

# P50SF05 Theological Anthropology

Master of Theology Degree  
Pacific Theological College  
Semester 2B, 2015  
Course Lecturer: Dr Richard Davis, Richard.Davis@ptc.ac.fj

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## Course Description

The understanding of what it means to be a human being is a central concern of ecumenical theology and ethics. This course will begin with Christian theological understandings of what a human being is from the biblical accounts of humans made in the image of God (imago Trinitatis), to the Fall, to the incarnation of God as human in Jesus Christ, and humanity's new status as the new Adam in Christ. It will trace traditions of theological reflection on the human creature through church history up to the modern period. Throughout the course, a Christian understanding of the human will enter into dialogue with other views of human nature from disciplines such as the sciences, the arts, economics, politics, world religions, and cultures, and ideologies such as feminism, socialism, and capitalism. Students who complete the course will have surveyed this important theological topic though some of the classic doctrines of theology, such as sin, soteriology, and the Trinity. They will be able to develop their own contextual theological anthropology as a critical tool in thinking theologically about contemporary social issues in the Pacific and beyond.

## Objectives

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- give an account of the importance of theological anthropology
- describe the issues surrounding the image of God
- relate sin to the human condition
- relate a theological understanding of the human to politics and economics
- understand the importance of the body to theological anthropology
- develop a contextual theological anthropology

## Textbook and Readings

The textbook for this class is Nonna Verna Harrison's *God's Many-Splendored Image: Theological Anthropology for Christian Formation* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010). This is available from the PTC bookshop and is also in the library. We are reading most of this book for the course so you need to have it.

The other essential work is the World Council of Churches' publication *Christian Perspectives on Theological Anthropology* (Faith and Order Paper no. 199, 2005). This is in the library and can be downloaded from <http://bitly.com/FaithOrder199>.

These two works are supplemented by a number of other **Required Readings** from books and journals. The books from which these are taken will be kept on closed reserve in the PTC Library. Ask at the issue desk for them. It is up to you whether you read them in the library or photocopy them for your personal study. Journal articles and book chapters will either be available online, through the library's online ATLA Religion Database, or in the library's filing cabinet.

Lists of **Further Optional Readings** are for students wanting to pursue topics further, perhaps in essays, and

sometimes include the sources used in the preparation of lectures.

Other works in **Theological Anthropology** that the library holds include:

- Comblin, José. 1990. *Retrieving the Human: A Christian Anthropology*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.
- Gandolfo, Elizabeth O'Donnell. 2015. *The Power and Vulnerability of Love: A Theological Anthropology*. Baltimore, Maryland: Project Muse.
- Kelsey, David H. 2009. *Eccentric Existence: A Theological Anthropology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.
- Macquarrie, John. 1985. *In Search of Humanity: A Theological and Philosophical Approach*. New York: Crossroad.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. 1974. *Man: Christian Anthropology in the Conflicts of the Present*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. 1985. *Anthropology in Theological Perspective*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. 1970. *What is Man?: Contemporary Anthropology in Theological Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Schwarz, Hans. 2013. *The Human Being: A Theological Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

There are also some other studies about the Pacific person:

- Goodale, Jane C. 1995. *To Sing with Pigs Is Human: The Concept of Person in Papua New Guinea*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

**Note on Language:** It is old fashioned and now considered sexist to refer to humans as "men". In our own speech and writing it is considered good practice to use inclusive language, such as "humans", "humanity", or "men and women", instead of "man" or "mankind". Some older literature will use "man" and we need to read carefully to see whether the author means actual men or humans in general.

## Assessment

In all assignments please use, as far as possible, primary sources when discussing someone's theology. If necessary you may quote from original sources from secondary sources, but I wish to see engagement with the unmediated ideas of theologians. Both assignments must have a completed "PTC Assignment Cover Sheet" attached to the front of the assignment. This can be obtained from [http://ptc.ac.fj/?page\\_id=1136](http://ptc.ac.fj/?page_id=1136).

### Minor Assessment

1) Class Presentation and Essay, 2000-2500 words (30% of final grade), due Friday of Assessment Week by 4pm to College Reception.

You will select, in agreement with the lecturer, to present the two or three **Required Readings** for a scheduled class. In the second half of that session you will present the readings in summary form, highlighting the key points, outlining the argument, and then raising some questions for group discussion. Time for presentation is 15-25 minutes, followed by discussion. Your presentation must be written up and handed in as an essay (or write the essay first and then present that). A draft may be shown to the lecturer for feedback prior to final submission at the end of the Semester.

In-class presentations (worth 50% of the 30%) will be graded holistically according to the following criteria:

- **Accuracy:** Does the presentation accurately convey the meaning of the assigned text?
- **Priority:** Does the presentation accurately distinguish between the main ideas and ancillary details of the assigned text?

- **Criticism:** Does the presentation offer coherent criticisms and questions of the assigned material?
- **Clarity:** Is the presentation well organized and easy to understand?
- **Length:** Does the presentation keep within the specified time limit, being neither too short nor too long?

## Major Final Assignment

2) 4000 words (70% of final grade), due Friday of Assessment Week (30 October 2015) by 4pm to College Reception.

You have been asked by your Church to write a report in response to the World Council of Churches paper *Christian Perspectives on Theological Anthropology* (reference above).

In writing your response you must draw on your Christian understandings of the human person from the position of your Church and your context (however you define it). In this task you must identify points of agreement with the document, and points of disagreement, but at each stage your position must be backed up with reference to the sources of theology (such as course readings, other books, and the Bible), a close reading of the document itself, and your own cultural resources.

As this a long document you might choose to reply and discuss just a part of it. But whatever you chose to focus on, you must give brief reasons for doing so.

## Course Outline

This course is taught over seven weeks with two sessions a week.

### Week 1 - Course Introduction (week beginning 07 September 2015)

#### Session 1: Introduction to Theological Anthropology

No readings.

#### Session 2: The Human Condition in Theological Perspective

##### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Introduction and Chapter 1
- Memmi, Albert. 1965. *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, New York: Orion. Chapter entitled, 'Mythical portrait of the colonized', p. 79–89. [in library]

##### Further Optional Reading

- Arendt, Hannah. 1959. *The Human Condition*. Garden City: Doubleday. [in library]

### Week 2 - The Image of God (week beginning 14 September 2015)

#### Session 1: The Human as Body, Mind, and Spirit

##### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapters 2 and 3

##### Further Optional Reading

- Hoekema, Anthony A. 1994. *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [in library]
- Kilner, John F. 2015. *Dignity and Destiny: Humanity in the Image of God*. Grand Rapids:

Eerdmans. [in library]

- Murphy, Nancey C. 2006. *Bodies and Souls, or Spirited Bodies?*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [in library]
- Smail, Tom. 2006. *Like Father, Like Son: The Trinity Imaged in Our Humanity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [in library]

## Session 2: The Human as a Moral Being and a Sinner

### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapter 4
- Ayala, Francisco J. 2010. "The difference of being human: Morality" In *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* Vol. 107, Supplement 2: In the Light of Evolution IV: The Human Condition (May 11, 2010), pp. 9015–9022. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25681533> [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Morality](http://bit.ly/TA_Morality)

### Further Optional Reading

- Schwarz, Hans. 2013. *The Human Being: A Theological Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

## Week 3 - Human Children, Men, and Women (week beginning 21 September 2015)

### Session 1: The Human Child

#### Required Reading

- Becker, Ulrich. 1979. "The Child in Theology and Church". *The Ecumenical Review* 31(3):234–240. ONLINE: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0000915982&site=ehost-live>
- DeVries, Dawn. 2001. "Toward a Theology of Childhood" *Interpretation*, 55(2):161–173. ONLINE: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0000272649&site=ehost-live>
- Wesley, John. "Sermon 96: On Obedience to Parents". ONLINE: <http://www.lcoggt.org/Wesley%20Sermons/096.htm>

#### Further Optional Reading

- Barth, Karl. 1961. *Church Dogmatics* III/4, §54.2 Edinburgh: T&T Clark.
- Bunge, Marcia J., Fretheim, Terence E., Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, 2008. *The Child in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Bunge, Marcia J. 2001. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Cully, Iris V. 1983. "A Theology of Children." *Review & Expositor*, 80(2):201–210. ONLINE: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0000930214&site=ehost-live>

### Session 2: Human Gender and Sexuality

#### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapter 5
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford. 1996. "Christian Understandings of Human Nature and Gender." In *Religion, Feminism, and the Family*, edited by Anne E. Carr and Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, 95–110. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. [in library]

#### Further Optional Reading

- Hampson, Daphne. 1990. *Theology and Feminism* Oxford: Blackwell, 1990. [in library]
- Valerie Saiving Goldstein. 1960. "The Human Situation: A Feminine View." *The Journal of Religion*, 40(2):100–112. [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Goldstein](http://bit.ly/TA_Goldstein)
- Kopas, Jane. 1995. "Beyond Mere Gender: Transforming Theological Anthropology." In Hinsdale, Mary A., and Phyllis H. Kaminski. *Women and Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis.

## Week 4 - Humans as Creatures (week beginning 28 September 2015)

### Session 1: Human Embodiment

#### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapter 6
- Keenan, James F. 1994. "Christian Perspectives on the Human Body." *Theological Studies*, 55(2):330–346. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rft&AN=ATLA0000882213&site=ehost-live>

#### Further Optional Reading

- Plato, *Phaedo* <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedo.html>
- Robinson, John A. T. 1952. *The Body: A Study in Pauline Theology* London: SCM Press. [in library]
- Nelson, James B. 1978. *Embodiment: An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology* Minneapolis: Augsburg. [in library]

### Session 2: Humans and other Animals

#### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapter 7
- Cunningham, David S. 2009. "The Way of All Flesh: Rethinking the Imago Dei." In *Creaturely Theology: On God, Humans and Other Animals*, edited by Celia Deane-Drummond and David Clough, 100–117. London: SCM Press. [in library]

#### Further Optional Reading

- Brown, Warren S., Nancey C. Murphy, and H. Newton Malony, eds. 1998. *Whatever Happened to the Soul?: Scientific and Theological Portraits of Human Nature*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Deane-Drummond, Celia, and David Clough, eds. 2009. *Creaturely Theology: On God, Humans and Other Animals*. London: SCM Press. [in library]

## Week 5 - Work and Art (week beginning 05 October 2015)

### Session 1: The Human Worker

#### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapter 8
- Saint Augustine. "Of the Works of Monks" ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/TA\\_WorksMonks](http://bit.ly/TA_WorksMonks)

#### Further Optional Reading

- Arbesmann, Rudolph. 1973. 'The Attitude of St. Augustine Toward Labor' in *The Heritage of the Early Church: Essays in Honor of Georges Vasilievich Florovsky on the occasion of his Eightieth Birthday* Roma, Pont. Institutum Studiorum Orientalium. [in library]
- Cosden, Darrell. 2004. *A Theology of Work: Work and the New Creation* Bletchley: Paternoster. [in library]

- Cochrane, James R. and Gerald O. West, eds. 1991. *The Three-Fold Cord: Theology, Work and Labour*, Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications. [in library]
- Volf, Miroslav. 2001. *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock.

## Session 2: The Human Artist

### Required Reading

- Gill, Eric. 1933. "Art and Industrialism". In *Beauty Looks After Herself*, 180–207. London: Sheed and Ward.
- Carroll, Noël. 2004. "Art and Human Nature" in *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 62(2), Special Issue: Art, Mind, and Cognitive Science (Spring, 2004): 95–107. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1559194>

### Further Optional Reading

- Begbie, Jeremy S. 1991. *Voicing Creation's Praise: Towards a Theology of the Arts*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark. [in library]
- Brunner, Emil. 1948. *Christianity and Civilisation: Second Part: Specific Problems*. London: Nisbet & Co. [in library]
- Hanson, F. Allan and Louise Hanson. 1990. *Art and Identity in Oceania*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. [in library]
- Haynes, Deborah J. 1993. "Theology of the Arts and the Vocation of the Artist" in *ARTS*, 6(1):11–13. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rfh&AN=ATLA0000907001&site=ehost-live>
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas. 1980. *Art in Action: Toward a Christian Aesthetic*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

## Week 6 - The Social and Political Animal (week beginning 12 October 2015)

### Session 1: Politics and Human Nature

#### Required Reading

- *God's Many-Splendored Image*, Chapter 9
- Niebuhr, Reinhold. 1960. *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Chapter 1 'Man and Society: The Art of Living Together' [in library]

#### Further Optional Reading

- Pennock, J. Roland and John W. Chapman, eds. 1977. *Human Nature in Politics*. New York: New York University Press.
- Bennett, John C. 1941. *Christian Realism*. London: SCM Press.

### Session 2: Economics and Human Nature

#### Required Reading

- Heyne, Paul. 2008. "Can Homo Economicus Be Christian?." In Geoffrey Brennan and A. M. C. Waterman, eds. *"Are Economists Basically Immoral?" and Other Essays on Economics, Ethics, and Religion*, 49–80. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund. [in library] ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Heyne](http://bit.ly/TA_Heyne)
- Meeks, M. Douglas. 2001. "Being Human in the Market Society." *Quarterly Review* 21(3):254–265.

#### Further Optional Reading

- Daly, Herman E. and John B. Cobb, Jr. 1994. *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy*

*toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapter 4, 'Misplaced Concreteness: Homo economicus'.

■ Tugwell, Rexford G. 1922. "Human Nature in Economic Theory." *Journal of Political Economy* 30(3):317–345. ONLINE <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1822708>

## Week 7 - Disability, Illness, and Death (week beginning 19 October 2015)

### Session 1: Disability and Illness

#### Required Reading

- Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologica*, Q. 68, Art. 12, 'Whether madmen and imbeciles should be baptized?' [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Aquinas1](http://bit.ly/TA_Aquinas1)
- Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologica*, Q. 80, Art. 9, 'Whether those who have not the use of reason ought to receive this sacrament?' [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Aquinas2](http://bit.ly/TA_Aquinas2)
- Hauerwas, Stanley. 1986. "Suffering the Retarded: Should We Prevent Retardation?." In *Suffering Presence: Theological Reflections on Medicine, the Mentally Handicapped and the Church*, 159–181. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. [in library]

#### Further Optional Reading

- Brock, Brian and Swinton, John, eds. 2012. *Disability in the Christian Tradition: A Reader*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [in library]
- Tnines, Martin, ed. 2010. *Making Sense of Disability in Papua New Guinea: Perceptions and Treatment of Disability in PNG*. Papua New Guinea: Melanesian Institute. [in library]

### Session 2: Death and Immortality

#### Required Reading

- Humanity+. 2009. *Transhumanist Declaration* [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Transhumanist](http://bit.ly/TA_Transhumanist)
- Fukuyama, Francis. 2004. "Transhumanism." *Foreign Policy*. 144:42–43. [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Fukuyama](http://bit.ly/TA_Fukuyama)
- Daly, Todd. 2005. "Life-Extension in Transhumanist and Christian perspectives: Consonance and Conflict" *Journal of Evolution and Technology*. 14(2). ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/TA\\_Daly](http://bit.ly/TA_Daly)

#### Further Optional Reading

- Davies, Douglas J. 2005. *A Brief History of Death*. Oxford: Blackwell
- Hauerwas, Stanley. 2003. *Growing Old in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. 1962. *The Shape of Death: Life, Death and Immortality in the Early Fathers*. New York: Macmillan. [in library]
- Meilaender, Gilbert. 2013. *Should We Live Forever?: The Ethical Ambiguities of Aging*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Rae, Scott B., and Paul M. Cox. 1999. *Bioethics: A Christian Approach in a Pluralistic Age*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [in library]
- Rahner, Karl. 1964. *On the Theology of Death*. Freiburg: Herder. [in library]