

HT 389W Theological Anthropology: The Image of God and Visions of the Human Person
Instructor: Man-Hei Yip
3 Credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theological Anthropology explores what it means to be human from a Christian perspective. This examination challenges our assumptions about God's revelation and encourages deeper theological inquiry and imagination. In this course, we will investigate the concept of humanity by combining critical cultural studies with biblical and theological reflections. Participants will engage in contemporary discussions on topics such as the body, gender, race, religion, and human flourishing. Understanding what it means to be human is particularly important as we examine the experiences of marginalized individuals and communities in today's world.

OBJECTIVES

- I. Articulate the main questions of various theoretical methods and views of the human being.
- II. Demonstrate competence in critical analysis of biblical and theological reflections on what it means to be human.
- III. Recognize and respect the distinctive theological themes and emphases advocated by culturally diverse communities.
- IV. Develop a theologically informed vision of the human person and integrate the new vision into everyday practices of faith.

PROCEDURE: The course meets twice a week, with each session lasting 90 minutes. Most classes involve interactive discussions about the readings, led by instructors and students alike.

EVALUATION:

1. Attend class regularly and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings.
2. Take turns leading devotionals according to a rotating schedule.
3. Complete a project and write a final paper demonstrating integration of material learned during the semester.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required:

**M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being*, Second edition, 2023.

Recommended:

Beth Felker Jones and Jeffrey W Barbeau, *The Image of God in an Image Driven Age: Explorations in Theological Anthropology*. 2016.

Dwight N. Hopkins, *Being Human: Race, Culture, and Religion*. 2005.

Eleazar S. Fernandez, *Reimagining the Human: Theological Anthropology in Response to Systemic Evil*. 2004.

John D. Zizioulas, *Communion and Otherness: Further Studies in Personhood and the Church*. 2006.

Matthew J. Gaudet. et al. *Encountering Artificial Intelligence: Ethical and Anthropological Investigations*. 2024.

Michelle A. Gonzalez, *Created in God's Image: An Introduction to Feminist Theological Anthropology*. 2007.