Description

An examination of formative and alternative theologies of redemption from Christianity’s early years to the present, focusing on how theologians have variously conceived the problem to which redemption is addressed (including various theories of atonement), the work and person of Jesus Christ, and the roles of God and humanity in effecting redemption, and the relation among doctrines of creation, redemption, and eschatology. Theologians considered will include Irenaeus, Athanasius, Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, Julian of Norwich, John Calvin, Jürgen Moltmann, Gustavo Gutierrez, Mary Grey, Nancy Eiesland, Kwok Pui-lan, C. S. Song, and others.

Learning Goals

Student completing this course will:

- through readings, lectures, discussion, and assignments, develop knowledge and understanding of formative and alternative approaches to soteriology and Christology
- through readings and discussions, develop and practice skills in critical reading and evaluation of theological texts
- through discussion and written assignments, develop and practice skills in articulating their own theological positions in relation to formative and alternative approaches

For Emmanuel College students, these goals relate primarily to degree program outcomes in Religious Faith and Heritage, as found in the descriptions of each Basic Degree Program at:

For Knox College students, these goals relate primarily to Knox College’s Theological and Practical Curricular Outcomes in Systematic Theology, as found at:

Requirements and Assignments

1. **Complete all required reading, as indicated in the weekly class schedule (pp. 5-8 below):** All required readings are included in a course reader available at Print City/Krishna Copy, 180 Bloor Street West, (416)345–9996. Readings “For Further Research” indicated in the course schedule below are available on reserve in the Emmanuel College library.

2. **Regular attendance and informed participation, worth 15% of the course grade.** Students absent from four or more class sessions may not receive credit for this course.

3. **A University of Toronto e-mail address and regular use of your UTor e-mail account.** E-mail communication from the instructors will be made only to your UTor e-mail address, and any e-mail you send to the instructors must be sent from your UTor e-mail account.
4. In 5-6 typed and double-spaced pages, give your own answers to the “Guiding Questions on Theologies of Redemption” (p. 4 below), due in class on January 22 and worth 15% of the course grade. While no reading or research is required for this assignment, you should as fully as possible describe your current theological views in response to these questions, and what influences have shaped those views. If you have not yet developed a position in response to one or more of the questions, or if you are uncertain about your position, simply state that clearly and, if possible, explain what theological questions or concerns you have about the issues. This assignment will be evaluated on the following criteria:
   a. Thoroughness in answering the “Guiding Questions” and thoughtfulness in theological reflection (50%).
   b. Awareness of relationship among answers to various questions, and consistency of answers with each other (30%).
   c. Clarity in writing and correct citation and documentation of sources (20%).

5. A mid-term paper, 10–12 pages long, due Friday March 1 and worth 30% of the course grade on the theology of redemption of Irenaeus, Athanasius, Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, Julian of Norwich, or John Calvin. Using the “Guiding Questions for Theologies of Redemption” (p. 4) and both course readings and your own additional research: 1) describe whether and how the theologian answers the guiding questions; 2) indicate which questions the theologian may not answer or answer fully; and, 3) while clearly indicating your criteria for evaluation, evaluate the theological strengths and weaknesses of his or her theology of redemption. This assignment will be evaluated on the following criteria:
   a. Thorough, accurate, and fair description of the selected theologian’s answers to the “Guiding Questions” (40%).
   b. Clear statement of criteria of evaluation, and fair evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the selected theologian’s theology of redemption (30%)
   c. Appropriate use of required and recommended course readings, and evidence of additional research and use of other relevant sources (15%).
   d. Clarity in writing and correct citation and documentation of sources (15%).

6. A final paper, 14–16 pages long, due Friday, April 12 and worth 40% of the course grade, on the theology of redemption of a theologian writing since 1900, whether or not that theologian has been covered in class. Please confer with one of the instructors about your selection of a theologian. Using the “Guiding Questions for Theologies of Redemption” (p. 4), course readings, and your own additional research: 1) describe whether and how the theologian answers the guiding questions; 2) indicate which questions the theologian may not fully answer; 3) evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of his or her theology of redemption; and 4) describe and explain your own theological position on the questions the theologian addresses. This assignment will be evaluated on the following criteria:
   a. Thorough, accurate, and fair description of the selected theologian’s answers to the “Guiding Questions” (30%).
   b. Clear statement of criteria of evaluation, and fair evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the selected theologian’s theology of redemption (20%)
   c. Clear and thorough description and explanation of your own theological position on the “Guiding Questions” (20%)
   d. Appropriate use of required and recommended course readings, and evidence of additional research and use of other relevant sources (15%).
   e. Clarity in writing and correct citation and documentation of sources (15%).
**Requirements for All Written Assignments:**

- **Submit assignments in class by paper copy, not by e-mail.** If you are unable to deliver your assignment on the due date, plan to complete the assignment in time to send it by mail, courier, or other means to arrive on or before the due date.

- **Give reasons for your positions and arguments and support them** with material from course readings, and from your own research. For more information, see “Advice on Academic Writing” on the University of Toronto web site at [http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/](http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/)

- **Include complete documentation (either footnotes or endnotes) for all published material you use.** Cite all sources on which you rely, whether you quote them directly or simply paraphrase or summarize them in your own words. Use the system of documentation described in the latest edition of Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago Press). See the “Quick Guide” to this style at [https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/citation-guide.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/citation-guide.html)

- **The grading scale used to evaluate assignments** is provided in Section 11.2 of the Toronto School of Theology Basic Degree Handbook at [https://www.tst.edu/sites/default/files/BDHandbook%2014-15%20FNL.pdf](https://www.tst.edu/sites/default/files/BDHandbook%2014-15%20FNL.pdf)

- **For assignments submitted late** without the prior consent of the instructor, one grade point will be deducted for every day after the due date the assignment is submitted.

- **Observe all academic policies and regulations of your college of registration, the Toronto School of Theology, and the University of Toronto** (e.g., academic honesty, use of just and inclusive language, requests for extensions). It is your responsibility to know and understand these policies and regulations. Consult especially:

**Contacting the Instructors**

We welcome contact by email at but please keep your messages clear and brief and send them only from your @mail.utoronto.ca account. For more complicated issues, please email or call to make an appointment. We try to respond within 24 hours to emails requiring a brief response, but do not reply to emails during evenings or weekends.
Accessibility and Learning Accommodations
Students with diverse learning styles and abilities are welcome in this course. If you require accessibility accommodations to facilitate your learning, please contact University of Toronto Accessibility Services as soon as possible. It takes time to put accessibility accommodations in place. The sooner you meet with a counsellor at Accessibility Services, the sooner the counsellor can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. Please contact Accessibility Services by e-mail or by visiting its office on the University of Toronto St. George Campus:

455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5S 2G8
(just north of College St.)
Voice: (416) 978-8060
Fax: (416) 978-5729
E-Mail: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca

For more information, see the Accessibility Services web site at http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as

Class Cancellations
The University of Toronto rarely closes the St. George campus because of winter storms. You can check the campus status at http://www.utoronto.ca/campus-status or by calling 416.978.SNOW (7669). If I get sick, I will notify you in advance of class by email as soon as possible. If a class is cancelled because of campus closure or instructor illness, we will make every effort to find a way to cover the material and presentations from a missed class.
Guiding Questions for Theologies of Redemption

These questions will guide all class discussions of and provide a focus for assignments. They are intended to guide, not to restrict discussion; other questions may arise in the discussion of various theologies of redemption and may be considered as they arise.

*From what and for what do we (persons, groups, all of humanity, all of creation?) need to be saved, redeemed, liberated?*

*How is this salvation, redemption, or liberation effected?*

*What role does God have in effecting this salvation, redemption, or liberation?*

*What role does Jesus Christ have in effecting this salvation, redemption, or liberation? And what does Jesus’ suffering and death have to do with our salvation?*

*What does Jesus’ role in salvation tell us about who he is, that is, his relationship with God and humanity?*

*What role do we have in effecting this salvation, redemption, or liberation? And what does human suffering—both of ourselves and others—have to do with salvation?*

*Who or what is saved, redeemed, or liberated – human souls, or human persons as a unity of body and soul? humans only? some human only? or all of creation as well as all humans?*

*Is this salvation, redemption, or liberation brought about in this life, in the “next life,” or both? And how is it brought about?*
Course Schedule

January 8  Introduction to the Course

For Further Research:
- entries on “Salvation,” “Redemption,” “Atonement,” “Reconciliation,” “Justification,” “Sanctification,” and “Liberation” in any dictionary of theology

January 15  Redemption in the New Testament

Guest Lecture: Prof. Colleen Shantz, Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael’s College

Required Reading:
- Paul, Epistle to the Romans, Chapters 1-6
- James Dunn, Chapter 4, Part 9 “Christ Crucified” and Chapter 5, Part 15 “Participation in Christ,” The Theology of Paul the Apostle, 207-33 and 390-412

For Further Research:
- William Thompson, Chapter 7D, “From Kerygma to Gospels,” The Jesus Debate, 248–79.
- John Carroll and Joel Green, Chapter 6, “’Nothing But Christ and Him Crucified’: Paul’s Theology of the Cross,” The Death of Jesus in Early Christianity, 113-32.

January 22  Irenaeus and Athanasius

Required Reading:

For Further Research:
- Gustaf Aulén, Chapters 2 & 3, “Irenaeus” and “The Fathers in East and West,” Christus Victor, 16–60
January 29  Anselm, Abelard, and Julian

**Required Reading:**
- Peter Abelard, excerpts from Book 2, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*, 160-68 and 202-15
- Julian of Norwich, Parts 45-51, *Revelations of Divine Love* (Long Text), 106-24

**For Further Research:**
- Gustaf Aulén, Chapter 5, “The Middle Ages,” *Christus Victor*, 81–100

February 5  John Calvin

**Required Reading:**

**For Further Research:**
- Rosemary Radford Ruether, Chapter 4, “Male Reformers, Feminist Humanists, and Quakers in the Reformation,” *Women and Redemption*, 113–46
- Paul van Buren, *Christ in Our Place: The Substitutionary Character of Calvin's Doctrine of Reconciliation*

February 12  Jürgen Moltmann

**Required Reading:**

**For Further Research:**

February 19  Reading Week—No Class
February 26  Liberation Soteriologies

**Required Reading:**

**For Further Research:**
- Jon Sobrino, Chapter 11, “Theses for a Historical Christology,” *Christology at the Crossroads*, 346-95
- Volker Küster, Chapter 10, “The Black Messiah – Christology in the Context of Racism: James H. Cone (USA) and Allan A. Boesak (South Africa),” *The Many Faces of Jesus Christ: Intercultural Christology*, 137-51

March 1  Mid-Term Papers Due

March 5  Disability and Redemption

*Guest Lecture: Emma CW Ceruti, PhD student, Emmanuel College*

**Required Reading:**
- Nancy Eiesland, Chapters 1 and 5, “Coming to Terms” and “The Disabled God,” *The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability*, 19-29 and 89-105

**For Further Research:**
- Tom Reynolds, “The Cult of Normalcy”  
  [http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/188186.pdf](http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/188186.pdf)
March 12  Asian Perspectives on Redemption

**Required Reading:**

**For Further Research:**
- Volker Küster, Chapters 7-9, 11-12, *The Many Faces of Jesus Christ: Intercultural Christology*, 77-134, 152-78

March 19  Indigenous Perspectives on Redemption

**Required Reading:**
- Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley, and George E. “Tink” Tinker, Chapters 4, 6-7, and 9, “Christology,” “Sin and Ethics,” “Trickster,” and “Eschatology” in *A Native American Theology*, 62-84, 100-125, and 149-65

**For Further Research:**

March 26  Comparative Soteriologies

**Guest Lecture: Prof. Michelle Voss Roberts, Emmanuel College**

**Required Reading:**
- Kristen Johnston Largen, "Liberation, Salvation, Enlightenment: An Exercise in Comparative Soteriology," *Dialog* 45/3 (Fall 2006), 263-274
- Matt Moser, “Cataclysmic Fall or a Fumbling Slip?: A Christian Engagement with Islamic Hamartiology,” *Dialog* 48/3 (Fall 2009), 231-38

**For Further Research:**
- Thomas E. Reynolds, “Toward the Other: Christianity and Buddhism on Desire,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 39/3-4 (Summer-Fall 2002), 325-39
April 2 Concluding Reflections and Course Evaluation

*Required Reading:* TBA  
*For Further Research:* TBA

April 12 Final Paper Due


Jersak, Brad and Michael Hardin, eds. *Stricken by God? Nonviolent Identification and the Victory of


Lotz, David W. Ritschl and Luther: A Fresh Perspective on Albrecht Ritschl’s Theology in the Light of His Luther Study. Nashville: Abindgon Press, 1974.


Pelikan, Jaroslav. The Illustrated Jesus Through the Centuries. New Haven: Yale University Press,
1997.


Reynolds, Thomas E. “Toward the Other: Christianity and Buddhism on Desire,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 39/3-4 (Summer-Fall 2002): 325-39


