

DRAFT v3
Subject to change. Full
syllabus available in Canvas
week of March 17, 2027.

Christ and the Christian Tradition
Loyola Institute for Ministry
Loyola University New Orleans

RELM 370-YZ1
Spring 2027

Important: Please check your Canvas course and/or your Loyola email account for an email from the instructor alerting you the course is open, then reply to that email confirming you are ready to begin the course.

Because this is an online course and the instructor is a part-time faculty member, **the best way to reach your instructor is by email.** Feel free to contact your instructor with questions and suggestions. You may post questions of general concern to the **Question Board** accessed in Canvas on the course homepage. If you have concerns that are best communicated by a **phone call**, please provide your phone number through email and suggest evening or weekend times that you could receive a phone call.

Course Description

This course focuses on Jesus as the historical manifestation of God in human history (Christology) and studies tradition through the lens of grace, which is God's invitation to personal and communal transcendence. The course cites important moments in the history of Christian thought, with attention to how language, culture, and history have affected our interpretation of God's saving acts (historical theology).

Key Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- understand the historical development and meaning of the basic Christian teaching on Christ, on grace.
- understand the experiential basis for theology.
- reflect on contemporary theology.
- correlate what they learn in this course with their own faith lives and ministry contexts.
- pray the graces of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Required Course Materials

Please order the required text as soon as possible from the bookstore of your choice.

Dreyer, Elizabeth. *Manifestations of Grace*. Liturgical Press, 1990. ISBN 0-8146-5759-1.

Johnson, Elizabeth. *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology*. Continuum, 1992. ISBN 0-8245-1161-1. This book is available in Canvas as an ebook whose pages you may download. It is also available to read online at the [Internet Archive](#) after you create a free account.

Additional readings and videos available in Canvas and from the Monroe Library.

What You Should Bring to This Course

Please come to our coursework in Ministry and Theology (MTH) with the habits of mind and spirit that will help you do these things:

- Be willing to reflect deeply on your ministry, your role in it, and how God may be calling you to grow in that ministry and your life.
- Be able to study and grow within our MNTH intentional learning community, participating in its ongoing disciplined conversations.
- Organize your time so that you can be present online both early and often, surveying each week's work and completing tasks throughout the week instead of at the end (if everyone writes Canvas posts on the last day, then there's no "conversation" at all, let alone "disciplined conversation").
- Share your authentic ideas, insights, and questions to all our interactions.
- Arrive online prepared, ready to listen (or read!) carefully, and able to contribute meaningfully to the conversation.

Evaluation and Course Requirements

Sequence of Topics/Calendar of Assignments

Assigned readings, videos, and discussion items are provided in the weekly modules of the Canvas course. Each new week will **begin on Monday end the following Sunday at 11:59 pm. When the course begins, we will schedule full class and small group synchronous discussions.**

Week	Topic	Assignments
Week 1: March 22–28	Introductions Easter Holiday: March 25-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial Understanding• Personal Introduction

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Library Research Review • Discussion Questions
Week 2: March 29– April 4	The Crucified and Risen Jesus Proclaimed as Lord Easter Holiday: March 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Discussion Questions
Week 3: April 5–11	Early Councils and Creeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Discussion Questions • Prayer Journal 1 Due
Week 4: April 12–18	The Middle Ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Discussion Questions • Optional synchronous class meeting • Current Connections Assignment Due • Final Exam Prep
Week 5: April 19–25	Grace, Theology, and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Discussion Question
Week 6: April 26–May 2	The Twentieth Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Discussion Questions • Prayer Journal 2 Due • Optional synchronous class meeting • Final Exam Review available
Week 7: May 3–9	Creation and Liberation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned readings/media • Discussion Questions 1 and 2 • Current Connections Assignment Due
Week 8: May 10–16	Summing Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional video exam review (tentative date 5/10 or 5/11) • Complete final exam

Midterm Grades Due: TBA

Final Exam: Complete in a three-hour block of your choosing between 6:00 pm Central Time on Wednesday, May 12, and Thursday, May 13, 11:59 pm Central Time.

Final Grades Due: Tuesday, May 18 by 11:59 pm Central Time

Week 1 Assignments

- Complete Initial Understanding (assignment in Canvas)
- Complete Personal Introduction (assignment in Canvas)
- View tutorials for assistance in finding articles in Library (in Canvas)
- Spiritual Formation pages 2-6 and pray text for Week 1 (in Canvas)
- Read
 - Dreyer, Preface, Introduction, chapters 1-7
 - Johnson, Preface, chapter 1
- View Videos (in Canvas)

- Complete Discussion Questions 1 & 2 (in Canvas)

Assessment

Each student’s final grade will include the following parts:

		Percentage of Grade
1	Substantive participation in weekly discussion via online postings	50%
2	Spiritual Formation	10%
3	Current Connection Assignments	15%
4	Final Exam (open book; display mastery of objective components of course material)	25%

1) Substantive participation in weekly discussion via online postings (50%)

Directions for Weekly Posting in Discussions

Please note: All times are Central Time.

For each Discussion assignment, students are required to make three (3) posts: a major post of 200-400 words in which they respond to the question posted, and two (2) minor posts of no more than 150-200 words each in which they respond to two (2) of the major posts made by their fellow students. In weeks where there are two discussion board questions, students are required to make one major post and two minor posts for each question (totaling 2 major, 4 minor posts). Our weekly sessions will run from Tuesday to Monday.

Beginning Each Monday

- Read the overview for the week’s work and begin individual work for the week. Questions that arise about the material may be addressed to the professor in the Question Board or via email.
- Contributions to Discussions should reflect critical engagement with both the required readings as well as any other assigned material and should demonstrate itself as such.

By Wednesday, 11:59pm CT.

- When there is an assigned group leader, beginning several weeks into the semester, the first major post to the weekly discussion question is due by Thursday night for group leaders and by Saturday night for everyone else. Some weeks require students to answer more than one question as a major post.
- Groups will be created and assigned several weeks into the semester. When this occurs, the group discussion leader posts a response to the discussion

question by Thursday night. This initial post by the group discussion leader should also raise a question for the group to consider and be between 200-400 words (Major post).

By Friday, 11:59pm CT.

- Other members of the group respond to the discussion question by the end of Saturday night with a major post between 200-400 words. Either this initial post or a subsequent minor post should also address the group leader's question.

By Sunday, 11:59pm CT.

- All students respond to two other member's posts in 150-200 words by Monday night (Minor posts).
- All members should have a total of three discussion posts by Monday night (one Major, two Minor) for each discussion board question.

Contents of Discussion Post

To earn full credit, you should do the following things:

- post and respond by the deadline;
- adhere to word length requirements;
- refrain from inappropriate posts (words/tones that diminish the character and community of the course) Practice using "I-statements," avoid generalizations by qualifying your words;
- provide content of substance based on the course material—that is, not comments such as “I agree wholeheartedly,” but rather content that offers an original and informed contribution to the discussion, either as an opening or as a response, and reference course material;
- integrate (reference/cite) what you have read, how you understand the material, your experience, the remarks of your colleagues, and the course material;
- posting fully addresses the weekly questions and stimulates substantial follow-up postings;
- write in accessible prose—that is, not necessarily formal academic prose, but prose that is as clear and correct as you can make it, citing material not your own, and avoiding “text-speak” (using complete sentences rather than abbreviations and emoji to make your point, for example).

For a detailed explanation of the grading policy, please see the Rubric for Discussion Posts in Canvas in the Week 1 module. I look forward to seeing your comments and insights in the discussions.

2) Spiritual Formation (10%)

As part of the spiritual formation component of this program, the graces of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola have been woven through this course. In weeks 3 and 6, you will submit in Canvas a 300+-word journal entry in light of your prayer up to this point in the course. Complete details in Canvas.

3) Current Connection Assignments (15%)

You will compose 2 entries of 400+ words in length. Each will respond to a different article found in a list of assigned periodicals. Complete directions in Canvas.

4) Final Exam (25%)

The open-book final exam takes place for 3 hours between 6 pm Central Time Wednesday, May 10 and 11:59 pm Central Time Thursday, May 11. You will select the 3-hour time slot in which you'll take the exam. The purpose of the open-book final exam is for you to synthesize what you've learned in this class and articulate implications for you, the Church, and/or the world. You will also be asked to reflect on your experience of prayer on the final exam. You will receive an exam review and instructions in Week 6, and I will hold an optional, synchronous review session in Week 8. I will drop the lowest Discussion Board score for those who attend the review session.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82.9	D+	67-69.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	77-79.9	D	63-66.9
B+	87-89.9	C	73-76.9	F	0-62.99
B	83-86.9	C-	70-72.9		

Course Policies

Incomplete Grade Policy

Students are subject to the university policy regarding incomplete grades with the following additions to university policy. Grades of Incomplete are given at the instructor's discretion. Students must complete LIM's Incomplete Grade Request Form found in the Resources » Policies, Forms, & Services section of their Canvas course. Students should first inquire of their instructor whether or not they are eligible for an incomplete; this must occur with sufficient time to complete the process explained here. To be eligible, students may not have received an Incomplete in the previous semester,

must have completed at least 75% of the course work to date, and must have at least a C or above in the course. After the instructor makes an initial assessment of eligibility, including checking with the LIM Office to ensure there was no Incomplete in the previous semester and finds the student eligible, by the due date of the course's final assignment, a student must complete and obtain all signatures for LIM's Incomplete Grade Request Form found in the Resources section of their Canvas course and submit it to their instructor, who will forward a copy to the LIM Director. LIM graduate students may not receive Incompletes in LIM courses in consecutive semesters.

Attendance & Participation

Students are subject to the university policy regarding attendance found online in the *Bulletin*. Students in online courses communicate their presence by active participation in weekly discussions. Each course's instructor sets requirements for how many times students must post on the Discussion Board in Canvas. Failing to post during the first week of class may result in removal from the course. If you foresee that you will be unable to post in a given week, please contact the instructor ahead of time. Extensions for posting are given at the instructor's discretion and for a valid reason may be granted if arranged ahead of time. In extraordinary circumstances, students may arrange with their instructor to post up to two weeks after a deadline, though this may entail a grade reduction. Posts and other assignments submitted more than two weeks late may be subject to a grade of zero. If students do not post in a given week, they are considered absent. Absence for more than one week without contacting the instructor may result in removal from and failure of the course.

Tentatively, there will be two **optional video conferences** during the course. To participate, students will need access to a computer with a web camera and microphone, and earphones or earbuds. More information will be included in the Canvas course.

University Policies

Please read Part 2 of the syllabus (located in Canvas) for university policies on plagiarism, AI, accessible education, and more.