



UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Sampaloc 1, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite
www.uts.ph



OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Program: Master of Theology (MTh) – Theological Education for an Economy of Life (TEEL)

Course Title: Theology

Credit Units: 4 Units

Term: August 2026 (One-Month Intensive)

Total Contact Hours: 20 Hours (8 sessions × 2.5 hours)

Mode of Delivery: Fully Online (Synchronous)

Learning Platform: Google Classroom

Faculty:

Prof. Eric P. Baldonado, ebaldonado.uts@gmail.com is a United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) theologian and pastor integrating pulpit, academy, and public witness. He chairs Christianity and Culture, and currently the director of the Master of Theology program at Union Theological Seminary, Philippines, where he earned multiple degrees summa cum laude. He did his doctoral research in Reformed Theology at the Theologische Universiteit Utrecht, enhanced by studies in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and a Hamburg fellowship in Germany. His international formation informs a scholarship of historical insight, prophetic ethics, and contextual mission.

Rev. Dr. Seungbum Kim (dosakv.uts@gmail.com) is a Korean missionary-theologian, pastor, and Assistant Professor at Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines, serving as a Council for World Mission (CWM) Partner-in-Mission. He holds a PhD and a MTh from the University of Pretoria, and a Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Seoul. He previously served for over fifteen years in South Africa and Eswatini. His teaching integrates liberation theologies, social ethics, and community-based praxis in Global South contexts.

I. Course Description

This course examines Christian theology in relation to contemporary economic, social, ecological, and humanitarian realities through the framework of Theological Education for an Economy of Life (TEEL). It critically explores how Christian theology has interacted with systems of power, including political authority, economic structures, empire, and cultural dominance, and considers how theological reflection may contribute constructively to justice, dignity, peace, and the flourishing of all creation.

The course engages major contextual theological traditions, including Liberation Theologies, Black Theology of Liberation, Minjung Theology, Womanist Theology, and Eco-feminist Theology. These traditions approach theology as historically situated and socially embodied, emerging from concrete experiences of oppression, struggle, resilience, and hope.

Particular attention is given to theological reflection in contexts of war, trauma, displacement, and humanitarian crisis, framed here as “Theology after Gaza.” Students will examine how theology responds to mass suffering through lament, memory, ethical discernment, and pastoral responsibility.

The course culminates in constructive theological reflection oriented toward an Economy of Life, integrating doctrinal foundations with contextual and public theological engagement.

The course is team-taught. The opening and final sessions are co-taught; the remaining sessions alternate between the two professors.

II. Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze Christian theology in relation to contemporary economic, social, ecological, and political realities.
2. Identify and evaluate theological assumptions that have supported or challenged systems of injustice and domination.
3. Engage Liberation Theologies, Black Theology of Liberation, Minjung Theology, and related contextual traditions as significant theological conversations.
4. Articulate theology as a disciplined response to social struggle, suffering, and ethical responsibility.
5. Construct a coherent theological argument relevant to contexts of conflict, violence, and humanitarian crisis.
6. Develop an integrative theological framework oriented toward an Economy of Life.

III. Theological Orientation

This course understands theology as historically situated and contextually shaped. Theology is approached not as an abstract system detached from lived realities but as a disciplined reflection emerging from concrete historical experience.

Drawing on liberationist, decolonial, feminist, and contextual traditions, the course encourages critical engagement with dominant theological paradigms, including those shaped by Western modernity. Rather than rejecting Western theology, the course situates it within a broader global theological conversation that includes voices from the Global South and communities affected by inequality, ecological crisis, and conflict.

The course progresses from classical liberation paradigms toward contemporary theological responses to ecological degradation, empire, war, and economic injustice, culminating in constructive reflection grounded in the vision of an Economy of Life.

IV. Course Communication and Learning Platform

All course announcements, schedules, readings, and instructions will be communicated through Google Classroom. Students are responsible for checking the platform regularly.

All assignments must be submitted through Google Classroom. Submissions through other platforms will not be accepted unless prior approval is granted by the instructors.

V. Course Requirements and Assessment

Component	Percentage
Attendance & Participation	10%
Faith Journey	10%
Session Assignments	20%
Student Presentations	20%
Final Paper	40%
Total	100%

1. Faith Journey (10%)

Due: August 2 (Sunday), 11:59 PM

Length: 1,000–1,200 words

Students will submit a theological self-reflection narrating their faith journey in relation to social, economic, ecological, or political realities.

This paper serves as the foundation for student self-introductions in Session 1.

2. Session Assignments (20%)

Each session requires a minimum 700-word analytical paper engaging the assigned readings and applying theological concepts to a concrete context.

Session papers are due at 11:59 PM prior to the next class meeting, unless otherwise specified.

3. Student Presentations (20%)

Students will deliver brief theological presentations (3–7 minutes) synthesizing readings and contextual application.

4. Final Integrative Paper (40%)

Due: August 28 (Friday), 8:00 AM

Length: Minimum 2,000 words

Students will construct an integrative theological argument engaging course readings and proposing a constructive theological vision oriented toward an Economy of Life.

VI. Course Schedule, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines

Session	Date	Theme & Focus	Instructor	Required Reading	Assignment	Due Date
1	Aug 3 (Mon)	Introduction to TEEL: Theology, Power, and the Economy of Death;	Prof. Eric Baldonado & Rev. Dr. Seungbum	Gutiérrez, <i>A Theology of Liberation</i> , Intro & Ch.1; WCC,	Analyze one “economy of death” structure in your context	Aug 6 (Thu), 11:59

		Self Introduction (Faith Journey); Syllabus; UTS; TEEL–NIFEA; Modern Ecumenical Movement	Kim	<i>Economy of Life</i> , Intro; São Paulo Statement (Secs. 1–3)	using liberation theology’s method.	PM
2	Aug 7 (Fri)	Liberation Theologies and the Economy of Life	Rev. Dr. Seungbum Kim	Cone, <i>God of the Oppressed</i> , Chs. 1 & 5; Gutiérrez, Ch.2	Compare Gutiérrez and Cone on liberation and apply to a concrete injustice.	Aug 9 (Sun), 11:59 PM
3	Aug 10 (Mon)	Salvation, Church, and Public Responsibility	Prof. Eric Baldonado	Moltmann, <i>The Church in the Power of the Spirit</i> , Ch.1; Bosch, <i>Transforming Mission</i> , Ch.1; Fernandez, Ch.1	Evaluate the public responsibility of the Church in your context.	Aug 13 (Thu), 11:59 PM
4	Aug 14 (Fri)	Womanist Theology and Survival	Rev. Dr. Seungbum Kim	Williams, <i>Sisters in the Wilderness</i> , Intro & Ch.1; Cone, Ch.4	Analyze survival theology and its challenge to traditional doctrines.	Aug 16 (Sun), 11:59 PM
5	Aug 17 (Mon)	Eco-feminist Theology and Creation	Prof. Eric Baldonado	Ruether, <i>Ecofeminism</i> , Intro & Ch.2; Moltmann (selected sections)	Apply eco-feminist theology to one environmental crisis in your context.	Aug 20 (Thu), 11:59 PM
6	Aug 21 (Fri)	Theology after Gaza	Rev. Dr. Seungbum Kim	Raheb, <i>Decolonizing Palestine</i> , Intro & Ch.3; <i>Theology After Gaza</i> , Intro; Vellem, “Un-thinking the West”	Propose a theological response to war, trauma, or displacement.	Aug 23 (Sun), 11:59 PM
7	Aug 24 (Mon)	Theology, Community, and Praxis (Minjung)	Prof. Eric Baldonado	<i>Minjung Theology</i> , Intro; Ahn Byung-Mu, “Jesus and the Minjung”; Fernandez, Ch.4	Identify the “Minjung” in your context and analyze their theological significance.	Aug 27 (Thu), 11:59 PM
8	Aug 28 (Fri)	Toward an Economy of Life (Synthesis); Final Presentations; Course Evaluation	Prof. Eric Baldonado & Rev. Dr. Seungbum Kim	Bosch, concluding chapter; WCC, concluding section; CWM, <i>Mission in the Context of Empire</i> , Intro	Final Integrative Paper (2,000+ words)	Aug 28 (Fri), 8:00 AM

VII. Academic Writing

All written work must follow Chicago Citation Style (Notes and Bibliography format). Proper citation is required.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Students must uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism or improper citation constitutes academic misconduct and will be addressed according to UTS policy.

IX. Reading List

A. Core Readings (Required)

Cone, James H. *God of the Oppressed*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1975.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1973.

Kim, Yong Bock, ed. *Minjung Theology: People as the Subjects of History*. Rev. ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1983.

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.

Fernandez, Elaazar S. *Toward a Theology of Struggle*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1994.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Church in the Power of the Spirit: A Contribution to Messianic Ecclesiology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1977.

Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Williams, Delores S. *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993.

Vellem, Vuyani S. "Un-thinking the West: The Spirit of Doing Black Theology of Liberation in Decolonial Times." *HTS Teologiese Studies / Theological Studies* 73, no. 3 (2017): 1–9. doi.org.

Raheb, Mitri. *Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, the People, the Bible*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2023.

Raheb, Mitri, and Graham McGeoch, eds. *Theology After Gaza: A Global Anthology*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2025.

Council for World Mission, World Council of Churches, and World Communion of Reformed Churches. *São Paulo Statement: International Financial Transformation for the Economy of Life*. São Paulo: 2012. <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/sao-paulo-statement-international-financial-transformation-for-the-economy-of-life>.

World Council of Churches. *Economy of Life: An Invitation to Theological Reflection and Action*. Geneva: WCC, 2014. <https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/Document/EconomyOfLifeAnInvitationToTheologicalReflAction.pdf>.

B. Recommended Readings (Supplementary)

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Crucified God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1974.

Ateek, Naim S. *A Palestinian Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2017.

Raheb, Mitri. *Faith in the Face of Empire*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2014.

Council for World Mission. *Mission in the Context of Empire*. London: CWM, 2012. <https://theasiadialogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mission-and-empire.pdf>