

Syllabus for
THE 306—Christocentric Apologetics
“Jesus is THE Thesis”
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2023

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines Jesus Christ as the focal point, Savior, Ultimate Center, and thesis of the redemptive biblical story. This Christocentric theme will be elucidated through examination of the lineage, types, and affirmations contained in the person of Christ, being confirmed by His physical resurrection and the establishment of His church.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

After completing this course successfully, students will be able to:

- A. Discuss how this study of Jesus Christ has added to the student's overall education and how it pertains to civilization and the nature of the human experience.
- B. Demonstrate conceptual and analytical skills in oral discussions, written reports, papers, book reports, or exams in preparation for a Final Synthesis.
- C. Identify Jesus Christ in every book of the Bible.
- D. Critique ancient and contemporary models of the atonement.
- E. Articulate the meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- F. Identify and Articulate Christianity as the “True Myth”
- G. Apply the Christ centered method to ethics, sexuality, and politics.

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program.

- A. Historical Philosophical Theology
 - a. Outcome 1- Students will master the use of critical thinking skills in the context of the disciplines of historical and philosophical theology.
 - b. Outcome 2- Students will develop a capacity for assessing appropriate information for reliability, bias, and relevance
 - c. Outcome 3- Students will master research methods and produce research papers and class presentations which comply with academic style guidelines.
 - d. Outcome 4- Students will produce a capstone research project that displays mastery of a topic in historical and philosophical theology.

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page.

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit
- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

Otto, Rudolph. *Idea of the Holy*. Oxford University Press, 1958.
ISBN-13: 978-1578988617

Richardson, Don. *Eternity in Their Hearts*. Bethany House, 2014.
ISBN-978-0-7642-1558-2

Download Essay (Provided on D2L)

Tolkien, J.R.R. “On Fairy Stories”. First published in *Essays Presented to Charles Williams*, Oxford Press, 1945.

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. Department Policies and Procedures

1. Completion of a Course

- a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
- b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.

2. Incompletes

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

3. Examinations and Other Assignments

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
- b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition or the last day of final examinations. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
- d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.

4. Self-Plagiarism Policy

Students cannot reuse part or all of an assignment from another course without written permission from the current instructor/faculty member. This is considered self-plagiarism and therefore goes against ORU's policies against plagiarism.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures (1000 points possible)

- A.) Weekly Reading Verifications (15%=150 points)
The WRV is a form that will be signed by the student verifying that he or she has completed the assigned weekly readings.
- B.) Jesus in Every Book Exam (15%=150 points)
The student will be asked to identify Jesus Christ in every book of the Bible.
- C.) The True Myth Exam (15%=150 points)
The student will be asked to articulate the major pillars of Christianity as "The True Myth".
- D.) Position Paper (15%=150 points)
The student will write a paper pertaining to the theory of the Atonement which he or she feels is the most accurate and compelling.
- E.) Final Synthesis (25%=250 points)

The student will write a Synthesis utilizing ALL of the Christocentric Pillars discussed in this course.

F.) Group Interaction (10%=100 points)

Group Interaction points will be accrued by being present at and participating in Group Discussions.

G.) Class Exuberance (5%=50 points)

Class Exuberance points will be accrued by:

- 1- Being fully engaged in class
- 2- Being present (attendance)
- 3- Being awake (engaged)
- 4- Not participating in sidebar conversations (aware)
- 5- Not engaging in the use of phones, or inappropriate usage of the internet (or other electronic devices ...)

2. Final Grading Scale:

A= 90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= 0-59%

VI. COURSE CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENT GUIDE

(SEE D2L CONTENT)

Primary Program: HPTH
THE 306—Christocentric Apologetics
“Jesus is THE Thesis”
Fall 2023

This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

OUTCOMES	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution
Spiritual Integrity			
THE 306- Outcome A: Discuss how this study of Jesus Christ has added to the student’s overall education and how it pertains to civilization and the nature of the human experience.			
THE 306- Outcome B: Demonstrate conceptual and analytical skills in oral discussions, written reports, papers, book reports, or exams in preparation for a Final Synthesis.			
Outcome 2: Students will develop a capacity for assessing appropriate information for reliability, bias, and relevance.			

Personal Resilience			
THE 306- Outcome A: Discuss how this study of Jesus Christ has added to the student’s overall education and how it pertains to civilization and the nature of the human experience.			
THE 306 – Outcome F: Apply the Christ centered method to ethics, sexuality, cosmology and politics.			
Outcome 3: Students will master research methods and produce research papers and class presentations which comply with academic style guidelines.			
Outcome 4: Students will produce a capstone research project that displays mastery of a topic in historical and philosophical theology.			

Intellectual Pursuit			
THE 306 – Outcome B: Demonstrate conceptual and analytical skills in oral discussions, written reports, papers, book reports, or exams in preparation for a Final Synthesis.			
THE 306- Outcome D: Critique ancient and contemporary arguments against the physical Resurrection of Jesus Christ.			
Outcome 1: Students will master the use of critical thinking skills in the context of the disciplines of historical and philosophical theology.			

Global Engagement			
THE 306- Outcome E: Identify and Articulate Christianity as the “True Myth”			
Outcome 2: Students will develop a capacity for assessing appropriate information for reliability, bias, and relevance.			

Bold Vision			
THE 306– Outcome C: Identify Jesus Christ in every book of the Bible.			
THE 306- Outcome E: Identify and Articulate Christianity as the “True Myth”			
Outcome 3: Students will master research methods and produce research papers and class presentations which comply with academic style guidelines.			