



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	INTERPRETING JESUS IN AUSTRALIA
UNIT CODE	C52120
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	C
PREREQUISITE/S	C51013 Introducing Theology
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact, including weekly seminars of 1 hour, and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Odd Years – Semester 2
PREPARED BY	Rev Dr Ormond Rush
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr Ormond Rush
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr Ormond Rush
DATE PREPARED	6 September 2006

Rationale

The core belief of Christians is that God has been revealed to them through Jesus Christ and that salvation comes through him. All other Christian belief derives from this foundational experience of divine revelation and divine salvation through Jesus Christ. A systematic theology of beliefs in Jesus Christ is a central area of systematic theology. Awareness of the hermeneutical and methodological issues involved in the interpretation of Jesus Christ is an important competence for doing Christology in an Australian context.

Relation to program

This elective unit teaches specialist knowledge and skills in systematic theology (Field C) by focusing on the doctrines related to Jesus Christ. The event in human history on which the Christian religion is founded, the historical event of Jesus Christ, requires constant re-interpretation throughout history from diverse contexts. The unit therefore is an appropriate focus for undergraduate study because of the centrality of belief in Jesus Christ for all beliefs addressed in systematic theology and the need to examine the specific Australian context within which the interpretation of that event takes place. It allows the student to advance their skills in theologizing and to deepen their understanding of the content of the Church's theology. This elective presupposes the introductory knowledge and skills acquired in *C51013 Introducing Theology*.

Aims

This unit aims to examine the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the genesis of belief in his divinity through attention to the witness of Scripture, tradition, contemporary historical Jesus research, as well as contemporary contexts for doing Christology, especially the Australian context.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Explain and illustrate the hermeneutical and contextual issues in Christology;
2.	Outline the distinctive features of Jesus' mission, ministry and death;
3.	Analyse and explain the significance for Christian belief of Christ's resurrection and the disciples' experience of his post-resurrection appearances;
4.	Distinguish and illustrate the diverse models of interpretation of Jesus Christ employed by early Christian communities before and after the Resurrection, as found in Scripture and tradition;
5.	Appraise the approaches of contemporary christologies, particularly from the perspective of the suffering, the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized.

Content

- 1 Hermeneutical and methodological issues
- 2 The ministry of Jesus
- 3 Jesus' death and resurrection
- 4 Scriptural Interpretations of Jesus Christ
- 5 Development of beliefs regarding Jesus Christ
- 6 Contemporary issues and approaches in Christology

Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time comprises lectures and seminars, the latter including both small group and whole class discussion of issues raised in lectures, the students' own reading and selected primary texts.

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Written essay	2500	50%	Week 7	1-4
2	Written essay	2500	50%	Week 14	5

Notes on Assessment

- Item 1 Will develop the student's ability to collect, analyse and organize information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently, in written form.
- Item 2 Will develop the student's ability to apply critical reasoning to issues through independent thought and informed judgement and the ability to generate ideas and to adapt innovatively to changing environments.

Bibliography

Textbooks

Rausch, Thomas P. *Who Is Jesus?: An Introduction to Christology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Recommended

Wright, NT & Marcus Borg. *The Meaning of Jesus*. London: SPCK, 1999.

References – Books

- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*. New York: Paulist, 1994.
- Cook, Michael L. *Christology as Narrative Quest*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1997.
- Clifford, Anne M & Anthony J Godzieba (eds). *Christology: Memory, Inquiry, Practice*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2003.
- Dunn, James DG. *Jesus Remembered*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Goergen, Donald. *Jesus, Son of God, Son of Mary, Immanuel. A Theology of Jesus Vol 4*; Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1995.
- Haight, Roger. *Jesus, Symbol of God*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1999.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Loewe, William P. *The College Student's Introduction to Christology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1996.
- McDermott, Brian O. *Word Become Flesh: Dimensions of Christology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993.
- Meyer, Marvin W & Charles Hughes (eds). *Jesus Then & Now: Images of Jesus in History and Christology*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2001.
- Schüssler Fiorenza, Elizabeth. *Jesus: Miriam's Child, Sophia's Prophet. Critical Issues in Feminist Christology*. New York: Continuum, 1994.
- Wright, NT. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. London: SPCK, 1996.

References - Journals

- Byrne, Brendan. "Gospel Narrative and the Jesus of History: Where Should Christology Begin?" *Pacifica* 13 (2000), 49-66.
- Cahill, Michael. "An Uncertain Jesus: Theological and Scholarly Ambiguities" *Irish Theological Quarterly* 63 (1998), 22-37.
- Del Agua, Agustín. "The Narrative Identity of Christians According to the New Testament" *Concilium*. Creating Identity (2000), 91-99.
- Fortin-Melkevik, Anne. "The Identity of the Christian Following Jesus Christ". *Concilium*. Who Do you Say That I Am? (1997), 91-101.
- Haight, Roger. "The Impact of Jesus Research on Christology". *Louvain Studies* 21 (1996), 216-228.
- Haight, Roger. "Two Types of Christology". *Chicago Studies* 38 (1999), 117-127.
- Johnson, Elizabeth A. "Jesus, the Wisdom of God: A Biblical Basis for Non-Androcentric Christology". *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 61 (1985), 261-294.
- Keating, James F. "The Invincible Allure of the Historical Jesus for Systematic Theology" *Irish Theological Quarterly* 66 (2001), 211-226.
- Rush, Ormond. "Sensus Fidei: Faith 'Making Sense' of Revelation." *Theological Studies* 62 (2001), 231-261.
- Rush, Ormond. "Interpreting Jesus" in *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction for Students*. Tuggerah, NSW: Social Science Press, 2004.

References - Online and Other IT resources

The extensive online databases available through the library are the preferable online resources since they contain articles from refereed journals. Any other materials sourced from the web do not have that level of authority within the discipline.