

THEOREL 101/G Essay proposal (c.500 words)

Fill out this proposal and submit it to Turnitin via the Canvas assignment page.

The weighting of each part of the proposal is indicated below (totaling 10 marks).

Word count is also indicated – you can deviate by +/- 10% but marks will be deducted if proposals are too short or ridiculously long.

NB the text on this worksheet (questions, instructions) is around 490 words. It is *not* included in your 500-word limit, obviously.

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What essay question are you going to answer?

4. Using one or more examples from popular culture, discuss the ways that the biblical Jesus is portrayed in visual form (in movies, TV, art, etc.).

Required readings: If you do this essay you must reference at least one of the readings from the week 4 reading list (see week 4 module).

Essay working title (which can be changed before final submission of essay) – give your essay a catchy title. Don't just use the question as the title – be creative! [1 point]

“The early Christ and The Christ we know today - Biblical Jesus in modern perception”

What biblical text(s) are you going to discuss in your essay? List these here – be as specific as you can (e.g. “Judges 16”), but I appreciate that your essay focus may require you to be a bit broader (e.g. “various passages about Jesus from the New Testament Gospels”). [1 point]

Possibility of using some of these passages, but not all:

- Isaiah 52-53
- Revelation 1:14-15
- Matthew 1:1-17
- Daniel 10:5-6
- Luke 22:19-20
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

What cultural text(s)/ individuals/ will you discuss in your essay (i.e. films, books, art, music/musician, public figures, political movements, etc)? Briefly explain your choice – why it is relevant to your essay topic. (c.100 words). [2 points]

Leonardo Davinci, “The Last Supper” mural painting (1495–1498)

I have chosen “The Last Supper” as my first cultural text to discuss in my essay as it is a very well-known visual form of the biblical Jesus amongst his disciples in a significant event regarding Christ and his last days following up till his crucifixion.

I have also decided to use “The Life of Jesus”, Phillip Saville (2003) as a second cultural text as it works to portray the life of Christ on earth with a slight modern take and some minor changes that may conflict the written understanding of a biblical Jesus, which is quite interesting.

Essay plan: write an outline of the different sections that your essay will have (c. 250-300 words) – in other words, how will your essay be structured and organized? What topics are you going to cover, and in what order? How will your discussion develop throughout the essay so that you answer the essay question? You can use bullet points for this section but be sure to give **enough detail** so that we can understand what your essay is going to be about, and how your biblical texts and cultural texts listed above will be used to answer the essay question. **[4 points]**.

I will compare the portrayal of Jesus in Davinci's: "The Last Supper" to the portrayal of Jesus in the "The Life of Jesus" directed by Phillip Saville, describing how Jesus is depicted in these two cultural texts, highlighting an earlier perspective against a modern take on that early perspective of Christ. I aim to incorporate connection like interpretations of certain ideas out of each of the texts (cultural and biblical) and how they all refer back to the depiction of a "biblical Jesus".

Essay Outline:

- Introduction – Introducing the biblical texts and the cultural texts.
- Gap (1) – Describe how Jesus is being depicted in Davinci's, "The Last Supper"– what gaps in the biblical text(s) about Jesus are being filled here? What decisions are being made about how to depict him?
- Gap (2) – Describe how Jesus is being depicted in Saville's, "The Life of Jesus" – what gaps in the biblical text(s) about Jesus are being filled here? What religious and cultural factors may be influencing his portrayal?
- Gap (3) – Compare as well as make connections based on the depiction of biblical Jesus in each of these cultural texts – do these cultural texts relate to the biblical texts? in a way that supports the depiction of biblical Jesus
- The early depictions of Jesus becoming the Jesus we know today by influence of popular culture – the biblical Jesus vs. the Jesus we observe in visual form – what were ideologies behind these artists/creators? and are they common with each other?
- Conclusion – Summary of all points

Identify one **scholarly source you'll be using for your essay and briefly explain why it will be a helpful source for your essay. This can be something off the reading list, or something you've found yourself. The 'Essay questions and helpful hints' page on Canvas gives you advice about what readings you should use for each essay. (c.100 words in total). [2 points]**

NB **Scholarly sources** do NOT include cultural texts (e.g. the film, piece of music, TV series, etc. that you're writing about). They are readings about your topic. They can include books, journal articles, articles on news websites (e.g. Huffington Post, The Conversation, News Room), newspaper or magazine articles, documentaries, academic blogs and websites – in other words, a piece of writing or video that you are confident has been through an editing process to guarantee its quality. Try to avoid Wikipedia – I am a big fan of it myself, but it's not always reliable and I don't advise using it for academic purposes. If you're unsure whether your source counts as 'scholarly', ask your tutor or Caroline.

- Books, B. P. (2019). *Portraits of Jesus Christ: How Christian artists depicted Jesus through the ages*.

This scholarly source will become useful in helping me refer to certain ideas of how and why Jesus was perceived and depicted so through visual form/examples over time.