

Charles University, Protestant Theological Faculty

Courses in English in the academic year 2023/2024

(last updated 13.2. 2024)

The summer semester 2024

Courses intended for all students

Czech for Foreigners Intermediate – RET9536

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

Courses recommended for students of Theology

Practical Knowledge of Churches – RETA6002

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Martin Vaňáč

The course is focused on Christian churches and their activities in the Czech Republic. The aim of the course is to know the brief history of Christian churches in the Czech Republic (especially the relationship between the state and churches, for example changes in registration conditions, special rights, etc.) and study their structure and different theological emphases and church practice (eg membership conditions, sacramental and liturgical practice). Students should be able to orientate themselves in church issues and be able to cooperate in administrative, pastoral or social work.

Latin 2 RETA9102

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Lucie Kopecká

This course builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in the course Latin 1 – Basic Course. It focuses on the Latin syntax (system of subordinate clauses and semi-sentence constructions) and on a small but more difficult part of morphology. With respect to the grammatical interpretations, practice sentences, self-corrective exercises and translations the students work with increasingly difficult sentences and adequate difficult continuous texts. After completing the course Latin 2, the student is able to analyze and translate even more complex Latin sentences and work with more extensive and difficult Latin texts.

New Testament Greek – RETA9201

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Lucie Kopecká

This subject is directly connected to the New Testament Greek – Basic Course. It includes grammatical explanations of further parts of Greek morphology and syntax and exercises on adequately difficult practice sentences selected from the New Testament. Based on mastering the grammar and vocabulary, the student is able to translate the New Testament from the original, which is a prerequisite for subsequent study of the New Testament theology.

New Testament Seminar 1 – Exegetical methods - RETA2011

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

The seminar is aimed at mastering the methods of biblical exegesis, i.e. analysis and interpretation of the New Testament texts. Selected passages are analysed first in terms of their linguistic form and then with respect to their contents. The students will be introduced to particular exegetical approaches and methods and will get acquainted with the relevant instruments as dictionaries, grammars, commentaries and specialised studies. The methods that will be exercised include historical criticism, structural analysis, narrative and reader-response criticism, social criticism etc.

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.

Historical Environment of the New Testament – RETA2003

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Dávid Cielontko

The course views the historical environment in which the writings of the New Testament were formed. In terms of geo-graphical area it focuses on Palestine and the eastern Mediterranean, chronologically on the period from the campaigns of Alexander the Great to the middle of the 2nd century CE. It presents the important historical events, religious and cultural conditions, as well as some insight into the everyday life and a survey of the literary and archaeological monuments.

Philosophy Seminar 1: Thomas of Aquinas – RETA7011

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Lenka Karfíková

The Philosophy Seminar 1 focuses on detailed lecture of chosen fundamental texts of the classical, Christian and modern philosophy.

Religious Studies Seminar 1(Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue and Interaction) – RETA8011

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Pavol Bargár

In this seminar the students will learn basic interpretive skills, focusing on one selected religious studies text (such as M. Eliade, Sacred and Profane, R. Otto, The Idea of the Holy etc.) which they will read, interpret and comment on together in seminar discussions, employing relevant secondary literature and other tools and resources of religious studies.

Typology of Sacrificial and Incense Altars in Judah and Philistia –RETD1035

50 hours/semester, 2 credits, Teacher: David Rafael Moulis

This course is based on the archaeological and Biblical records from various archaeological sites in Philistia, Judah and Israel. Different categories and types of altars will be presented. E.g. horned altars vs. non-horned altars; large offering altars vs. smaller incense altar; altars made of field stones vs. altars made of ashlar stones. The main archaeological finds came from the sites as: Beer-sheba, Arad, Moza, Dan, Megiddo, Gat and Ekron. The course will be given on Moodle.

Religious Studies – History (History of Christianity from a Global Perspective) - RETA8042

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

In this course the students will learn about the most important models and paradigms of religious studies as an autonomous scholarly discourse. The students will learn about the most influential schools and thinkers in the history of religious studies as an independent academic endeavour so that they get a solid understanding of religious phenomena as they were interpreted and analysed in a variety of perspectives and approaches which emerged during the history of religious studies.

Archaeology, Bible and Current Research in Israel – RETD1038

75 hours/semester, 3 credits, Teachers: David Rafael Moulis, Filip Čapek

The course focuses on the relationship of archaeology to the Bible, specifically here to the Old Testament. After introducing the basics of the discipline, it progresses through the different periods of research in Israel, charting the interpretive crossroads that archaeologists, historians, and biblical scholars separately (but also together) must grapple with. The course consists of ten parts in each of which students do study the chosen texts and work independently on assigned tasks. The course will be given on Moodle.

The Pottery of Ancient Israel – RETD1034A

50 hours/semester, 2 credits, Teacher: David Rafael Moulis

The course is based on the typology of the ancient Israel pottery and the process of its production. The focus is on pottery from the Neolithic to the Iron Age II period. All papers, book chapters and tasks are only in English. The course is taught on the Moodle platform, where study materials and assignments are stored.

Introduction to the Old Testament Studies – RETA1001

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

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.

Archaeology, Bible and Current Research in Israel – RETD1004A

25 hours/semester, 2 credits, Teacher: Filip Čapek

Students can enroll for the course repeatedly; this course can be enrolled in outside the study plan enabled for web enrollment in winter and in summer semester. The course will be given on Moodle.

Bible and History – RET10427

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Jan Dušek

Our objective is to scrutinize the Old Testament texts which concern the period of the Iron Age in the light of the North-West Semitic epigraphic sources. We will study selected inscriptions written in Aramaic and in Canaanite languages, which concern the texts of the Old Testament. Basic knowledge of Classical (Biblical) Hebrew is an indispensable precondition to attending and participating in this course.

Biblical Hebrew – RETA9301

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Petr Sláma

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.

Old Testament Exegesis: Jacob, that is, Israel--From Text Reading to Biblical Theology – RETA1043

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Martin Prudký

The aim of the course is to deepen knowledge of biblical exegesis with the help of selected texts from the Old Testament. The course is taught by distance learning on the moodle learning portal.

This year the course focuses on the Jacob cycle of Genesis (25:19-35:29), particularly on the interpretation and reception history of the narrative of Jacob's struggle at Jabbok (Gen. 32:23-33). Students are expected to study the discussed texts for each lesson on an ongoing basis, to read the recommended literature, and to prepare analyses, interpretations, and interpretive suggestions for the texts under discussion.

Systematic Theology 1 – RETA4031

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

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.

Dogmatics – RETA4042

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Petr Macek

This main lecture in Systematic Theology on Magister level offers a fundamental survey of dogmatics.

The aim of the lecture is to demonstrate the current situation of protestant systematic theology based on selected classical dogmatic loci (theology proper, Christology, pneumatology, cosmology, anthropology, soteriology, ecclesiology, sacramentology, eschatology).

In the full-time programme, the lecture is varied every year so that students may get a complex overview of the whole discipline. The lecturer usually introduces a particular treatment of Christian doctrines and encourages students to critical reading of standard theological classics. By commenting both the old and new literature the lecturer invites the students to a critical and a self-critical discussion of the creeds of the church as well as creeds and faith confessions of their own tradition or denomination.

Theological Ethics 1 – RETA5031

2 hours/week, 2 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.

Desire for Wholeness: Sources of Contemporary Holistic Theology – RET6055

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Kateřina Kočandrle 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. The course will be based as combination of the lectures and seminar work predominately based on the commenting of the given texts.

International Interdisciplinary Block-Seminar - "The Will of God: The importance of the Old Testament ethics for today?" – RET10425

18 hours/semester, 3 credits, Teachers: Martin Prudký, Petr Sláma, Filip Čapek

One-time course taught in English in the form of an international block seminar -- three-day workshop of students & teachers of the universities Prague, Heidelberg and Zürich. The seminar will take place on 7-9 May 2024 at the Tutzing Conference Centre in Bavaria (Evangelische Akademie Tutzing). Subject/course: Old Testament Theology, Topic: "The Will of God. The Importance of the Old Testament Ethics for Today?" It will be held with the active participation of Prof. Manfred Oeming (Heidelberg), Prof. Konrad Schmid (Zurich), Prof. Martin Prudky, Prof. Petr Sláma, Prof. Filip Čapek and Prof. Jan Rückl (Prague). Students are expected to make an active contribution. All participants will study the required literature and prepare their presentation on one of the subtopics (30 minutes). The moodle e-learning portal is used to prepare and communicate with all participants; more detailed information and materials (programme, timetable, etc.) are continuously published there. Students can also use the consultation with the lecturers to prepare before the symposium.

Reading in New Testament Greek – RETA9210

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Lucie Kopecká

The course confirms the acquired knowledge in the field of Greek morphology and syntax and deepens it on the basis of textual material of the Greek of the New Testament period (koine). With respect to the content, these are New Testament and early ecclesiastical texts (especially the writings of the so-called apostolic fathers and apocryphal texts). From the genre point of view, the genres known from the Bible (gospels, apostolic letters, narrative matter) are important, but also the apocalypics or wisdom literature.

Aims: The student is able to place the knowledge gained by reading the New Testament in a broader historical and literary context. By mastering the rules of this reading, the students prepare themselves for a critical reading of biblical and related texts.

Places of Hope – complete course – RP446

2 hours/week, 10 credits, Teachers: Petr Jandejsek, Eva Křížová, Jan Zámečník

The course is held online. This is an interdisciplinary and international course promoting a closer interaction between social work, theology and Diaconia. In this course teachers from social work and theology departments of the Protestant Theological faculty of the Charles University and from the Windesheim University in Zwolle, The Netherlands are teaching in a joint education module. The central motivation was to create a platform for the mutual transdisciplinary and international co-creation of knowledge and practice in innovative approaches contributing to social inclusion, quality of life, and justice in our societies. The course has a theoretical and practical part.

The full course description is available in this guide:

https://web.etf.cuni.cz/ETFN-755-version1-places_hope_updated_3.pdf

Places of Hope – theological cluster – RP446B

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teachers: Petr Jandejsek, Eva Křížová, Jan Zámečník

The course is held online. This course is one independent part of an interdisciplinary and international course Places of Hope promoting a closer interaction between social work, theology and Diaconia. In this part B - theological cluster the focus is laid on theories of hope, resilience, and empowerment from the perspective of the social sciences, mainly social work and sociology. The full course description is available in this guide: https://web.etf.cuni.cz/ETFN-755-version1-places_hope_updated_3.pdf

Places of Hope – social cluster – RP446A

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Eva Křížová

The course is held online. This course is one independent part of an interdisciplinary and international course Places of Hope promoting a closer interaction between social work, theology and Diaconia. In this part A - social cluster the focus is laid on theories of hope, resilience, and empowerment from the perspective of the social sciences, mainly social work and sociology. The full course description is available in this guide: https://web.etf.cuni.cz/ETFN-755-version1-places_hope_updated_3.pdf

Social Work in the Czech Republic – RPZ02

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teachers: Eliška Hudcová, Eva Křížová

The course aims to introduce major social issues and concerns in CR which are closely associated with social work: socio-economic development of the society – major trends, current social structure and emerging problems, approaches to solve them and basic coping strategies of target groups. The course will explore theories and concepts related to social exclusion and integration, legal concerns and bring examples of practical applications to be analysed and discussed by the course participants.

The course is taught over a semester (13 sessions) with one lecture or seminar each week. A supervised practice placement (or placements) in a social work setting with some academic output also required. The placement is chosen individually in consultation with the supervisor, taking into account the interests of the student. The number of placements open to students who do not speak Czech is limited, so students interested in this course should write well in advance to the Office for International Relations outlining their motivation and interests and giving several alternative client groups they are interested in working with. This course is only open to exchange students enrolled at the Protestant Theological Faculty.