

CHTH 70970 Special Topics in Christian Thought: Jesus in Contemporary Thought (prospectus)
3 semester hours, Brite Divinity School, Fall 2019

Instructor: Charles Bellinger c.bellinger@tcu.edu

Prerequisite: none

Description of Content: An examination of a variety of approaches to thinking about Jesus in American history up to the present. Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, African American, feminist, and religious studies views will be considered. This is not a course in New Testament studies, but in contemporary interpretations and appropriations of Jesus of Nazareth.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will gain an appreciation for the great variety of perspectives on Jesus in the contemporary world.
2. Students will articulate their own approach to Christology in response to the reading assignments.

Class Procedures:

Classes will include lectures and discussions. Attendance will be taken.

Requirements and Grading Procedures:

1. Attendance, class participation, response papers. (50% of grade)
2. Final paper, 12-15 pages. (50% of grade)

Texts:

Robert Barron. *The Priority of Christ: Toward a Postliberal Catholicism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0801098208 \$24

M. Shawn Copeland. *Knowing Christ Crucified: The Witness of African American Religious Experience*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1626982987 \$17

René Girard. *The Scapegoat*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 978-0801839177 \$26

Jack Miles. *Christ: A Crisis in the Life of God*. New York: Vintage, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0679781608 \$14

Stephen Prothero. *American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0374529567 \$14

There will be additional online readings.