

CHRISTOLOGY SYLLABUS  
DIOCESAN INSTITUTE FOR ECCLESIAL MINISTRY  
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN

SPRING 2010

May 8 and 15 – 8:45 AM to 4:00 PM  
June 5 – 8:45 AM to 4:00 PM

Rev. Rusty P. Richard  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to present the many different ways that the Church has understood Jesus Christ through the centuries. Our purpose is to address the question: “Who do you say that I am?” (*Mark 8:29, Matthew 16:15, Luke 9:20*)

In order to do this, we will examine Biblical Christologies in the first session. Here we will explore the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith by investigating Old Testament expectations and their fulfillment in the New Testament. The second session will focus on Classical Christologies. We will look at the development of Christological dogmas of the Church and the controversies about Jesus in the early Church. The final part of the course concentrates on some Contemporary Christologies. We will then reflect on our current understanding of Jesus Christ and how it affects our daily life and ministry.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The candidate will

- Display a basic understanding of Christological terms and concepts (C.1)
- Articulate an understanding of the historical Jesus, including his life, mission, death and resurrection (C.2)
- Survey the history of the development of Christological dogmas of the Church and current evolution in the field of Christology (C.3)
- Articulate an understanding of Jesus’ humanity and divinity and show an ability to assist others in their understanding (C.4)
- Critically reflect on the study of Jesus Christ (C.5)
- Explore the relationship between one’s Christological understanding and one’s daily life and ministry (C.6)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The candidate will be required to

- Complete the reading assignments for each session (C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4)
- Listen attentively to in-class presentations (C.3)
- Participate in class activities and discussions (C.1, C. 2, C.3, C.4, C.5, C.6)
- Assignment 1 – Complete a take home project (C.4, C.5, C.6)
- Assignment 2 - Write a two-page critical reflection at the end of the course (C.1, C.5, C.6)

Grades will be determined according to the candidate's performance in all aspects of the course. The relative weight of each component of the grade will be as follows:

- Class participation and evidence of thoughtful and intelligent engagement in class activities and discussions (20 points)
- Assignment 1 - Take home project (40 points)
- Assignment 2 - Two-page critical reflection (40 points)

#### REQUIRED TEXT

Thomas P. Rausch, S.J., Ph.D., *Who is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*. (Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2003)

#### REQUIRED READINGS

Below are the required readings and the dates when those readings should be completed.

##### Session One – May 8

Thomas P. Rausch, S.J., Ph.D., *Who is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*.  
Introduction, Chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-93)

The Gospel of Mark

##### Session Two – May 15

Thomas P. Rausch, S.J., Ph.D., *Who is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*.  
Chapters 6-9 (pp. 95-164)

##### Session Three – June 5

Thomas P. Rausch, S.J., Ph.D., *Who is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*.  
Chapters 10-11 (pp. 165-204)

The Gospel of Luke 10:25-37

The Gospel of John 9:1-41

#### COURSE OUTLINE

This outline is tentative and subject to change as the need arises.

