

Course Syllabus
Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324-1623

I. Course Number and Title: ST 990j Directed Study: Christology

II. Credit Hours; Semester; Meeting Times and Place: 3 credit hours. Winter, 2018. Meetings take place as needed.

III. Instructor: Gregory A. Banazak; Phone: (248) 683-0419 (direct line to office); e-mail: gabanazak@yahoo.com (=best way).

IV. Office Hours and Location: Marian Hall, second floor, at the West end (the end closest to the Seminary Building).

V. Course Description: Scriptural and theological study of Jesus Christ: the quest for the historical Jesus; examination of his ministry, death, and resurrection; Christological controversies and the councils of the first millennium; theological perspectives on Jesus' self-knowledge, freedom, and virgin birth; the nature and uniqueness of Jesus' saving work; insights from Latin American, Black, Feminist, and other Christologies.

VI. Student Learning Outcome: To complete study in Christology begun in two previous courses.

VII. Explanation of Method of Instruction: This course is intended to bring to completion the student's fulfillment of the Christology requirement in the M.Div. degree program at our seminary (that is, a three-credit hour course in the subject). The student has already completed course work equivalent to that covered in our seminary's course, ST 611 "Christology", in two courses taken elsewhere, viz., a course in "Dogmatic (Fundamental) Theology -Christology" in Poland and the course DT 513 "Christology and Soteriology" at Mundelein Seminary, Chicago. The only assignment remaining to be finished is a research paper, as this was only assignment he did not complete in the aforementioned courses in Poland and Chicago. Hence the present course is focused exclusively on the completion of a research paper.

VIII. General Guidelines

1. **Guidelines for Academic Study:** Students are expected to devote at least 2 to 3 hours of study per week, per credit hour. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit.

2. **Standards for Written Assignments:** Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy. They must be proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (latest edition). The manual is available in the Library. Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments.

3. **Submission of Assignments in both Printed and Digital Form:** According to seminary policy, all written work for this class must be submitted to the instructor in digital form. They should be sent to his email address which is listed on the first page of this syllabus.

In addition, the instructor would also like a hard copy of all written work.

4. **Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (a created production) without crediting the source vi: to commit literary

theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a “0” for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student’s file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student’s mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student’s plagiarism and a faculty member of the student’s choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as “to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death> intransitive verb: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards> <cheating on a test> (“cheat.” [Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary](http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat). 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May, 2010.<http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>).

In short, “cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game” (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale [Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence](http://www.gale.com), 1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
- i. using another person’s paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
- j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.

(The term “exam” may be substituted with “quiz,” “paper,” or “presentation” as the case may be.)

IX. Assignment: In order to develop the student's interests in course material, and in order to increase his ability to do research on the graduate level, he is required to write a research paper of 10 to 15 pages for this course.

The subject of the research paper will be any topic directly related to Christology. The paper may cover any aspect of Christology (Scriptural, historical, dogmatic, liturgical, ecumenical, interreligious, literary, spiritual, etc...) but it must be a work of systematic theology. It must argue for a thesis which is debatable (and not simply a statement of fact, a re-statement of the obvious, or an exclusively or primarily personal reflection). It is *imperative* that the topic of the paper be of interest to the student.

At various points throughout the semester the student will submit the written items evincing progress in research. The form for all foot/end notes and bibliographical entries (or parenthetical references and reference list) in all these written items must be taken from Kate Turabian’s [Manual](http://www.kate-turabian.com), 8th edition. Here are the items and the dates for their submission.

On **February 1**, the student will submit his thesis statement typed on a sheet of paper (with name and the date at the top); the same statement will be in a MS Word document attached to an email sent to the instructor. This statement will be a *brief but complete sentence* which expresses the *topic* of the paper and the student's *position*

on the topic (note that this is not the same as the title of the paper). The thesis statement should be broad enough for the student to find resources but specific enough for him to be able to discuss it within the limits of the final copy. As soon as possible the instructor will return this thesis statement to the student with comments.

On **February 12**, the student will submit a typed and no more than one-page tentative outline along with a typed and no more than one-page tentative bibliography of sources (this bibliography will include at least three books and three journal articles); the same outline and bibliography should be in a MS Word document attached to an email and sent to the instructor. As soon as possible the instructor will return this outline and bibliography with comments.

On **March 12**, the student will submit a rough draft of his paper; the same rough draft should be in a document attached to an email and sent to the instructor (the document must be in MS Word 2007 or earlier --- it must end in the extensions .doc or docx.). This rough draft must be the complete paper and follow all the above requirements for the paper. That is, it must be 10 to 15 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, on clean typing / computer paper, paginated, and characterized by perfect spelling, grammar, and punctuation. It will have end/foot notes and bibliography (or parenthetical references and a reference list) formatted according to the style presented in Kate Turabian's Manual, 8th edition. The only difference between the rough draft and the final copy of the paper is that this rough draft may be changed after the instructor has read it and offered his comments. As soon as possible, the instructor will return this rough draft to the student with comments.

On **March 23** the student will submit the final copy of his paper. *Both* a digital *and* a hard copy of this paper must be given to the instructor: the digital copy should be an attachment to an email sent to him and the hard copy of the paper must be given to the instructor in person or delivered to his office. The electronic copy must be in MS Word 2007 or earlier (it must end in the extensions .doc or docx.). This final copy must incorporate corrections suggested for the rough draft, must be approximately 10 to 15 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, on clean typing / computer paper, paginated, and characterized by perfect spelling, grammar, and punctuation. It will have end/foot notes and bibliography (or parenthetical references and a reference list) formatted according to the style presented in Kate Turabian's Manual, 8th edition (if the form of the notes / bibliography or parenthetical references/reference does not closely follow Turabian form, the grade of the paper will fall one entire grade; e.g. from an original B+ to C+). The instructor will return the paper to the student on **April 3** with a grade and comments.

The paper will be graded on the following five criteria: (1) Regarding the thesis statement: it must be plausible, insightful, clear, and arguable (not obvious, a statement of fact, or a personal statement); (2) Regarding the argumentation: The argumentation should be clear, coherent, and logical, should display critical thinking, should avoid simple description, and should diffuse counter arguments; (3) Regarding content and sources: The content should have depth, engage the issues, recognize the presuppositions, and be relevant to the course. The amount and kind of sources should reflect the perspectives found in the theological community; (4) Regarding organization and structure: The paper should be well organized. There should be clear paragraphs; it should have strong topic sentences and transitions. (5) Regarding mechanics: Grammar, punctuation and spelling should be perfectly correct. The Turabian style for bibliography and foot/endnotes or reference list and parenthetical references must be followed flawlessly.

The grade for the paper will count for 100% of the student's final grade for this course.

X. Grading: The student's final grade for this course will be the grade he receives for the research paper.

XI. Notice of Change: The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.