

Charles University, Protestant Theological Faculty

Courses in English in the academic year 2022/2023

(last updated 25. October 2022)

The winter semester 2022/2023

Courses intended for all students

Czech Language Course (this course is a part of the Orientation Programme)

Intensive course before the beginning of the semester, 2 credits, Teacher: Aleš Hoznauer

Czech for Foreign Students - Beginners- RET9534

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

Czech for Foreigners – Beginners 2 - RET95332

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

Courses recommended for students of Theology

Introduction to Missiology - RET6057

2 hours/week, 6 credits, Teacher: Tim Noble

Missiology is an academic discipline that undertakes the study of Christian mission in all its complexity. This course seeks to offer an introduction both to the discipline and to the complexity. The word “mission” can evoke all sorts of responses, positive and negative, and it is important to acknowledge these as a hermeneutical starting point.

Theological Interpretations of Culture (Ministers in Movies, Priests in Pictures) – RL0332

4 hours/every other week, 5 credits, Teacher: Tim Noble

This course will look at portrayals of church ministers (priests, pastors) in film. It will run fortnightly to allow viewing of a whole film and discussion. The course will ask what views of pastoral ministry come through in the films, and how they are similar to or different to theological views of such ministries.

History of Christian Doctrine – RETA3004

1 hour/week, 3 credits, Teacher: Pieter Morée

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.

Church History 2 – RETA 3032

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: 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. The following larger themes have priority: A) The Bohemian Reformation and the European Reformations, their reception in later historical periods B) Processes of Christianization, contemporary adaptations of Christianity to a certain time and context, secularization C) The history of the Czech churches during the 20th century

Church History Seminar – RET3054 (Churches in the Cold War)

2 hours/week, 6 credits, Teacher: Pieter Morée

The communist regime after the Second World War had the aim to suppress and eventually ban religion and churches from society. They implemented a system of oppression, but they also successfully used the churches for their aims of propaganda. Which were the main stages, how did the churches in Czechoslovakia or in other European countries react?

How to Study, Read and Write – RETA9801

2 hours/week, 5 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.

Introduction to Philosophy – RETA7001

2 hours/week, 3 credits, Teacher: Olga Navrátilová

In the first semester, the aim of the lecture is to introduce some of the Fundamentals philosophical texts (the parables from Plato's Republic, Plato's Seventh Letter, Aristotle's Metaphysics A, Descartes's Meditations on First Philosophy, Kant's Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics). During the second semester, the lecture proceeds with the systematic questions. It poses the question about the possibility of cognition. The exposition of the problems of gnoseology uncovers also the metaphysical context, which is laid open recently especially by the philosophical hermeneutics.

New Testament Literature and Theology – Gospels - RETA2002

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

A one-semester course on the literary aspects of the New Testament texts, the history of individual writings, and their theological content, including the process of the formation of the Canon. The individual literary works of the New Testament are examined in terms of genre, composition, and other literary features, as well as in terms of specific theological accents, in relation to their historical background, setting, authorial intent, and characterization of the original addressees.

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. The student will be able to analyze and translate more complex Latin sentence and work with more 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 Greek - Basic Course – RETA9200

2 hours/week, 8 credits, Teachers: Lucie Kopecká, Milena Přecechtělová

This course and its follow-up subjects focus on the study of Greek common language (koine), the language of the New Testament. The teaching includes grammatical explications of a part of the morphology and syntax of common Greek and their practicing on adequately difficult training sentences, selected mainly from the text of the New Testament. After completing the course, the student is able to read and write Greek text, analyze and translate simple Greek sentences, some types of compound and complex sentences and shorter texts and can work properly with dictionaries.

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.

Religious Studies Seminar 2 – RETA8021

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

In this course the student will acquire fundamental knowledge of living religious traditions in contemporary world, they will learn about their past development and most important contemporary forms. They will also learn about various forms of their mutual relations and interactions. Religious traditions will be presented in both historical and comparative perspective.

Biblical Hebrew – RETA9301

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

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.

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

2 hours/week, 5 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. These texts are firstly carefully read and discussed and then analysed using various selected methods (historical criticism, reader-response criticism, social-historical analysis, canonical approach, structural analysis etc.) in order to expose the variety of meanings they can present.

Theological Interpretations of Culture – RL0332 (Ministers in Movies, Priests in Pictures)

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

This course will look at portrayals of church ministers (priests, pastors) in film. It will run fortnightly to allow viewing of a whole film and discussion. The course will ask what views of pastoral ministry come through in the films, and how they are similar to or different to theological views of such ministries. Starts on 7th October.

Archaeology, History and Formation of Identity in Ancient Izrael – RETD1004A

25 hours/semester, 5 credits, Teacher: Filip Čapek

International Online Seminar – RET1073 (Cult in the Hebrew Bible and in Archaeology)

2 hours/week, 6 credits, Teachers: Filip Čapek, Martin Prudký, Petr Sláma

This International Seminar on Jerusalem in Archaeology and in the Old Testament is organized by five subjects: Tel Aviv University, Charles University, University of Heidelberg, University of Tübingen and University of Zürich. It starts on 27th October and has 9 international online meetings /each of them lasting 120 minutes. Detailed course description see at

<https://is.cuni.cz/studium/eng/predmety/index.php?id=583016e7d7723d09f687a0cd372e299f&tid=&do=predmet&ko d=RET1073>

The Pottery of Ancient Izrael – 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 Experience of God – RET4042A

2 hours/week, 3 credits, Teacher: Ivana Noble

This course covers the course Introduction to the study of Protestant Theology (RETA4001).

The Experience of God can be tracked in biblical and liturgical texts, church documents, theological treatises, poetry or other forms of Christian art. Approaching this experience theologically means that we have to enter into a dialectical tension between the requirements of a spiritual journey and of a science. This course will introduce fundamental theological themes, such as: the divine mystery and revelation; authorities that testify to God; the role of historical and cultural contexts; belief in divine grace and methods for interpreting the human experience of God; the wisdom of discernment. These issues will be investigated as they evolved in different Christian traditions, from within this creative tension between the requirements of the spiritual journey and of the science. Based on the book by Ivana Noble, Tracking God: An Ecumenical Fundamental Theology, the course consists of lectures and discussions. Students will read and interpret theological texts, listen to music, and engage with works of art.

Introduction to the Study of Protestant Theology – RETA4001 is covered by the course RETA4042A
2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Ivana Noble

Systematic Theology Seminar 1 – RETA4011

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

The seminar introduces into the work of a systematic theologian. Students learn to master the lecture 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. Essential is the lecture of one of smaller dogmatics of the 20th century. 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 own words and lead a critical discussion with the particular author. Credits are approved for regular and active participation and a final paper (about 8 pages long), or eventually for additional introductions or papers.

Introduction to Dogmatics – RETA4041

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teachers: Petr Gallus, Ondřej Kolář

The lecture introduces into the terrain of Systematic Theology based on the utterances of the Creed. For the beginners, it brings a first contact and explanation of basic fields, problems, terms, authors and concepts in Systematic Theology and offers to enter into the critical systematic way of thinking and to confront one's own thinking with the plurality of theological conceptions within the frame of today's society, science and culture. Students learn to differentiate and analyze different levels of problems, they get acquainted with appropriate terms and their meanings and realize the interconnection of theological statements from different fields of the discipline. For the advanced students, the lecture with its structure and interactivity offers an appropriate recapitulation of knowledges required for the exam. Credits will be appointed based on regular active participation, evtl. based on some additional work (introduction, presentation, paper on a particular topic).

Theological Ethics Seminar – RETN5042

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

This Theological Ethics Seminar will focus on the concept of professionalism seen against the background of helping or social professions. It will explore ethical issues inbuilt in the ambition to work "professionally", informed particularly through the perspective of social and theological ethics, with the emphasis on the perspective of virtues. This may include spirituality connected to work and vocation in their theological or social dimensions. The themes of the course will broadly draw from the account of virtues in professional helping (e.g. S. Banks, M. Martin, J. Oakley and D. Cocking) to discuss usual requirements of professionalism. These themes will be brought closer to real ethical dilemmas within professional practice and particular professional roles e.g. in organizations such as Diaconia or Caritas, or in teaching and youth work.

Theological Ethics 1 – RETA5031

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Jindřich Halama

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.

The contents of the course: I: what is ethics; tapes and fields of moral reflection; basic ethical categories; types of descriptive ethics. II: main types of normative ethics (metaphysical ethics, contractualist ethics; English ethics in the 18th century; Kant and neokanthians; empiricism in ethics – utilitarianism; Gernam idealism in the 19th century; the ethics of the will; religion based ethics; ethics of responsibility; ethics of social communications and discourse ethics. The aim is to give the students basic orientation in the history and development of moral thought that would help them to gain orientation in moral philosophy and theological ethics.

Courses recommended for students of Social Work

International Social Work – RPZ04

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.

Social Work in Practice II – RPZ21C (or RPZ21A)

225 hours/semester, 9 credits, Teacher: Hana Janečková

Social Work in Practice II is an exceptional study program for Erasmus social work students, offered only in some special cases when student's home university requires student to go through this kind of practice in CR. It consists of 150 hour placement in one or two Czech social work facilities (NGOs) and 75 hours of individual study of literature regarding the topic of the placement, teacher's supervision and writing the final report.

The goal of the study programme is to provide the Erasmus students an experience in practical socialwork with a special target group according the student's interest (with homeless people, migrants, older people, children etc.) and to enable them collaborate with the teacher through the supervision of their experience. The study program will be closed by the final written theses containing the theoretical knowledge based on the study of literature and other resources and the reflection and evaluation of the student's experience from the placement.