

**THE 5651 Seminar on Unification Studies:
Christology and the meaning of Only Begotten in the context of Christian and True Parents' Thought**

Winter 2026
Dr. Franco Famularo

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3 credits

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Office Hours: UPON REQUEST

SYLLABUS (DRAFT)

I. DESCRIPTION

In this course, Christology and more precisely the concept of “Only Begotten” will be explored, terminology that has been used in biblical sources of the English-speaking world for over four centuries and more recently in Family Federation circles since 2014. The concept of Only Begotten has its origins in the complex development of early Christian doctrine and there are issues, similarities, distinctions and contrasts that may apply when comparing traditional Christian understandings of this concept with the development of True Parents' Thought.

Through this course, students can learn how concepts and terms such as only begotten are understood by people of other faiths and also develop skills to communicate sensitively and effectively with real understanding across various denominations by learning about biblical and theological terms that have long histories and can have different meanings for Jews, Christians, Muslims and people of other religious traditions. The course will include discussion on the how the concept of “Begotten” developed historically and will explore the Council of Nicaea and topics such as Filioque – Trinity – Holy Mother, *Monogenes*, Biblical Translation and the use of Begotten in Divine Principle, the Founder's Speeches, and how it applies to True Parents' thought.

II. OUTCOMES

Upon the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Knowledge: Demonstrate a basic understanding of biblical and theological concepts such as begotten, trinity and other terminology used in the bible and theological discourse.
2. Comprehension: Develop an appreciation for the progression of theological concepts in Christian history.
3. Application: Apply knowledge to actual situations that require dialogue with representatives of different theological traditions.
4. Analysis & Synthesis: Demonstrate an ability to break down ideas into simpler parts and find evidence to support generalizations and develop an ability to share the course content in their specific environments.

This Class is a 5-week intensive class session with the final paper due one week after the conclusion of the class.

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Student Learning Outcomes Rubric

Outcomes	Excellent	Good	Progressing	Beginning
1. Knowledge: Demonstrates basic understanding	Clearly grasps concepts accurately and shows understanding within a broader framework	May lack nuance however is able to explain concepts and general context	Lacks depth but has a basic understanding	Misconstrues or confuses key elements and concepts
2. Comprehension: Develop appreciation of theological concepts	Provides insights and effectively communicates complex issues drawn from content.	Grasps essentials of core concepts and is able to distinguish contrary views.	Recognizes a few relevant issues but provides weak analysis	Does not significantly contrast or discriminate key points
3. Application: Apply knowledge to actual situations	Develops creative analysis, understands strong and weak points and how they relate to primary ideas.	Delivers thorough evaluation and critique of key elements	Surface understanding, but provides incongruent analysis	Misses the key points and only elaborates on skeletal components.
4. Analysis & Synthesis: Break down concepts into simpler parts and find evidence to support generalizations or propose alternative solutions.	Provides a sharp and consistent perspective that blends and illustrates detailed encounter with course content.	Communicates effective perspective on course content and is able to contrast with personal view.	Undeveloped grasp of course content and relies on one's own view.	Deficient of straightforward position and weak integration with course content.

III. REQUIREMENTS

General requirements for this course consist of participation, preparedness, and initiative. Students are required to watch all the lectures, complete all readings, activities, and assignments each week throughout the course. Questions for online discussion or other assignments will be indicated each week. Completing the readings and assignments on time is crucial to your involvement in the discussion and preparing assignments.

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Weekly submissions in the form of 1) discussions on suggested themes and questions. Each student will thus contribute to all participants' overall learning experience; or 2) summary-evaluations of studied material. Summaries demonstrate that knowledge has been acquired and brief evaluations or discussions will demonstrate that acquired knowledge has been understood. Both will demonstrate that the student has read the assigned material and become seriously involved in the process of reflecting on the issues (40%).

Final paper: Final term paper due twenty days after week six of the course will consist of a 2,000 to 2,500 word paper (8 to 10 pages double spaced 12 points Times New Roman or Arial) that explores one area of course material, theological, linguistic or a combination of both in reference to the primary insight identified by each student at the beginning of the course, reevaluated and reformulated as needed a final time, as well as other criteria. A full explanation of expectations will be provided during the course (50%).

Detailed instructions, including weekly due dates, will be provided on CANVAS. Students are required to follow these guidelines. The due dates and times are Eastern Time, North America.

IV. GRADING*

A letter grade will be assigned based on:

1. Written Assignments 30%
2. Discussion 20%
3. Final Term Paper 50 %

Grades are recorded by letter, and are understood as follows:

A Excellent - **B** Good - **C** Acceptable

D Acceptable, but below expectations - **F** Failure

In computing the cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) the following quality point scale is used:

A 4.00	A- 3.67	B+ 3.33
B 3.00	B- 2.67	C+ 2.33
C 2.00	C- 1.67	D+ 1.33
D 1.00	D- 0.67	F 0.00

Grading Rubric: In calculating the final letter grade for the course, numerical grades for assignments are converted into the following letter grades:

Letter	Minimum Points
A	93.00
A-	90.00
B+	87.00
B	83.00
B-	80.00
C+	77.00
C	73.00
C-	70.00
D	60.00
F	50.00

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This scale severely penalizes Fs. Therefore, it is better to hand in a poorly done assignment than not to hand one in at all.

Incompletes are given only when there are compelling medical or personal reasons and require Provost approval.

*See HJI catalog for a detailed grading policy.

Academic Integrity

Each student's work is expected to be a product of his or her own effort. Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a student passes off someone else's work as their own. Plagiarism in its most severe form occurs when a student purchases a paper from a third party or submits an entire body of work written by a third party, as the student's own. These most serious cases can be reported to the Office of the Provost for disciplinary action. Possible actions include probation, suspension or dismissal/separation from HJI.

Cutting and pasting material from various websites without citing the source of said material also constitutes plagiarism, as is a failure to cite sources in a paper, conveying the impression, intentionally or not, that another writer's work is the student's own. In these cases of plagiarism, the instructor may give the student an "F" for the offending assignment, require that the student repeat the assignment, or if the plagiarism continues, give the student an "F" for the course. A pattern of such behavior may be reported to the Office of the Provost. It can lead to serious consequences as listed above.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT in assignments is permitted only with prior permission of the instructor. If the instructor permits students to use AI for research, students should know that it may give false results and its facts need to be checked and verified. Any passages generated by AI must be given proper citation, just as for citing other authors' works. In addition, students must append a paragraph at the end of their work explaining how and why they used ChatGPT, which includes what prompts were used and what measures were taken to verify its accuracy.

Students may not use AI to produce the content for an assignment. If an AI tool is used without obtaining prior permission and/or without providing the required citation or explanation, it will be treated as plagiarism. Faculty reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin, to find instances of AI-generated writing, as well as plagiarism from other sources, in student assignments.

Netiquette Policy

When posting online, you need to follow the same ethical standards and laws as you would in face-to-face communications. Your language should be respectful of faculty members and fellow students. Do not post private or confidential information about anyone, and do not provide personal information that could put yourself at risk. The Seminary's LMS has robust security measures to protect communication between teacher and student. Yet please be aware that anything that you post in discussions and groups in which other students participate can be retrieved by others and copied. Do not download and share course materials without permission of the instructor, as this may violate copyright. UTS reserves the right to delete postings on UTS maintained sites that are considered insensitive, harassing or illegal. Language that is illegal, obscene, defamatory, threatening, infringing of intellectual property rights, invasive of privacy, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing abusive, hateful or embarrassing to any person or entity, or otherwise, is a violation of the Student Code.

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V. TEXTS

Books and Readings

There are no textbooks that the student is required to purchase for this course. It consists exclusively of Open Access e-books, essays, articles, and videos. A list of readings for further study of the issues raised here is listed in the Biography at the end of this syllabus.

VI. PLAN OF LECTURES

Students are required to watch all lectures as well as complete readings of all required sections/chapters of the text and handouts before the class and submit weekly writing assignments throughout the course. The schedule may change.

Session	Date	Topics/Readings
1.	Week 1 January 5 - 11, 2026	Basic concepts & Council of Nicaea Readings: Council of Nicaea http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/First_Council_of_Nicaea Christology Kim, Young Oon, Introduction to Theology, HSAUWC, 1983, 73-88 https://www.tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/IntroT-83/IntroT-83-07.pdf Exposition of Divine Principle: Chapter 7 - Christology 1, to 3 https://tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/dp96/dp96.pdf Shimmyo, Theodore, Unification Christology, Journal of Unification Studies, Volume XXI – (2020) pages 51-76 https://www.jus.hji.edu/2021/01/06/unification-christology/ History of Arianism https://www.historyworld.net/history/Arianism/536 Nicaean Creed 325 https://thewestminsterstandard.org/the-nicene-creed/ Nicaean Creed (325) vs Nicaean Constantinople Creed (381) https://ftbm.gm/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2.Nicene-Creed.pdf and https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/what-is-the-nicene-creed-of-a-d-325/ Nicaean-Constantinople Creed in English, Greek and Latin https://earlychurchtexts.com/public/nicene_creed.htm

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		<p>Nicaean-Constantinople Creed in English, German, French, Spanish,</p> <p>https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/Nicene-Constantinopolitan-Creed-381.pdfLinks to an external site.</p> <p>VIDEOS: Council of Nicaea in 5 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urmxOSO1eF8</p> <p>The Council of Nicaea (6 minutes) dramatization https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kutHFJVR4AI</p> <p>Discussion on Canvass: Self introduction and Summarize Council of Nicaea</p>
2.	Week 2 January 12-18, 2026	<p>Begotten & Monogenes, Biblical Translation</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Blumczynski, Piotr, <i>New Voices in Translation Studies 2</i> (Belfast: Queen's University, 2006), pp. 1-8. https://newvoices.arts.chula.ac.th/index.php/en/article/view/60</p> <p>Marlowe, Michael, "The Only Begotten Son," 2006, p. 1. http://www.bible-researcher.com/only-begotten.html</p> <p>Moody, Dale, "God's Only Son, the Translation of John 3:16 in the Revised Standard Version," 213-19. https://www.jstor.org/stable/3261699</p> <p>Moody, Dale, The Bible Translator, Volume 10. No. 4, October 1959, 145-147 https://translation.bible/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/moody-1959-god-s-only-son-the-translation-of-john-3-16-in-the-revised-standard-version.pdf</p> <p>Famularo, Franco, Words Matter: Linguistic, Historical and Theological Issues with the Term "Begotten", Journal of Unification Studies Vol. 18, 2017 - Pages 121-138 https://www.jus.hji.edu/2018/03/06/words-matter-linguistic-historical-and-theological-issues-with-the-term-begotten/</p> <p>Saint Jerome https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Saint_Jerome</p>

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		<p>Assignment/Discussion: Explore John 3:16 in different languages (Greek, Latin, Korean, Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, German or other languages you are familiar with) Post on Discussion board. OR write 250 word paper on linguistic issues with biblical terminology.</p>
3.	<p>Week 3 January 19-25, 2026</p>	<p>Filioque, Trinity, Holy Mother Readings: Filioque: https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Filioque_clause Trinity: https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Trinity Shimmyo Theodore, The Unification Doctrine of the Trinity, Journal of Unification Studies, Volume II (1998) pages. 1-18 https://www.jus.hji.edu/2012/12/10/the-unification-doctrine-of-the-trinity/ Video: Trinity explained in 5 minutes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f4BJgaOSTI Holy Mother: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christianity/The-doctrine-of-the-Virgin-Mary-and-holy-Wisdom Exposition of Divine Principle: Chapter 7 - Christology Section 4 https://tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/dp96/dp96.pdf Unification Theology, Young Oon Kim: https://www.tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/Utheo/Utheo-6b.htm Assignment: 250 word paper on Council of Nicaea, Filioque, Trinity OR Holy Mother</p>
4.	<p>Week 4 January 26-Feb 1</p>	<p>Begotten in Divine Principle and Founders' Speeches Readings: Divine Principle <i>Divine Principle</i>, (Washington D.C.: HSA-UWC, 1973) https://tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/DP73/0-Toc.htm Exposition of the Divine Principle, (New York: HSA-UWC, 1996). https://tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/dp96/dp96.pdf Pages: Hardcover Book: 11, 23, 271, 278, 402 PDF 26, 36, 221, 226, 318 Moon, Sun Myung, "God's Hope for America" June 1, 1976 https://tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon76/SunMyungMoon-760601.pdf Moon, Sun Myung, October 11, 1959 https://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon59/SunMyungMoon-591011b.pdf</p>

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		Han, Hak Ja, July 1, 2014 https://tparents.org/Moon-Talks/HakJaHanMoon-14/HakJaHan-140701.pdf Discussion: How do you understand the teachings of the founders (Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han) within the context of Christian teaching on Christology? (post to discussion board)
5.	Week 5 February 2 -8, 2026	Application to True Parents' Thought Readings: Kim, Jin Choon "True Parents as the Only Begotten Son and Only Begotten Daughter" https://www.jus.hji.edu/2018/03/07/true-parents-as-the-only-begotten-son-and-only-begotten-daughter/ Video: Faculty Roundtable "Christology: Perspectives on the Concept of 'Only Begotten.'" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OkhaXHnSjA Assignment: 2000 to 2500 word paper on the meaning of begotten. Due by February 16, 2026 at 11 pm (23h) New York Time

VIII. Bibliography

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<https://newvoices.arts.chula.ac.th/index.php/en/article/view/60>

Divine Principle, (Washington D.C.: HSA-UWC, 1973)
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Moon, Sun Myung, "God's Hope for America" (or America is God's Hope), speech at Yankee Stadium, June 1, 1976. <https://tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon76/SunMyungMoon-760601.pdf>

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Shimmyo Theodore, The Unification Doctrine of the Trinity, *Journal of Unification Studies*, Volume II (1998) pages. 1-18
<https://www.jus.hji.edu/2012/12/10/the-unification-doctrine-of-the-trinity/>

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