

<b>Module Title:</b>	<b>New Testament Christology</b>
<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>705 TNTC</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Credit rating:</b>	<b>20 credits</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Student Learning Time: 200 hours</b>
<b>Teaching Hours:</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Academic Responsibility:</b>	<b>Séamus Mulholland OFM, PhD</b>

### **Module Aims:**

This module will seek to:

1. Explore the New Testament data in the area of Christology.
2. Reassess in the light of recent research the meanings of the so-called 'titles' used of Jesus by New Testament writers and the implications for contemporary Christology of this research.

### **Learning outcomes:**

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

1. Appreciate the complexity of New Testament material on claims made concerning the identity of Jesus of Nazareth
2. Grasp the nuances of the titles that speak about the identity of Jesus
3. Understand the significance of the titles of Jesus, the conceptions of a Corporate Christ and how community ecology played [and continues to play] a role in the formulation of a New Testament [contemporary] Christology.
4. Demonstrate a critical understanding and competence in reading and using primary texts both critically and empathetically and in evaluating the significance of the New Testament writers and their communities for the development of proto-christology

### **Indicative Module Content:**

This module will seek to explore the New Testament data in the area of Christology. Close attention will be paid to the titles 'Messiah', 'Christ', 'Son of God', 'Son of Man' which will be explored individually to allow the text to disclose meaning. Each gospel's 'Christology' will also be examined so that issues surrounding the identity of Jesus and the debates that exist around them can be better understood and discourse on and engagement with those debates be grounded in solid critical biblical analysis.

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The basic format of presentation will be weekly lectures systematically treating the subject matter as described in the Indicative Module Content. Students are given specific weekly reading assignments as well as directed toward extra-curricular reading proposed by the instructor. Research interests are quickly identified and tutorial sessions, depending on individual needs of the students, arranged for clarification and direction, inclusive of suggested extra-curricular reading. Within the classroom context of lectures, active participation of students in terms of questions and, especially, discussion is strongly encouraged as a primary way of developing analytical skills, critical thinking, and clarity of expression.

### **Assessment:**

Students will be assessed by the writing of one essay of 5,000 words.

1. Select TWO of the so-called *titles* of Jesus in the Synoptic gospels and by a close analysis of their meaning show how these titles reflect the writer's understanding of the identity of Jesus of Nazareth.
2. The term *Son of Man* is regarded as the preferred self-referential of Jesus, yet modern scholarship is challenging this assumption on the basis that if Jesus used this term at all, then it was in reference to a figure other than himself. Or if he did use it of himself, it was only in a limited way. Carefully examine the use of *Son of Man* in the gospel literature with special reference to Dan. 7 and assess whether this term 'evolved' as a designation of Jesus by the early Church or is to be located in Jesus's own usage.
3. What does the image of the *Corporate Christ* in the writings of Paul indicate to us about Paul's Christology?
4. How do the New Testament writers handle the theme of the death of Christ? Use either Paul, or TWO of the gospel *Passion Narratives* to substantiate your view.

### Illustrative Bibliography

Brown, Raymond E., (1977)	<i>The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke</i>	Doubleday
_____(1994)	<i>The Death of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives of the Four Gospels</i>	Doubleday
Furnish, Victor Paul(1993)	<i>Jesus According to Paul, Understanding Jesus Today</i>	CUP
Kee, Howard Clark(1996)	<i>Jesus in History: an Approach to the Study of the Gospels</i>	Harcourt Brace
Kingsburg Jack Dean, (1989)	<i>The Christology of Mark's Gospel</i>	Fortress Press
Krieg, Robert A. (1994)	<i>Story-Shaped Christology: The Role of Narratives in Identifying Jesus Christ</i>	Paulist Press
Meier, John P. (1990)	<i>The Mission of Christ and His Church: Essays on Christology and Ecclesiology</i>	Michael Glazier
Painter, John (1993)	<i>The Quest for the Messiah: the History, Literature, and Theology of the Johannine Community</i>	Abingdon
Robbins, Vernon K. (1992)	<i>Jesus the Teacher: A Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation of Mark</i>	Fortress Press
Rousseau, John J. & Rami Arav,(1995)	<i>Jesus and His World: An Archaeological and Cultural Dictionary</i>	Fortress

Schnackenburg, Rudolph (1995)	<i>Jesus in the Gospels: a Biblical Christology</i>	John Knox
Schillebeeckx, Edward(1980)	<i>Christ: The Experience of Jesus as Lord</i>	Crossroad