DOMINICAN SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY
Institute of Salesian Studies – Spring 2017
STSP 2363– Christology: Grace and Necessity

3.0 units (5 ECTS) – Monday / Thursday: 11:10 AM – 12:30 PM
Classroom Location: Don Bosco Hall | 1831 Arch Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Instructor: John Roche, SDB
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Germane to this moment of history are many new Christologies that seek to reconcile the Gospel with a world marked by confusion and a desperate search for meaning. Arising from these new Christologies is one that is of particular relevance to this age of disjointed spiritual and human formation: a Christology that is rooted in Gospel encounters and finds exemplary expression in the lives of Francis de Sales and John Bosco, and is therefore appropriately described as “salesian.” The first third of this course surveys the various Christologies, depictions, and images of Christ from the first century through present – touching upon Pauline letters, other first century sources, the monastic traditions of both the east and west, as well as scholastic and post-reformation perspectives. This sets the foundations for the second third of the course, where we delve into a particularly “salesian” Christology through the systematic survey of history and theology from Francis de Sales to the twentieth century, touching upon Alphonsus Liguori, John Bosco, Monika Hellwig, and Hans Urs von Balthazar. The last third of the course explores the landscape of post-modernism through the eyes of Christ and his Church, and helps us appreciate the richness of a Christology expressed by a spirituality of accompaniment and Gospel encounter. This course is designed not only as a systematic study of Christology for the formation of the intellect, but also encourages application to pastoral endeavor.

Requirements: Class attendance, reading of required materials, class participation, and one of three participation options: 3 short theological reflections based on the material and its application to pastoral experience, one long theological reflection, or one classroom presentation (20-30 min.)
COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Dates indicate the Monday of the calendar week.

week January 30, 2017, Unit 1:
Introduction: Who Do You Say I AM?
1. Class requirements and understanding theological reflection
2. Who do you say I am? A Question that spans the centuries.

February 6, 2017, Unit 2:
Four Queries defining the Christ Experience:
1. A Survey of the Queries which defined the Christ Event
2. Clarifications from Ancient to Modern Times

February 13, 2017, Unit 3:
What do we believe about Salvation?
1. Christological Language and Precision of Terms
2. A Christological Path beyond Human Language

February 20, 2017, Unit 4:
Salvation as Presence
1. Presence: A Salesian Language of Salvation
2. A Philosophy of Presence and its Importance

February 27, 2017, Unit 5:
St. Francis de Sales: Live Jesus!
1. Salesian understanding of Christ and universal call to holiness
2. A defining Crisis for St. Francis de Sales.

March 6, 2017, Unit 6:
The formation of John Bosco during the Restoration
1. St. John Bosco and the God of creation
2. The person of Christ for St. John Bosco: Rigidity versus a Liguorian heart

March 13, 2017, Unit 7:
The Calling of John Bosco as Companion
1. Jesus the Good Shepherd as the Complete Manifestation of God’s love
2. A pedagogy and spirituality of friendship: Salesian Basic Convictions

March 21, 2017: Spring Recess
March 20, 2017, Unit 8:
Sacred Heart: Gateway to God
   1. A history in cult and iconology: Wendy Wright
   2. The Salesian Spiritual Vision of Christ

March 27, 2017. (Spring Break, March 27-31, 2017)

April 3, 2017, Unit 9:
Salesian Christology:
   1. Monika Hellwig’s 20th century Christology
   2. The Heart of God and Salesian Spirituality and Mission

April 10, 2017, Unit 10: (holy Week, meet Monday and Thursday)
Prophetic Presence in the midst of Pseudo Community
   1. Naïve Nostalgia, Apologetics, and Contemporary Reactions
   2. Reading the Signs of the Times

April 17, 2017, Unit 11:
Diffusing the Gospel to the Capillaries: Responding to the Disappearance of Significant Christian Presence in Society
   1. The Arenas of Science and Culture, Family Life, Social and Political Activity
   2. A Flexible and Immediate Church: New Models

April 24, 2017, Unit 12:
New Models of Spirituality in a Time of Purification
   1. The Kenotic Gift of God in Christ: the Biblical Model of our Time
   2. Missionaries to Our Time and Culture

May 1, 2017, Unit 13:
Models of Accompaniment
   1. Capturing Hearts, Ministers of Beauty, Transcending and Transforming Fears
   2. Ministers of Mystery, Weavers of Wholeness and Organic Unity

May 8, 2017, Unit 14: (Semester ends May 16)
Catching the Love of God
   1. Sacraments of Compassion
   2. Holiness and Experience

May 15, 2017, Exams Week:
All written work due no later than May 19.
REQUIRED READING


SOURCES


**Articles**


PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

All students, no matter if taking the class for a grade, pass/fail, or auditing, are expected to engage in one of three participation options, as it creates the class dynamic appropriate for content integration. There are three parts given equal weight in the assessment of the final grade: 1) Class attendance; 2) Participation and fulfillment of reading assignments; 3) The completion of one of the participation options.

Theological Reflections (3 shorter papers)

The first option is three theological reflections. These are not to be research papers, rather it is an attempt on the part of the participant to bring his or her life to the course material. The reflection should be between 1,200 – 1,800 words, and formatted using Turabian style. It should show ample reflection on the resources presented in the course, and may also use outside resources.

Due 29 February 2017: The Development of Christology and Its Impact Upon Human History and Culture.

Due 3 April 2017: “Live Jesus!” and the Devotions to Jesus in the 16th to 17th Centuries. The impact of The Introduction to the Devout Life on the understanding of the Jesus of faith.

Due 1 May 2017: Modern and Post-modern Images and Models of Christ: What works and what is missing? This reflection is due on May 1, 2017.

Other topics for reflection are welcome, but must arranged by private consultation with instructor.

Theological Reflection (1 longer paper)

The Second option is a longer theological reflection of 3,000-5,000 words. Perhaps you would prefer to tie together the many themes of a Christology of Grace and Necessity and bring your own experiences, projections, ideas, and questions to the class. This paper would reveal in detail your own cultural and ministerial context or the context into which you will bring your ministry in the near future. If desired, the paper may be shared with the group for discussion. Discussions must be scheduled by March 4th, 2017, and paper due one week before discussion. You will have an additional week or two to edit the paper after the discussion. Should you opt to not discuss your paper with the class, your paper is due before the last day of lecture.

Classroom Presentation:

Each participant is asked to prepare a 20 minute presentation for the class on any topic related to the discussions in the class. All are urged to explore and share some dimension of the class that has pastoral implications for your own ministry or touches upon an important issue related to the material. These presentations will begin on the Thursdays of the lecture days beginning March 11th, 2017. Participants in the class are asked to submit a topic and reserve a lecture time before March 4th, 2017. The instructor will determine presentation scheduling and requested dates will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.