



Syllabus: SCS 125 The Christ

Dates/Time

June 23-27
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Place

Unity of Gaithersburg via Zoom
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Sponsor

Unity of Gaithersburg
111 Central Ave
Gaithersburg, MD

Course Instructor

Jane McCarthy
Licensed Unity Teacher
Email: Jane.McCarthy@unf.edu
Cell Phone 240 460 5925

Course Description

This course will explore The Christ idea as it relates to Jesus and all humankind. We will discuss what The Christ idea is and how it developed through readings in the Scriptures and in non-canonical writings including the Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Mary. We will discuss what The Christ idea meant to the people of Jesus' time, and how The Christ idea evolved during the period when the books of the New Testament were written.

As your class facilitator I will share with you my own meaning of The Christ and interpretation of scripture readings pertaining to the Christ idea. I will strive for a safe space allowing dialogue with an openness and respect for ideas and equal participation for all. To do this we must commit to hearing each other with respect even when our ideas are not in agreement. We must also be willing to encourage each person to share whatever questions, concerns, and insights come up without passing judgment on them.

I have been a Unity member since 1978 and active in Unity churches of Washington DC, Fairfax, VA, and Gaithersburg, MD. Upon finding Unity I felt like I had come home for the first time. I finished my education as a Licensed Unity Teacher in 2010 focusing my work on SEE Bible classes and have visited several Middle Eastern countries including Israel, Jordan and Egypt witnessing first-hand human theological antiquity.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Define Jesus, The Christ, Jesus Christ and Christ Jesus.

- Describe Christ ideas and I AM statements in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Discuss readings from the Christian Scriptures that support The Christ in all.
- Describe writings from the Gnostic Gospels that illustrate The Christ
- Describe the evolution of your personal understanding of The Christ.

Required Readings

- *Heart Centered Metaphysics* by Paul Hasselbeck, Chapter 15 (handout)
- Handouts will be emailed at the beginning of class
- Bible (New Revised Standard Version)

Recommended Readings

- *Beyond Belief* by Elaine Pagels*
- *The Third Jesus* by Deepak Chopra
- *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels
- *The Gnostic Bible* by W Barnstone and M Meyer

*I refer to this book throughout the course.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will be expected to:

- Participate actively in each class activities.
- Complete reading assignments.
- Read and reflect on scripture passages and other readings assigned for each class and participate in class group discussions.
- Submit a paper after the completion of the course of 200-500 words on your understanding of the Christ idea as it has evolved because of your work in this class and your life experiences. Submit your paper via email to Jane.McCarthy@unf.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

- S (Satisfactory) met all requirements.
- I (Incomplete) waiting for final assignment.
- AU (Audit) not seeking credentialing (no assignments required)
- NC (No Credit) did not complete final assignment within 3 months of end of course or did not meet attendance requirements.

Ten credits will be granted when you have successfully completed the class. Unless special permission is requested and granted, students are expected to attend all classes.

Course Schedule and Assignments

The course is divided into five units and will be covered in five two-hour sessions. Below the topics for each unit are given along with assignments. Students will complete a paper.

	Topics	Assignment
Class 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions - Review Syllabus, Assignments and Pretest - Unity descriptions of The Christ, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus (slides) - Discussion Groups – Describe your theological background and your understanding of The Christ 	<p>Reading for Class 1: Rev Paul Hasselbeck, <i>Heart Centered Metaphysics</i>, Chapter 15</p> <p>Homework for Class 2: Handouts: <i>Ascending to Heaven</i>, Ed Townley, Unity Magazine, May/June 2019 <i>Who do You Say that I Am?</i> Unity Magazine, July/Aug 2022.</p> <p><i>Readings from Jesus Christ Heals</i>. Chapter 10</p>
Class 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thoughts on Palm Sunday sermon and <i>The Third Jesus</i> The Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures; The Christ in the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's letters (Slides) Class 2 Group Discussions: <i>Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-27; Galatians 2: 19-20</i> 	<p>Homework for Class 3</p> <p><i>The Third Jesus</i> by Deepak Chopra Introduction p 2-4; Part 1 p 5-14</p>
Class 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughts on Palm Sunday Sermon; Deepak Chopra <i>The Third Jesus</i> Christ in The Gospel of John. (slides) Class 3 Discussion Groups: Readings from the Gospel of John 	<p>Homework for Class 4 Read over The Gnostic Gospel of Thomas https://www.marquette.edu/maqom/Gospel%20of%20Thomas%20Lambdin.pdf</p> <p>Watch Elaine Pagels: "New Reflections on Gospel Traditions: The Gospel of John and the Gospel of Thomas" Elaine Pagels (2013) Vanderbilt University https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDdb2uEclDU</p>
Class 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughts on Elaine Pagels lecture comparing Gospel of John with Gospel of Thomas The Gnostic Gospel of Thomas (slides) Class 4 Discussion Groups: The sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of Thomas 	<p>Homework for Class 5 Read over again, The Gnostic Gospel of Thomas https://www.marquette.edu/maqom/Gospel%20of%20Thomas%20Lambdin.pdf</p> <p>Read over: <i>The Once and Future Christ of Faith</i> by PA Laughlin</p> <p>Read over The Gospel of Mary from <i>The Gnostic Bible</i> by Barnstone</p>
Class 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughts on - Laughlin, <i>The Once and Future Christ of Faith</i> The Jesus Seminar; Images of Jesus and Christ; The Gnostic Gospel of Mary (slides) Discussion Groups: The Gnostic Gospel of Mary 	<p>Review Pre-test</p> <p>Complete Course Evaluation</p> <p>Assignment: Reflection paper – due date</p>