

**THEO 60253 Christological Doctrine: Development and Contemporary Questions  
(HC/ST)**

**Professor: Khaled Anatolios  
2:00-4:20 MTWRF July 7-July 25, 2008**

**Course Description:**

The question that the evangelist Mark reports Jesus as addressing to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mk 8:29) received a definitive response in Church doctrine only through a long and sometimes tumultuous process of development. This question is also addressed to all Jesus' disciples through the ages. In seeking to formulate our own responses to this question, we need to take account of the process and rationale by which the early Church struggled toward an adequate proclamation of who Jesus is. Moreover, the development of christological doctrine in our own time raises new questions, such as those posed by the feminist critique and religious pluralism. The project of this course is to integrate our questions with those that generated the development of christological doctrine, so that we may delve deeper into the mystery of the human-divine identity of Jesus Christ.

**Requirements:**

- Careful and timely reading of assigned texts and thoughtful participation in class discussions of the readings
- Three short papers (1-2 pages) reflecting on key insights gleaned from the contents of each week of the course (due on July 14, July 21, and July 25)
- A final take-home exam will be handed out on the last day of class, July 25, and will be due on July 28

**Texts:**

- N.T. Wright, *Paul. In Fresh Perspective* (Fortress Press, 2005)
- E. R. Hardy (ed.), *The Christology of the Later Fathers* (ISBN: 0-664-24152-2)
- R.A. Norris (ed.), *The Christological Controversy* (ISBN: 0-8006-1411-9)
- John McGuckin (ed.), *Cyril of Alexandria: On the Unity of Christ* (ISBN: 0-88141-133-7)
- E. Hill (ed.), *Augustine. On the Trinity* (New City Press) [Please note that we will only be reading about 40 pages out of 400 in this book. You are welcome to either buy the book or use the copy on reserve or any other translation that you can find. A serviceable translation is also available on the web]
- Paul Blowers & Robert Wilken, eds, *Saint Maximus the Confessor. On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Course Reader: will be available for purchase online at [www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com)

## Schedule of Classes and Readings

### Week I: July 7-11

#### **July 7: The Beginnings of Christology: Methodological and Scriptural Foundations**

- I. Introductory Lecture: Unity and Diversity, Development and Normativity in Christological Reflection
- II. Toward a Systematic Biblical Christology I: The Worship of Jesus as the Beginning of Christology

*Reading:* Hurtado, How on Earth did Jesus become a God?, 31-55, 83-107 (CR= Course Reader)

#### **July 8: Toward a Systematic Biblical Christology II: Jesus the Christ and the Story of Israel**

*Reading:* N.T. Wright, Jesus and the Victory of God, 477-539 (CR)  
Ibid, Paul. In Fresh Perspective, 83-153 (T= Text)

#### **July 9: Christology in the Third Century**

*Reading:* Melito of Sardis, *On the Pascha* (CR)  
Origen, *On First Principles*, Bk. I, ch. 2 & Bk. 2, ch. 6 (CR)

#### **July 10: Athanasius' Nicene Christology**

*Reading:* Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (T: Hardy)

#### **July 11: The Apollinarian Controversy: The Human Soul of Christ**

*Reading:* Apollinaris of Laodicaea, Excerpts from “*On the Union in Christ of the Body with the Godhead*,” & Fragments (T: Norris, 103-111)  
Basil of Caesaraea, Letter 261 (CR)  
Gregory of Nazianzus, *Letters* 101-102; 202 (T: Hardy)

### Week II: July 14-18

#### **July 14: Gregory of Nyssa: A Nicene Systematic Christology**

*Reading:* *Address on Religious Instruction* (T: Hardy)

#### **July 15: The Council of Ephesus and its Aftermath**

*Reading:* Theodore of Mopsuestia, *Fragments of the Doctrinal Works* (T: Norris, 113-122)  
Selected Letters of Nestorius and Cyril (T: Norris, 123-144)

#### **July 16: Cyril of Alexandria and the Divine-Human Unity of Christ**

*Reading:* Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ* (T: McGuckin)

**July 17: Augustine's Christology**

*Reading:* Augustine, *On the Trinity* (Bks. 4 & 13) (T)

**July 18: The Council of Chalcedon and its Aftermath**

*Reading:* Leo the Great, *Tome to Flavian* (T: Norris, 145-155)

“The Council of Chalcedon’s ‘Definition of the Faith’” (T: Norris, 155-159)

Anathemas of the Second Council of Constantinople (553):

“Against the Three Chapters” (CR)

Karl Rahner, "Current Problems in Christology" (CR)

**Week III: July 21-25**

**July 21: Maximus the Confessor's Cosmic Christology**

*Reading:* *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ* (T, 45-176)

**July 22: Modern Perspectives I: Redemption, Atonement, Sacrifice**

*Reading:* R. Kereszty, *Jesus Christ: Fundamentals of Christology*. 277-366. (CR)

**July 23: Modern Perspectives II: The Challenge of Christian Feminism**

*Reading:* E. Johnson, “Jesus, The Wisdom of God. A Biblical Basis for Non-androcentric Christology,” *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 61 (1985) 261-294 (CR)

**July 24: Modern Perspectives III: Christology and Religious Pluralism**

*Reading:* J. Dupuis, 87-95; 138-194 (CR)

**July 25: Conclusions**

*No Reading Assignment*