

Charles University, Protestant Theological Faculty
Courses in English in the academic year 2024-2025
Summer Semester 2025
(last updated 04 February) 2025)

Courses intended for all students

Czech for Foreign Students - Intensive course - (week 10-14 February 2025)

20 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Aleš Hoznauer

Czech for Foreigners Intermediate – RET9536

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Aleš Hoznauer

Czech for Foreign Students - Beginners RET9534

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Aleš Hoznauer

Courses recommended for students of Theology

Introduction to the New Testament Studies RETA2001

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Jan Roskovec

The course has the form of lectures over two semesters in the first year of study. It introduces the students into critical study of the New Testament, providing them with basic information about the structure, content and literary characteristics of the particular writings. Simultaneous individual reading of the respective writings is expected, acquired findings are discussed. The course is an initial prerequisite for further courses in New Testament studies.

It is aimed at acquiring a working knowledge of the New Testament writings, basic orientation in its texts, their types, literary forms and contents.

Church History 2 - RETA3032

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teachers: Martin Wernisch, Pieter Morée

This course in Czech history of church and theology in the context of European and global church history deepens knowledge acquired through the individual study of text books and other literature. Therefore it is not confined to an overview of church history from the Christianization of the Czech lands till today, but dependent on the possibilities can rather be compared to research courses which by way of indepth case studies help to understand and interpret details of general issues concerning both sources as well as the current academic debate about it. The individual themes of the course will therefore be modified and selected from various periods and aspects of church history (without a limitation to Czech history, though it will have a certain connection to it and will contribute to its understanding).

Church History Seminar 1 - RETA3011

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teachers: Ota Halama, Pieter Morée

The course is designed for the acquisition of basic methods of historical research, applied to the material of the history of Christianity. The students learn to reflect on the phenomena from the past not only through the secondary literature, but also through the primary sources obtained, and familiarize themselves with the rules of source criticism and interpretation. They take part in discussions about these sources, fulfill smaller assignments and accomplish the course by a larger paper.

Introduction to Bohemian Reformation RET3067

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Pieter Morée

First aggregate exam in Systematic Theology entails the examination of all particular fields of the discipline, students got acquainted in the lectures and seminars with, in order to verify the knowledges and skills of students within the complex of the particular discipline. The required literature is to find on the regularly actualized web sites of the department. The exam presupposes a thorough individual preparation.

This exam is intended for those who did not choose Systematic Theology for their final Bachelor degree state Exam.

How to Study, Read and Write - RETA9801

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teachers: Jan Kranát, Jan Roskovec

The aim of the course is to introduce methods of writing academic work. The students should be able to write and publish their papers and theses. The course is based on explanation of the Humboldt ideal of University, principles of both classical and modern hermeneutics (Schleiermacher, Gadamer, Ricoeur) and elements of interpretation of texts and writing scientific articles. Special attention is paid to computer typography.

History of Ancient Israel and its Religion RETA1003

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Filip Čapek

The subject of the course is the history of the religion of ancient Israel. The main emphasis is placed on studying the contemporary political contexts which provide the essential background for an understanding of particular religious concepts and ideas, their formation and development. Special attention is paid to religions in neighbouring cultures, since these contribute substantially to the religion of ancient Israel as such.

Theological Ethics 1 RETA5031

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Pavel Keřkovský

The general introduction into ethics provides the students with basic knowledge in ethics, its method and subject. It gives a survey of the historical development of moral thought and information on the basic categories in ethics, significant tendencies and schools of moral thought.

History of Christian Doctrine – RETA3004

2 hours/week, 3 credits, Teacher: Petr Gallus

An introductory course, providing a definition of the subdiscipline of the history of dogma and presenting its material from the beginning to the present, with regard to all main branches of Christianity.

Introduction to the Old Testament Studies – RETA1001 – both semesters

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teachers: Martin Prudký, Petr Sláma, Jan Rückl

A two-semester series of lectures aimed at providing (a) a factual knowledge of the biblical texts (the Old Testament including the deuterocanonical books), (b) a basic knowledge of the Bible, its forms and constituent parts (the books and groups of books), and their literary and factual characteristics, and (c) an understanding of the basic issues relating to biblical studies, especially how Scripture has been read, used, and interpreted in the Christian tradition.

Desire for Wholeness: Sources of Contemporary Holistic Theology RET6055

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Kateřina Kočandrl Bauer,

There is a deep desire in people to see and experience unity and wholeness in life at all levels. This desire for unity is not only a psychological concept but also a mythological and religious one. This course introduces the theological sources that within the Christian traditions of both East and West help to fulfil this desire. Because wholeness and unity have played a significant role in the Eastern tradition and spirituality, the course works predominantly with the authors of Russian religious philosophy and Eastern theology. These voices are complemented by Western voices, especially from the Roman Catholic world.

Introduction to Philosophy RETA7001 – both semesters

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teachers: Lenka Karfíková, Olga Navrátilová

The aim of the course is to introduce the students to the field of philosophical questioning and to present philosophy as never-ending movement of thought rather than a system of particular teachings. To this end, we will use several examples of important texts of the Western philosophical tradition. The course will focus on the acquirement of the skills necessary for the interpretation of philosophical texts.

Religious Studies 1 - RETA8031

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Pavol Bargár

This course will offer an introduction to the academic study of World Christianity. The latter term has recently been used to account for the diversity and multiplicity of Christianity across time and space. In addition, this notion places Christianity alongside other world religions. This reflects a 20th-century “global shift” in Christianity from a largely North Atlantic religion to one that is found all around the world. In short, World Christianity is a concept that seeks to describe the global nature of the Christian religion.

Poverty and Hope in Theological Perspective RPZ06

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teachers: Petr Jandejsek

Biblical Hebrew - RETA9301 – both semesters

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teachers: Martin Prudký, Petr Sláma, Jan Rückl

A practical class lasting two semesters, each session lasting two hours. Its aim is for students to acquire linguistic competence in independent reading, translation, and grammatical analysis of Hebrew texts from the Old Testament of medium difficulty. The course follows on directly from the intensive course in Biblical Hebrew.

New Testament Seminar 2A RETA2022

2 hours/week, 6 credits, Teachers: Dávid Cielontko, Jan Roskovec

This seminar focuses on selected New Testament texts and themes within the context of contemporary scholarly debate. The seminar will be held in 4 bloc sessions with international guest scholars. The sessions will take place on Thursdays 17:00-19:00 and Fridays in two sessions between 9:00 and 12:30. For dates, see the syllabus below. First seminar: 27.02.2025 – 17:00-18:30

Systematic Theology Seminar 1 RETA4011

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Timothy Noble

The seminar introduces into the work of a systematic theologian. Students learn to master a critical reading of a mid- difficult modern theological text. They are required to search in theological handbooks and dictionaries unfamiliar terms, statements, theories, doctrines, schools, books, authors. Students are also supposed to ask critical questions and let their own opinions to be corrected by the texts. Students are motivated to their own thinking and work, also through moderation of a particular session and through making protocols of the sessions. The aim of the seminar is to learn to interpret a mid-difficult theological text, to formulate the line of thought with their own words and lead a critical discussion with the particular author.

Poverty and Hope in Theological Perspective - RPZ06

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Petr Jandejsek

Embodied Liturgy: Lessons in Christian Ritual - RET6064

2 hours/week, ? credits, Teacher: Tabita Landová

The „return to the body“ has also influenced thinking about Christian liturgy and ritual practice. We celebrate worship in our bodies, and the bodily experience contributes significantly to how we perceive, experience, and understand worship. With the body as a primary focus, this seminar will introduce the basic themes of liturgical theology: what is Christian liturgy; the experience of celebration in time; what is ritual; rites of initiation; word and meal in liturgy; rites of penance; youth rites of passage; marriage rites; burial rites; liturgy and inculturation; architecture, art, and music in liturgy. The main focus of the seminar will be reading and discussion of Frank Senn's book “Embodied Liturgy: Lessons in Christian Ritual” (Fortress Press 2016), which draws on insights ranging from postmodern philosophers such as Merleau-Ponty to ancient sages of East. Successful completion of the course requires active participation in the seminar, presentation of a chapter from the book "Embodied Liturgy," and a seminar paper on a topic in liturgical theology.

Systematic Theology 1 - RETA4031

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Ondřej Kolář

Introduction to Latin American Liberation Theology - RET6043A

2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Timothy Noble

Courses recommended for students of Social Work

International Social Work - RPZ04 – both semesters

24 hours/semester, 3 credits, Teacher: Eva Křížová

The main content of this course is to learn about international social work. This may be achieved by various activities and assignments, e.g. part by the participation in International Weeks in Social Work organised by our Erasmus partners or through Erasmus stay in social work. The course will be concluded by a student's report on a comparative issue - e.g. migration, sustainable development goals or multicultural social work, 3 pages (5400 signs). The main aim is to broaden up the European and global perspective of social work and to enable the recognition of international cultural experiences during Erasmus exchange study.

Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare - ASCK100133

24 hours/semester, 3 credits, Teacher: Daniel Štěpánek

From Tuesday 4th March → 15:50 – 19:05

The aim of the course is to strengthen the students' competences to perform social work with English-speaking clients and at the same time to put the acquired knowledge in an international framework. The course will be taught in the form of interactive seminars where current field resources will be analysed. Students will choose a text (article, book chapter) to study and present to the other students according to their professional focus. In the subsequent structured discussion, the student will first respond to questions from colleagues and in the second part the group will analyse the text in the context of contemporary Czech experience.