

Imagining Salvation

HT 567 -06

Spring 2021

3 credits | Letter grade or Pass/Fail

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Course Description

At the center of the Christian faith is a holy mystery: because of God's saving work in Jesus Christ, everything is different. But what, exactly, has God done in Jesus? What earthly difference does it make? In the midst of the concrete sufferings and ambiguities of life—from personal tragedies to systemic violence and ecological collapse—what does it mean to profess a gracious God who saves, reconciles, redeems, and heals? This course explores questions of soteriology—the meaning and mystery of God's saving work in Jesus Christ—by exploring Scriptural and cultural depictions of redemption, classic and contemporary theological accounts of salvation, and pastoral situations in which we are called to evoke and articulate the difference Jesus makes.

Note

This course is online, with optional opportunities for discussion via zoom. Assignments include weekly responses to readings, 2 short essays, and a final project.

Course Texts (Subject to Change before Dec 20, 2020 – Confirm before purchasing)

1. Robin Ryan, *Jesus and Salvation: Soundings in the Christian Tradition and Contemporary Theology* (Liturgical Press, 2015)
2. Nancy Pineda-Madrid, *Suffering and Salvation in Ciudad Juárez* (Fortress, 2011).
3. Elizabeth Johnson, *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril* (Orbis, 2018).
4. Serene Jones, *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World* (WJK, 2009).
5. A study Bible. You are free to use the Bible of your choice. If you don't own an academic study Bible, I recommend *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*
6. Additional readings will be made available for download on Moodle.