Chaminade-Flex Course Syllabus
[Chaminade University of Honolulu](#)
3140 Wai'alae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816

Course Overview

Course Number: RE 205-90-9
Course Title: The Christian God and Human Experience
Department Name: Religious Studies/Philosophy
School Name: School of Humanities, Arts, and Design
Term: January 12 – May 8, 2026
Course Credits: 3
Class Meeting Days: Asynchronous, at your own pace
Class Meeting Hours: Asynchronous, at your own pace
Course Website Address (Canvas): https://chaminade.instructure.com/

Instructor Name: Dr. Malia D. Wong, O.P.
Email: mwong2@chaminade.edu
Phone: 808.735.4867
Office Location: Henry Hall 208-A
Regular & Substantive Interaction (RSI):
> **Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, 8-11AMHST; by appointment
> **Grading and providing content-specific feedback** (via Canvas SpeedGrader): Grades and feedback are provided within 3-5 business days following an assignment submission.
> **Discussions:** Canvas board

University Course Catalog Description
Students probe the nature of human experience and religious meaning, with special attention given to experience of the Judeo-Christian God. Contemporary Catholic-Christian faith is systematically analyzed in terms of its core concepts, values and visions. This study addresses the question and critique of God in the modern world and surveys contemporary theology in a spirit that is Catholic, Christian and Ecumenical. Offered every semester. This course fulfills the lower division Religious Studies General Education Core requirement.

Course Overview
Students will study the theological foundations of Christianity from a contemporary and dynamic Roman Catholic perspective, investigating concepts fundamental to formulating a systematic faith-vision within the context of a diverse and multi-cultural society. Central themes include the human openness to transcendence, the experience of the Judeo-Christian God, the project of theology, the community called church and the sacraments it celebrates, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, moral theology, and Catholic social teaching.

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice, peace and the integrity of creation
5. Educate for adaptation and change

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the ʻOlelo Noʻeau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua (ʻŌlelo Noʻeau 364) May I live by God
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Naʻauao) Lawe i ka maʻalea a kūʻonoʻono (ʻŌlelo Noʻeau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep
3. Educate in Family Spirit (ʻOhana) ʻIke aku, ʻike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana ʻohana (ʻŌlelo Noʻeau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka noʻeau (ʻŌlelo Noʻeau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) ʻAʻohe pau ka ʻike i ka hālau hoʻokahi (ʻŌlelo Noʻeau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Course Learning Outcomes

At end of our course, students will be able to:

1. Correlate how the sacramental understanding of God is evident in human experience.
2. Describe the meaning of Jesus as foundational for the Christian response to human existence, human choices, and social justice.
3. Explain the main themes of the relationship between humanity and God as expressed in the Judeo-Christian understanding of God.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3
Marianist Values	1	4,5	3
Program Learning Outcomes	1,2	3,4	1

Course Prerequisites

RE 205: The Christian God and Human Experience is an introductory-level course designed to expose students to the fundamentals of Christian doctrinal beliefs and practices in the Roman Catholic tradition through a variety of media and experiences. No previous experience of the study of religion or theology in any confessional tradition or religious orientation is required or presumed. Furthermore, students will never be asked to adopt as their own any of the theological ideas and concepts contained within this course. Students who possess basic

technological capabilities consistent with university-level learning meet or exceed the necessary skills requisite for success in this course. (e.g. checking email, producing video and uploading it to a platform such as YouTube, navigating Canvas, composing prose on the word processing software of your choice, accessing .pdfs, performing additional complementary research via library resources or search engines, sourcing films through subscription streaming services, etc.)

Required Learning Materials
Ready and regular access to all required course materials is necessary for your continued success in our course. Nearly every module requires reading from the listed textbook; it is imperative that you obtain a copy from our Bookstore or any suitable, ethical source. Additional readings are available on our Canvas site in .pdf format.

1. Internet-capable technology
   a. Important information, course materials, and activities for course participation are posted onto our Canvas site and will be updated regularly as needed.

2. Access to required films
   a. Students will view the films below as part of their learning experience. Potential sources include the Sullivan Library collection, streaming subscription service, DVD rental, etc.
      i. *Contact* (Zemeckis, 1997)
      ii. *The Ten Commandments* (DeMille, 1956)
      iii. *Exodus: God and Kings* (Scott, 2014)
      iv. *Babette's Feast* (Axel, 1988)
      v. *Moloka'i: The Story of Fr. Damien* (Cox, 1999)
      vi. *Silence* (Scorsese, 2016)
      vii. *The Mission* (Joffé, 1986)
      viii. *Romero* (Duigan, 1989)

3. Assigned texts
   a. Textbook
      i. Mueller, J.J., ed. *Theological Foundations*, Alternate Edition. Winona: Anselm Academic, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-59982-134-4
   b. Articles
      i. Module 1
         1. Harry L. Poe and Jimmy H. Davis, "The Religious Way of Knowing."
         2. Đuro Šušnjić, "The Dialogue Between Religion and Science: Truths, Ideas and Beliefs."
         3. David B. Yaden, et al., "The Overview Effect: Awe and Self-Transcendent in Space Flight."
      ii. Module 4
         1. C.S. Lewis, "Making and Begetting" and "The Three-Personal God."
      iii. Module 5
         1. Michael J. Himes, "Finding God in All Things: A Sacramental Worldview and Its Effects."
      iv. Module 6
         1. Vatican II. *Lumen Gentium* Chapter VIII (pars. 52-69).
         2. Letter from the Church of Smyrna to the Church at Philomelion in Phrygia, "The Martyrdom of Polycarp."
      v. Module 8
         1. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."
      vi. Module 9
         1. Synod of Bishops. *Justicia in Mundo*.

Course Website: https://chaminade.instructure.com/

Hardware Requirements: Canvas is accessible from both PC and Mac computers with a reliable internet connection. Please be sure to have a webcam available for you to record video assignments. You will also need to be able to access audio and video files. Subsequently, you should have access to speakers or headphones that allow you to hear the audio.

Software Requirements: You will need to have some ability to listen to audio in an mp3 format, watch videos in mp4 format, stream online videos, and read .pdf files. There are a number of free software online that can be downloaded for free. If you need assistance with locating software, please feel free to contact the Chaminade Help Desk at cstechsupport@chaminade.edu or (808) 735-4855.

Technical Assistance for Canvas Users:
- Search for help on specific topics or get tips in Canvas Students
- Live chat with Canvas Support for students
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Contact Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: cstechsupport@chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4855

Kōkua ʻIke: Tutoring & Learning Services
Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua ʻIke: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua ʻIke's website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua ʻIke at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Student with Disabilities Statement
Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Course Policies

AI Use Policy in this Course
Generative AI (GenAI) tools may be used in this course to support learning and productivity. Any use of AI must be clearly disclosed in your submissions, and all final work must reflect your own analysis, understanding, and critical review of course materials.

Misuse of AI: including submitting AI-generated work as your own, using AI in place of required readings or assignments, or failing to provide disclosure, will result in academic penalties. These may include point deductions, a failing grade on the assignment, or referral to the appropriate academic authority for repeated or serious violations.

Assessment and Participation Expectations
This course endeavors to investigate the major themes of Roman Catholic theology in a way that is dynamic, interactive, and multi-experiential. To that end it enlists five types of learning activities:
1. *Analysis and Evaluation*. A variety of selected texts will introduce each module's thematic content. Students will recount their process of analyzing the assigned readings, noting points of interest and evaluating them for saliency and relevance.
2. *Synthesis and Comparison*. Sense-engaging learning experiences – typically an excursion and/or film – will deepen immersion into the module theme. Students will synthesize and compare their experience with the thematic material contained in the texts, observing the relationship between theory and praxis.
3. *Dialogue*. Students will nuance and broaden their learning through dialogue with others about themes from the module. Interlocutors will others in proximity: friends, families, community members, coworkers, and the like.
4. *Create*. The study of each theme will culminate with an activity prompt intended to develop and inspire a student's sense of awe, creativity, and imagination as they relate to the topic at hand.
5. *Quiz*. Modules 3 and 4 will feature multiformat quizzes (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short essay) designed to help a student evaluate their academic progress and promise early in the course. Points earned from these quizzes will be added to that module's tally.

Each type of learning activity will account for approximately 20% of one's final grade. Students will demonstrate satisfactory participation by completing all module assignments before progressing to a subsequent module. All activity prompts will be accompanied by a detailed rubric illustrating standards of academic excellence.

Grading Scale
Letter grades are given in all courses except those taken for credit/no credit, to be interpreted as follows:

A   Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
B   Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
C   Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter
D   Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work
F   Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

Grades of "Incomplete"
A student may submit a written petition to the instructor for an incomplete. The option to grant or deny an incomplete needs the approval of the Dean. If approved, the student will receive an extension of 30 days during which all outstanding requirements must be completed. Students seeking an incomplete must hold at least a passing grade, have completed a majority of the work of the course, and have an unavoidable and compelling reason why the remainder of the work cannot be completed on schedule.

Instructor and Student Communication
Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructor at mwong2@chaminade.edu. Online, in-person and phone conferences can be arranged. Response time will take place up to three (3) days.

Email Guidelines:
● Use your Chaminade email account.
● Always include the course and section number in the subject line.

- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless it is necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.

Late Work Policy

Deadlines encourage students to stay on task. Milestone 1 is due by 11:59 pm on the 14th day following the start of the course. If this assignment is late, you may be dropped from the class. All other assignments—with the exception of the Milestone 2, Midpoint Check-In, and any assignments that your instructor notes as having a firm deadline—can be turned in at your convenience until the end of the course term.

Writing Policy

Either MLA or APA are accepted.

Chaminade University Policies

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of the Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to asynchronously attend and submit course work in classes they are registered in. Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course or missing milestone and other check-ins, without official withdrawal, may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.

Basic Needs Resources: https://chaminade.edu/basic-needs/

Campus Safety/ SafeSwords

A program for students, faculty and staff, who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe walking alone on campus, at any time of the day. Call security, and a security professional will meet you at your location on campus.

The security professional will escort you to your residence hall, car, etc. Students may utilize this when walking to and from night classes around campus or after late night events. Safe Swords webpage

CUH Alert Emergency Notification
To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Credit Hour Policy
The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

Hazing Prevention Resources and Athlete Helpline
Assists athletes, parents, coaches, and any allies interested in ensuring physical and mental safety for sports communities by offering confidential emotional support, crisis intervention, informational athlete-focused resources, and guidance related to concerns about any type of abuse—*including hazing*.
Chaminade University's Hazing
Policy: https://catalog.chaminade.edu/studenthandbook/codeofconduct
https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/
https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/how-to-report-hazing/

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination
The university is committed to comply with all State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Inquiries about Title IX or general Civil Rights concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found here. On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at CampusConfidential Resources.

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the Campus Incident Report form. Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The Notice of Nondiscrimination can be found here: https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix nondiscrimination-policy/

Student Conduct Policy

Campus life is a unique situation requiring the full cooperation of each individual. For many, Chaminade is not only a school, but a home and a place of work as well. That makes it a community environment in which the actions of one student may directly affect other students. Therefore, each person must exercise a high degree of responsibility. Any community must have standards of conduct and rules by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website under Student Life. For further information, please refer to the Chaminade Catalog

Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Course Schedule

Module #	Areas of Study *Assignments are detailed under each Module	Text Readings
Module 1	Introduction and Philosophical Anthropology	*see Canvas board
	Milestone 1: Due by January 26th	
Module 2	The Experience of Israel	*Text, chapt. 2 *see Canvas board
Module 3	An Encounter with Jesus the Christ	*Text, chapt. 3, 4 *see Canvas board
Module 4	The Project of Theology	*Text, chapt. 1, 12 *see Canvas board
Module 5	Ecclesiology and the Sacraments	*Text, chapt. 5,7 *see Canvas board
	Milestone 2: Due by March 16th	
Module 6	Mariology and Martyrology	*see Canvas board
Module 7	Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue	*Text, chapt. 10, 11 *see Canvas board
Module 8	Moral Theology	*Text, chapt. 8 *see Canvas board
Module 9	Catholic Social Teaching	*see Canvas board

Module 10	Course Evaluation	
	Course ends: May 8th	