Extensions will be granted only for serious personal, family, or health situations. The last possible date to submit all assignments is December 16, after which students will need to request an official course extension from the Registrar’s Office.

Formatting: Assignments must be double-spaced, typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font (10-pt for footnotes), with 1” margins. The standard citation method for theological papers uses

footnotes (not parenthetical citations or endnotes) with a complete bibliography in the Chicago style (not APA style). For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

I. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

* Note: *JWB* = *Jesus Without Borders* book. Primary text readings are posted in Moodle.

Date	Topic	Readings (complete before class)*
Class 1 Sept. 16	Introduction to the Course The Virgin Birth Christ as sacrifice	Macleod, Introduction, ch. 1 Hebrews 1–7 Bates, <i>The Gospel Precisely</i> (ch. 1)
Class 2 Sept. 23	The Pre-existence of Christ Christ, the Son of God Christ as liberator from sin and death	Macleod, chs. 2-3 Irenaeus, <i>Against Heresies</i> (book III, ch. XXII and XXIII)
Class 3 Sept. 30	Jesus of History / Christ of Faith Identification for incorporation	Macleod, chs. 4-5 John of Damascus (<i>Exposition of the Orthodox Faith</i>)
Class 4 Oct. 7	The Incarnation Christ and the restoration of creation	Macleod, ch. 6 Gregory of Nazianzus, “Letter 101” and <i>Theological Orations</i> Crisp, “Incarnation without the Fall”
Class 5 Oct. 14	Chalcedon Christ: A Satisfaction of God’s Honour	Macleod, chs. 7; <i>JWB</i> , ch. 1 (Vanhooser) Anselm, <i>Why God Became Human</i>
Class 6 Oct. 21	<i>Kenōsis</i> : Making Himself Nothing Christ the second Adam; humanity in Christ	Macleod, ch. 8; <i>JWB</i> , ch. 2 (Izigbo) Julian of Norwich, <i>Showings</i>
Oct. 28	NO CLASS (Reading Day)	
Class 7 Nov. 4	The Sinlessness of Christ Christ and justification faith Due: Text Analysis of Athanasius	Macleod, ch. 9; <i>JWB</i> , ch. 3 (Gener) Martin Luther, “Christ’s holy sufferings” or “Two kinds of righteousness” (choose one) Wesley, “The Scripture way of salvation” or “On working out our own salvation” (choose one) Barclay, <i>Paul and the Power of Grace</i> (excerpt)
Class 8 Nov. 11	No Other Name: Uniqueness of Christ Christ demonstrates God’s love Christ as moral exemplar	Macleod, ch. 10; <i>JWB</i> , ch. 4 (Martínez-Olivieri) Excerpts from Kant, Hegel, Harnack, Feuerbach (choose two)

Class 9 Nov. 18	Contemporary Issues: <i>Penal</i> Substitution? Christ punished in our place	<i>JWB</i> , ch. 5 (Katanacho) Charles Hodge, "Satisfaction of Christ" Kathryn Tanner, "Death and Sacrifice"
Class 10 Nov. 25	Contemporary Issues: Desire of all Nations? (Christ among the nations & religions) Christ the judge, judged in our place	<i>JWB</i> , ch. 6 (Besançon Spencer) Karl Barth, <i>Church Dogmatics</i> IV.1.2 (pp. 211–83; skip or skim fine print sections)
Class 11 Dec. 2	Contemporary Issues: Christ as Liberator from Oppression The "Counter-Logos" and the "Black Christ" Due: Theological Reflection	<i>JWB</i> , ch. 7 (Mbuvi) Bonhoeffer, <i>Lectures on Christology</i> Cone, <i>The Cross and the Lynching Tree</i> D. E. B. Du Bois, "The Gospel Acc. to Mary Brown"
Class 12 Dec. 9	Contemporary Issues: Christology & Theodicy The crucified Christ as God's self-revelation Due: ThM Research Paper (ThM only)	<i>JWB</i> , ch. 8 (Yeo) Jürgen Moltmann, <i>The Crucified God</i>

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Tyndale's MTS Modular program has an excellent online [Christian Theology Reading Room](#), which has extensive links to material available as full text eBooks, as well as partial-text books available on Google Books. Reading rooms have also been established on the [Doctrine of the Trinity](#), as well as theologians [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#), [Eberhard Jüngel](#), [John Howard Yoder](#), [Jürgen Moltmann](#), and [Karl Barth](#).

To search topically for relevant journal articles, book reviews or collected essays, use the comprehensive *ATLA Religion Database*, or the *Proquest Religious Database*, *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and *JSTOR*. [Full-text versions of many theological journals](#) and book reviews can be downloaded from these databases.

For **detailed bibliographies** to support *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, a **glossary** of theological terms, and **details of theologians** from *The Christian Theology Reader*, cf. www.wiley.com/mcgrath