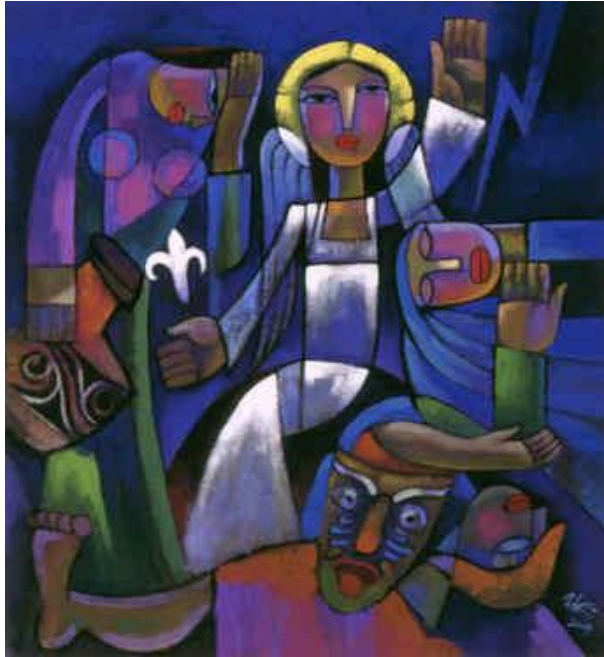


# Resurrection, Reality and the Re-Shaping of Theology

XTIANTHE 890.01 (2013)

Syllabus (version 1.8)



*He Qi "Easter Morn"*

Prerequisites: OT 752, NT 754, XT 755

Class meets: Langford 060, 8.30-11.00

## **Instructor:**

Professor Jeremy Begbie

Office: 0055 Langford. Tel. 919 660 3591 Email: [jeremy.begbie@duke.edu](mailto:jeremy.begbie@duke.edu)

Assistant: Amber Noel [noel.amber@gmail.com](mailto:noel.amber@gmail.com)

The quickest way to find me is to email me. Please do make an appointment to see me if you want: I am very happy to talk with any of you about any aspect of this course. And you can always try calling at my office: 0055 Langford.

**What the course is about:**

The aim of this course is to explore the ways in which the New Testament's testimony to the raising of the crucified Jesus from the dead carries with it *the power to re-configure our conception of reality (divine and created) and what is to count as "reality", and with that our modes of knowing, our language, and our patterns of life.*

Implicated in this, the course aims to discern the *ramifications of the resurrection for the way in which theology is undertaken and the categories it typically employs* –for example, for the kind of “knowledge” *thought to be* appropriate to the Gospel; theology's subjectivity and corporate embodiment; its transformation of conceptual/ categories; its construal of history and historical enquiry; its relation to worship; the kind of “time” and “space” in which it is practiced; the role of the senses in theology; and so forth.

At its heart, the course will involve *the close reading of texts from the last forty years*, by authors who have specifically engaged issues of this sort. Special attention will be paid to the thought of T. F. Torrance and N. T. Wright. This is not, therefore, a survey course, or a lecture course (though there will certainly be some lecturing).

It will also encourage *significant engagement with the arts* as vehicles of the imaginative transformation of human perception which the resurrection demands and enables. But no special artistic expertise or knowledge is required.



## Course Requirements

At a glance:

**1. Texts to read**

**2. EITHER**

**Mid-term book review**

*OR*

**A Theological Exegesis and Evaluation** of an  
Artistic Representation of the Resurrection

**FOR MARCH 18th (9am)**

**3. FINAL PAPER**

**FOR APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> (9am).....**



More fully.....

### 1. Texts to read

The course will involve the close reading of key texts, to be discussed in class. Every member of the class is expected to have read the text, and to have prepared a **500-word summary of the text of that week** (if two texts, then this means 500 words for each text) and **3 key questions to raise** for discussion. In each class I will ask one or two people to read their summaries and put their questions to the group.

### 2. FOR MARCH 18th (9am).....

***EITHER***

### Mid-term book review (3500-4500 words – excluding footnotes)

Choose **one** of the following to review:

Mary **Grey**, *The Resurrection of Peace: A Gospel Journey to Easter and Beyond*, (SPCK, 2012)

Rowan **Williams**, *Resurrection: Interpreting the Easter Gospel* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1982)

Emmanuel **Falque**, *The Metamorphosis of Finitude: an Essay on Birth and Resurrection* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2012)

The review

- should carry the reader through the basic argument of the book
- should attempt to assess the book, in terms of strengths and weaknesses etc, given what you have learned throughout the semester from the lectures, in-class conversations, and the other materials you have read for the course.

**OR**

**A Theological Exegesis and Evaluation of an Artistic Representation of the Resurrection  
(3500-4500 words – excluding footnotes)**

Choose one artistic representation of the resurrection of Jesus (it can be very indirect, if you wish), and offer a theological exegesis and evaluation of it. You will be expected to draw upon material from the course, as well as relevant literature on the piece of art itself. If possible, where appropriate, you should address the following questions:-

- What particular aspects of the resurrection are being evoked/portrayed/explored?
- In what ways do the circumstances of this art's production bear upon its treatment of the resurrection? (When/where/why was it made? What is its historical, social and cultural context?)
- What symbols are being employed (if any) in relation to the Spirit, and what are they connoting?
- How are the artistic materials (stone, words, pigment, etc) employed towards theological ends? Likewise the style, the formal elements (line, pattern, overall structure and shape) – how do they contribute (if at all)?
- To what extent does the piece of art reflect a particular doctrinal tradition (or traditions)?
- How faithful is this piece of art as a theological witness to the resurrection? How biblically grounded is it? Are there ways in which it could be misleading doctrinally?

(You may want to compare two such representations; please consult with Dr Begbie.)

**3. FOR APRIL 27th (9am).....**

**FINAL PAPER (6,000-7,000 words, excl. footnotes)**

Final paper on a topic related to the class, to be negotiated with Dr Begbie.

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## Class attendance and participation are required

Students are expected to participate in class. Lack of consistent participation or readiness/preparation for class, including missing more than two class sessions, will be reflected in one's final grade.

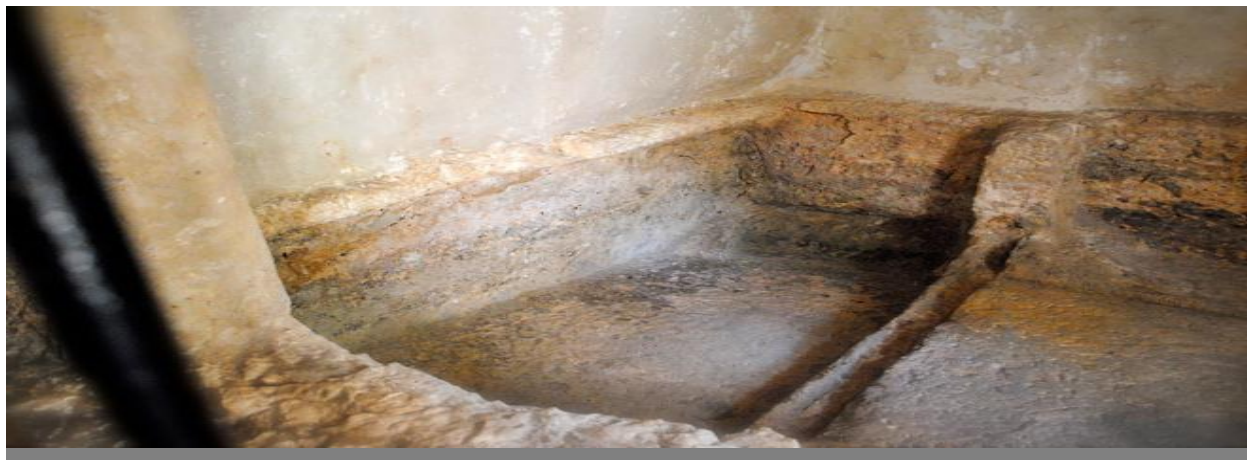
### Grading:

- |                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Book review/theological exegesis | 40% of grade |
| 2. Final paper                      | 60% of grade |

All papers must be submitted, **in electronic version (Word format, please)**, on or before the specified due date. A late paper will be penalized as much as one full letter grade for each day the paper is late. No paper submitted after the due date will be eligible for the grade "A". If a paper is not turned in at all, an "o" will be assigned (making it hard to pass the course).

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale (note—final grades will not necessarily be rounded up):

94-100A (excellent)	80-83 B-	67-69 D+
90-93 A-	77-79 C+	64-66 D (passing)
87-89 B+	74-76 C (satisfactory)	60-63 D-
84-86 B (good)	70-73 C-	59 and below F (inadequate)



## Weekly Schedule

**(1) January 10**

### Introduction

#### Theology in the Light of the Third Day

**Reading assignment:**

David Fergusson, "Interpreting the Resurrection", *Scottish Journal of Theology* Vol. 38 (1985): 287-305

Markus N. A. Bockmuehl, "The Resurrection" in Bockmuehl, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Jesus* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001)

**(2) January 17**

### T F Torrance: Resurrection, Space and Time



**Reading assignment:**

T F Torrance: *Space, Time and Resurrection*, Introduction, and ch. 8

**(3) January 24**

### T F Torrance: Resurrection and the New Testament

**Reading assignment:**

T F Torrance: *Space, Time and Resurrection*, chs. 2, 3 and 4



**(4) January 31      T F Torrance et al: The Ascension**

**Reading assignment:**

T F Torrance: *Space, Time and Resurrection*,  
chs. 5, 6 and 7

**(5) February 7      N T Wright (1)**



**Reading assignment:**

N T Wright, “Can a Scientist Believe in the Resurrection?”, the James Gregory Lecture 2007 (pdf on Sakai)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, chs. 18 and 19

**(6) February 21      N T Wright (2)**

**Reading assignment:**

N T Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, ch. 1, and PART IV (chs. 13-17)

2 sermons: (“Let Beauty Awake”), and  
 “Apocalyptic and the Beauty of God” (Sakai)

B. Stewart Robert, ed., *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N.T. Wright in Dialogue* (London: SPCK, 2006), ch. 1



**(7) February 28      Richard Hays: Reading Scripture in the Light of the Resurrection**

**Reading assignment:**

Richard B. Hays, "Reading Scripture in the Light of the Resurrection", in *The Art of Reading Scripture*, eds. Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 216-38

**(8) March 7              Alan Lewis et al: Resurrection and Crucifixion**

**Reading assignment:**

Alan E. Lewis, "The Burial of God: Rupture and Resumption as the Story of Salvation", *Scottish Journal of Theology*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (1987): 335-362

[Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Mysterium Paschale* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1990)]



**(9) March 28****Sarah Coakley: the Spiritual Senses****Reading assignment:**

Sarah Coakley, “The Resurrection and the ‘Spiritual Senses’: On Wittgenstein, Epistemology and the Risen Christ”, in Sarah Coakley, *Powers and Submissions: Spirituality, Philosophy and Gender* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002), ch. 8 (Sakai)  
 “Introduction” from Paul L. Gavrilyuk and Sarah Coakley, *The spiritual senses: Perceiving God in Western Christianity* (Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011) (Sakai)

**(10) April 4****Rowan Williams: Keeping Things Open****Reading assignment:**

Rowan Williams, *On Christian Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2000), ch. 12.

**[(11)]****[Final session?]**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Key texts:-

- Thomas F. Torrance, *Space, Time, and Resurrection* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1976)
- Markus N. A. Bockmuehl, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Jesus* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp. 102-118
- Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright, *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions* (San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 1999)
- B. Stewart Robert, ed., *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N.T. Wright in Dialogue* (London: SPCK, 2006)
- Richard B. Hays, "Reading Scripture in the Light of the Resurrection", in *The Art of Reading Scripture*, eds. Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 216-38
- David Fergusson, "Interpreting the Resurrection", *Scottish Journal of Theology* Vol. 38 (1985): 287-305
- Sarah Coakley, "The Resurrection and the 'Spiritual Senses': On Wittgenstein, Epistemology and the Risen Christ", in Sarah Coakley, *Powers and Submissions: Spirituality, Philosophy and Gender* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002), ch. 8
- Oliver O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order: An Outline for Evangelical Ethics* (Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1994)
- Stephen T. Davis, *Risen Indeed: Making Sense of the Resurrection* (Grand Rapids, MI: Michigan, 1993)
- \_\_\_\_\_, Daniel Kendall, and Gerald O'Collins, eds., *The Resurrection: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Resurrection of Jesus*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997)
- Alan E. Lewis, *Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001)
- \_\_\_\_\_, "The Burial of God: Rupture and Resumption as the Story of Salvation", *Scottish Journal of Theology*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (1987): 335-36
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, Ch. 4. "History and the Reality of the Resurrection", in Gavin D'Costa, *Resurrection Reconsidered* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1996), ch. 4.
- Murray Rae, *History and Hermeneutics* (London: T & T Clark, 2005), chapter 4 ("Resurrection")
- B. Stewart Robert, ed., *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N.T. Wright in Dialogue* (London: SPCK, 2006)
- Alan J. Torrance, "Creatio Ex Nihilo and the Spatio-Temporal Dimensions, with Special Reference to Jürgen Moltmann and D. C. Williams", in *The Doctrine of Creation: Essays in Dogmatics, History and Philosophy*, ed. Colin E. Gunton (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997), pp. 83-104
- Rowan Williams, *On Christian Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2000),

ch. 12.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Resurrection: Interpreting the Easter Gospel* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1982)
- Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Mysterium Paschale* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1990)
- N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (London: SPCK, 2003)
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, "The Justification of Jesus by the Father in his Resurrection", in *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, 343-396

### General:-

- Paul D. L. Avis, *The Resurrection of Jesus Christ* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1993)
- Stephen C. Barton and Graham N. Stanton, *Resurrection: Essays in Honour of Leslie Houlden* (London: SPCK, 1994)
- Richard Bauckham, "God who Raises the Dead: The Resurrection of Jesus in relation to Early Christian Faith in God", in *The Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, ed. Paul D. L. Avis (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1993), pp. 136-54
- Peter Carnley, *The Structure of Resurrection Belief* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987)
- Gavin D'Costa, *Resurrection Reconsidered* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1996)
- D. Lyle Dabney, "Justified by the Spirit': Soteriological Reflections on the Resurrection", *International Journal of Systematic Theology* Vol. 3, Iss. 1 (March 2001): 46-68
- Stephen T. Davis, *Risen Indeed: Making Sense of the Resurrection* (Grand Rapids, MI: Michigan, 1993)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel Kendall, and Gerald O'Collins, eds., *The Resurrection: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Resurrection of Jesus* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997)
- Michael L. DeLashmutt, "Paul Ricoeur at the Foot of the Cross: Narrative Identity and the Resurrection of the Body", *Modern Theology* Vol. 25, Iss. 4 (2009): 589-616
- Emmanuel Falque, *The Metamorphosis of Finitude: An Essay on Birth and Resurrection*, (New York: Fordham University Press, 2012)
- Douglas Farrow, *Ascension and Ecclesia: On the Significance of the Doctrine of the Ascension for Ecclesiology and Christian Cosmology* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999)
- Douglas Farrow, *Ascension Theology* (London: T & T Clark, 2011)
- Mary Grey, *The Resurrection of Peace: A Gospel Journey to Easter and Beyond*, (SPCK, 2012)
- Paul D. Molnar, *Incarnation and Resurrection: Toward a Contemporary Understanding* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007)
- Robert W. Jenson, "Scripture's Authority in the Church", in *The Art of Reading Scripture*, eds. Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 27-37

- Paul D. Molnar, *Incarnation and Resurrection: Toward a Contemporary Understanding* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007)
- Oliver O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order: An Outline for Evangelical Ethics* (Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1994)
- Rocco Palmo, "In the Resurrection, 'Creation Has Been Fulfilled'", blog entry on *Whispers in the Loggia* (2011):  
<<http://whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com/2011/04/in-resurrection-creation-has-been.html>>, accessed November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Devin Singh, "Resurrection as Surplus and Possibility: Moltmann and Ricoeur", *Scottish Journal of Theology* Vol. 61, Iss. 3 (2008): 251-69
- Anthony C. Thiselton, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000)
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Last Things: A New Approach* (London: SPCK, 2012)
- Michael Welker, "Wright on the Resurrection", *Scottish Journal of Theology* Vol. 60, No. 4 (2007): 458-75
- Rowan Williams, *Resurrection: Interpreting the Easter Gospel* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1982)
- \_\_\_\_\_, *On Christian Theology* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2000), ch. 12.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *Tokens of Trust* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2007)
- N. T. Wright, "Resurrection: From Theology to Music and Back Again", in *Sounding the Depths: Theology Through the Arts*, ed. Jeremy S. Begbie (London: SCM Press, 2002), pp. 193-212
- N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (New York, NY: HarperOne, 2008)

On T F Torrance:

- Elmer M. Colyer, *How to Read T. F. Torrance: Understanding his Trinitarian and Scientific Theology* (London: Triangle, 1997)
- Elmer M. Colyer, "The nature of doctrine in T.F. Torrance's theology" (Revision of thesis (Ph D), Wipf and Stock, 2001)
- Alister E. McGrath, *Thomas F. Torrance: An Intellectual Biography* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999)
- Paul D. Molnar, *Thomas F. Torrance: Theologian of the Trinity* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009)
- Paul D. Molnar, *Incarnation and Resurrection: toward a contemporary understanding* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007)

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Disability statement:**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact, if you have not done so already, the Disability Management System— Student Access Office at 668-1267 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion. Please also contact Ms. Kori Robins, Divinity Registrar ([krobins@div.duke.edu](mailto:krobins@div.duke.edu) or 919-660-3428).

### **Integrity:**

In accordance with the Honor Code, students are expected to do their own work for each of the assignments. Any violation of the Honor Code will result in a failing grade, and depending on the severity of the case could result in additional consequences.

### **Absence and Tardy Policies:**

Regular and prompt class attendance is expected. Failure to attend may negatively affect the student's final grade.

### **Inclusive Language:**

In each assignment students are expected to follow the guidelines for inclusive language outlined in the Duke Divinity School Bulletin.

*Jeremy Begbie*  
January 2013