

## PMIN 203 The Mystery of Jesus Christ

**Instructor:** Cecilia Titizano, PhD.

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**Meeting times:** 6 Wednesdays online meeting (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.) Dates: 6/9; 6/16; 6/23; 6/30; 7/7; 7/14  
3 Saturday online meetings (9:00 am – 3:00 pm.) 6/5; 7/3; 7/24

**Location:** Via Zoom. This remote-learning course balances a synchronous and synchronous participation.

**Office hours:** Thursday 1:00 to 2:00 or by appointment

### Course Description

This is an introductory course to contemporary Catholic Christology. Examines Jesus Christ as a historical figure and object of faith and the Christian answer to the human situation. Students will reflect on who Jesus was and what he taught by studying how he has been perceived by his followers, from very early times to the present. Students will explore the formative developments of Christology in the early centuries of the church, exploring how the Christological diversity of the New Testament is constrained towards the more metaphysical debates leading to Chalcedon. Students will briefly consider Scholastic and Protestant Christology; moving into the contemporary discussions that including feminist/liberationist approaches. The course will conclude with a discussion of Asian/Latin American and eco-theological approaches.

### Course Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain a broad theological understanding of the development of Christological doctrine over the centuries. (GPPM Objective 1.A)
2. Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of Patristic Christology and how reaction to different heretical movements led to the articulation of Christological doctrine. (GPPM Objective 3.A)
3. Students will demonstrate a grasp of contemporary radical critiques and re-readings of Christology, including feminist/liberationist/ecological ones. (GPPM Objectives 1.B; 4.A)
4. Students will employ historically informed knowledge of the tradition to assess theological positions and pastoral issues. (GPPM Objectives 2.A; 5.A)

### Required Books

Books are expensive. I have tried to ensure that the cost associated with this course will not be prohibitive. Therefore, I only list as “Required Books” those from which we will be reading numerous selections. I list as “Recommended Books” those from which we will read limited selections that will also be available on Camino.

- Sammy Alfaro, *Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2010. New \$21.98
- Thomas P. Rausch, *Who is Jesus? An introduction to Christology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2003. New \$17.79/used \$1.97
- Elizabeth Johnson, editor. *The Strength of Her Witness: Jesus Christ in the Global Voices of Women*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2016. New \$29.93/used \$18.19
- Articles and chapters available on Camino

### Recommended books

- Tatha Wiley (ed.), *Thinking of Christ: Proclamation, Explanation, Meaning*, New York: Continuum, 2003.
- John Meyendorff, *Christ in Eastern Christian Thought*. Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1975.
- Francis Schüssler Fiorenza and John P. Galvin (eds), *Systematic theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.
- Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Creation and the Cross the Mercy of God for a planet in Peril*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2018.
- Elizabeth Johnson, editor. *The Strength of Her Witness: Jesus Christ in the Global Voices of Women*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2016.
- Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker. *Saving paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of this World for Crucifixion and Empire*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2008
- Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro, *The Jesus of Asian Women*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2006.
- José Míguez Bonino (ed.), *Faces of Jesus: Latin American Christologies*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1984
- Richard A. Norris, Jr.(ed/trans), *The Christological controversy*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1980.
- Jacquelyn Grant, *White women's Christ and Black women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1989.

### Course Requirements

1. Class sessions will consist of both dialogical lectures and discussions in an attempt to understand the substantive concerns of the course. The discussion will be based on the readings and reflections papers. The lectures will be a response to the questions raised in the reflection papers.
2. In preparation for the discussion sessions, each will prepare a reflection paper (double-spaced, 12-point font). Upload paper to Camino by Tuesday at noon. Each reflection paper should cover all the readings assigned to that particular week; for example, for week two (2), your paper should address the following: Thomas P. Rausch, *Who is Jesus? An introduction to Christology*, Ch3, Ch 5 and Ch8. **Use the following structure as a guide:**

**Core Issue:** The central concern of these readings was . . . (at least 1 - 1½ pages on how you understand the central issue.)

**Key Insight:** I was surprised to learn that . . . (At least one paragraph developing your understanding of the central learning that you will take from these readings.)

**Critical question:** I am still wondering . . . (one sentence in the form of a question)

**Implication:** I have been challenged to . . . (one paragraph of personal/ministerial growth)

3. At least one presentation during the quarter, based on the reflection paper for that week. The goal of this exercise is to present a number of basic themes and questions so as to facilitate the discussion.
4. This course requires a time commitment between 10-12 hrs. per week. Christology is a cornerstone course in systematic theology.
5. The final project analyses the relationship between Jesus and culture. We will specifically focus on movies and their Christologies or particular representations of Jesus. Each student can choose one film from a list provided by the Instructor. The Final Project should be a 3 to 5 double-spaced pages, font 12, with the following sections:
  - a. Brief film summary
  - b. Reasons for choosing the film
  - c. Film's Christology - use authors that we have already read during the course
  - d. Theological Implications – use authors that we have already read during the course
  - e. Pastoral Implications

## Writing support

The GPPM is happy to offer the assistance of Dorothy Suarez who works for our program to help to be sure that your writings reflect your best possible work. She is skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced having worked with many students to help them to shine. We think you will find her a delight to work with. Dorothy can be reached at 408-828-9204 or [GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com](mailto:GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com)

## Expectations

1. Each student is expected to read with understanding the assigned readings.
2. Each student is expected to be a co-creator of the course by being an active contributor to the discussion sessions and by preparing a thoughtful reflection paper each week.

- Each student must complete the final project.

### Zoom Policy

The use of video-conferencing software to record or replace in-person attendance is not allowed, except in exceptional circumstances, with the permission of the instructor and Program Director. Engaged attendance is expected

### Evaluation procedure

- Regular attendance and active participation in the discussions (20%)
- The quality of 5 weekly reflection papers (30%)
- The quality of the presentations (20%)
- Mid-term Exam (15%)
- Final project (15%)

### Scale

94.0–100	A	87.0–89.9	B+	77.0–79.9	C+
90.0–93.9	A-	83.0–86.9	B	73.0–76.9	C
		80.0–82.9	B-	70.0–72.9	C-

## Schedule

### Scriptural and Pre-conciliar Christologies

**Week 1:** Saturday online meeting

June 5: **Problematizing New Testament Christology (I):** Thomas P. Rausch, *Who is Jesus? An introduction to Christology*, Intro, Ch1 and Ch2.