



# Syllabus: SCS 125 The Christ

## **Dates/Time**

June 3-7, 2019  
9:30 – 11:30 AM

## **Place**

Unity of Gaithersburg Education Building  
111 Central Ave  
Gaithersburg, MD

## **Course Instructor**

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

## **Welcome**

Hello fellow students! As I join you in the adventure of discovering personal meaning of Bible readings, I celebrate your willingness to be open and receptive to an engagement of our beliefs about Jesus, The Christ, Jesus Christ and Christ Jesus.

## **Course Description**

Using the Bible as the primary text, 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 Hebrew Scriptures. We will also 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 being written.

## **Instructor Background**

I have been a Unity member since 1978 and active in Unity churches of Washington DC, Fairfax and Gaithersburg. 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 antiquity.

## **Learning Objectives**

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

- Define "Christ" and explain how The Christ idea came to be.
- Compare and contrast the differences and similarities between The Christ idea and Jesus Christ.
- Provide Biblical evidence to support the Christhood of all people and analyze that evidence for its validity.
- Describe the example of Jesus Christ as a means of putting on The Christ and beholding the Christ in others.
- Describe the evolution of your personal understanding of The Christ.

## Required Textbooks/Readings

- Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- *Heart Centered Metaphysics* by Paul Hasselbeck, Chapter 15
- *Jesus Christ Heals*, Charles Fillmore, Chapter 10

## Recommended Textbooks/Readings

- Chopra, Deepak, *The Third Jesus*, New York: Harmony Books, 2008
- Wilson, Ernest, *The Week That Changed the World*, Unity Classic Library, 1968
- *The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary* by Charles Fillmore
- *The Revealing Word* by Charles Fillmore
- *The Once and Future Christ of Faith* by PA Laughlin
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## 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 make a class presentation of your interpretation of at least one of those readings.
- Submit a paper after the completion of the course of 200-500 words on the evolution of your understanding of the Christ idea and how it has evolved as a result of your work in this class and your life experiences. Submit your paper via email to Jane.McCarthy@unf.edu

## Student Evaluation

- 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 three months of end of course and/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.

## Instructor's Commitment

As your class facilitator I will be prepared to share with you my own meaning of The Christ and metaphysical interpretation of scripture readings pertaining to the Christ idea. I will share with you my experiences about my personal journey. 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.

## 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 pre-test, presentation, and a paper.

Unit	Topics	Assignment
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductions - Describe your present understanding of The Christ.</li> <li>- Pre Test</li> <li>- Review Syllabus</li> <li>- Sign up for In-class Presentations</li>   <li>- Examine Unity definitions of Christ and the Messiah (slides)</li> <li>- Discuss the seed of The Christ idea in the Old and New Testament.</li> <li>- Read Introduction to Gospel of John</li> </ul>	<p>Handouts: Rev Paul Hasselbeck, <i>Heart Centered Metaphysics</i>, Chapter 15</p> <p>Readings: Genesis 1:26-27 vs. John 1:1-14</p> <p>View: Unity interview #1 with Deepak Chopra on <i>The Third Jesus</i> – <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sguHH9qIEq8">link below</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sguHH9qIEq8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sguHH9qIEq8</a></p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Discussion – Deepak Chopra The Third Jesus</p> <p>Messianic Promises: Who is the Redeemer in the Old Testament view? Explain the Hebrew concept of Messiah (Who He is and what He does) with scriptural examples.</p> <p>Differentiate between Messiah as an expression of the expectant Hebrew Redeemer and Christ as the indwelling Presence of God.</p> <p>Student Presentations</p>	<p>Handouts: Two Portraits of Jesus Genesis 3:15</p> <p>Readings - Genesis 3:15 • Isaiah 9:6 • Isaiah 11:1-9 • Jeremiah 31:31-34</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>What do men say that I am? (slides)</p> <p>Compare and contrast the description of Jesus as Christ in the three synoptic Gospels.(slides)</p> <p>Analyze the claim that Jesus chose to found a church (Is that really what he intended to do?)(slides)</p> <p>Student Presentations</p>	<p>Handouts: “I Am” Statements</p> <p>Readings: Matthew 16:13-20 • Mark 8:27-30 • Luke 9:18-20 John 10:29 (quoted by Deepak Chopra)</p> <p>View: Deepak Chopra Unity interview #2 on <i>The Third Jesus</i> – <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpXHe-zCVJU">link below</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpXHe-zCVJU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpXHe-zCVJU</a></p>
<b>4</b>	<p>Discussion – Deepak Chopra interview #2</p> <p>Compare and contrast the “I Am” statements in John. (slides)</p> <p>John 6:35-59</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John 8:12</li> <li>• John 8:23-29</li> <li>• John 9:5</li> <li>• John 10:7-18,34-38</li> <li>• John 11:25-26</li> <li>• John 12:32</li> <li>• John 13:13,19</li> <li>• John 14:6-14,18-20,25-28</li> <li>• John 15:1-11</li> <li>• John 18:37-38</li> <li>• John 20: 17</li> </ul> <p>Analyze the “I Am” statements to determine whether they refer to the person of Jesus or to someone or something else (slides)</p> <p>Student Presentations</p>	<p>Handouts: <i>The Once and Future Christ of Faith</i> by PA Laughlin</p> <p>Readings from <i>Jesus Christ Heals</i> by C Fillmore, chap 10</p> <p>Comments on Letter to the Colossians 1:24-29</p> <p>John 17 Comments and Questions</p> <p>Readings: John 17 • Colossians 1:24-29 • Philippians 2:5-1</p>

<b>5</b>	<p>Thoughts on - Laughlin, <i>The Once and Future Christ of Faith</i>; C Fillmore, <i>Jesus Christ Heals</i>; Comments on Letter to the Colossians 1:24-29</p> <p>Participating in The Christ: Paul's view of Christ (slides)</p> <p>Discuss Jesus' view of his relationship with both God and humankind as described in John 17. (slides)</p> <p>Discuss the evolving understanding of Christ and Jesus as it shows up in the New Testament. (slides)</p> <p>Student Presentations</p> <p>Review Pre-Test /Course Evaluation</p> <p>Determine Reflection paper due date</p>	<p>Assignment:</p> <p>Reflection paper</p>
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