



MM103/104 Christians in a Disruptive and Digital World

Dr Lai Pak Wah/ Dr Tan Seng Kong | 1.5/ 3 CR

Course Purpose

Disruptions have been a key concern for business leaders in the last two decades, as noted in Clayton Christensen's *Innovator's Dilemma* (1997). Since then, we have seen not only traditional businesses disrupted but also the pace of disruption accelerating due to the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). As the recent COVID19 pandemic has shown, the Church is also not immune to disruptions. Christian leaders now find themselves grappling with how to disciple Christians in a rapidly changing world, up against challenges as wide ranging as the stress of remote work, economic recessions, shifts in geopolitics and economic structures, and the unfamiliarity of ministering in a digital world.

The aim of this course is to survey the above challenges and to introduce the theological, spiritual, and interdisciplinary resources that can enable the Church to disciple Christians and to further God's kingdom in this new normal. Students will also have opportunities to dialogue with industry experts and practitioners on the challenges of digital disruptions and consolidate their learning through a group project.

Dates (2022) Feb 15 Mar 1, 15, 29 April 12, 19 April 26 (3 CR only)	Location Zoom Room
Time (7.15-10pm)	
Credits 1.5 CR or 3 CR	Fees* S\$225/ S\$450(Credit) S\$120/ S\$240 (Audit)
Class Format <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Paced+Live (In-Person) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self-Paced+Live (Online) <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Paced+Live (In-Person+Online)	
Pre-requisite: NIL	

About the Lecturers

Dr Lai Pak Wah is a lecturer of Church History and Historical Theology at BGST. A graduate from BGST (Grad Dip CS) and Regent College, Vancouver (MCS, ThM), Dr Lai completed his PhD at Durham University, where he specialised in Christianity in Late Antiquity, that is, the history, theology and spirituality of the 2nd – 5th century church fathers (also known as Patristic Studies). Besides his research on John Chrysostom, Dr Lai has also published on the interface between theology & medicine in *The Dao of Healing: Christian Perspectives on Chinese Medicine*. Previously, Dr Lai was a full-time lecturer at the School of Business, Singapore Polytechnic, and engaged in investment promotion work with the Singapore Economic Development Board. He is the current Principal of BGST.



Dr Tan Seng Kong is our Lecturer of Systematic and Spiritual Theology. He is a graduate from Regent College, Vancouver (MA, Spiritual Theology). Seng Kong completed his PhD in Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he focused his research on Jonathan Edwards's doctrine of salvation. Seng Kong was trained as an architect and with his family, worships at Bethel Assembly of God.



Academic Information

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- 1) not only understand present and future disruptions from a theological perspective but have the spiritual resources to navigate and flourish, despite the challenges.
- 2) Be able to understand and apply the theological, ethical and inter-disciplinary frameworks needed to discern the values and dangers of digital disruptions.
- 3) Understand the value and potential of digital technologies for your personal and church ministries.

Assignments

	Assignments	1.5 cr		3 cr.	
1	Reading Journal	1000 words	30%	1000 words	20%
2	Session 5 Case Presentation	Group	10%	Group	10%
3a	Project Presentation	Individual	20%	Individual	10%
3b	Essay	2000 words	40%	4000 words	40%
4	Book Review	-	-	2000 words	20%
	Total	3000 words	100%	6000 words	100%

Required Texts:

1. Gans, Joshua. *The Disruption Dilemma*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2016. (Available online at NLB & DTL.)
2. Schwab, Klaus. *Shaping the Future of the Fourth Industrial Revolution*. Geneva: World Economic Forum, 2018. (Available online at NLB.)
3. Woodhock, Jamie, & Mark Graham. *The Gig Economy: A Critical Edition*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2020. (Available online at NLB.)
4. Skidelsky, Robert, and Nan Craig. *Work in the Future*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020. (Available online at NLB.)
5. Brynjolfsson, Erik, and Andrew McAfee. *Machine, Platform and Crowd: Harnessing Our Digital Future*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2017. (Available online at NLB & DTL.)
6. Ellul, Jacques. *The Technological Society*. Introduction by Robert K. Merton. Translated by John Wilkinson. New York: Vintage, 1964. (Available online at DTL; scanned pages on Moodle.)
7. Ott, Kate. *Christian Ethics for a Digital Society*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019. (Available online on DTL.)
8. Berger, Teresa. *@Worship: Liturgical Practices in the Digital World*. London: Routledge, 2018. (Available online on DTL.)

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**

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