Courses intended for all students

Czech for Foreigners - Beginners 2 – RET9534
2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Aleš Hoznauer

Repetitorium Bohemica I – RET9537
2 hours/every 2nd week, 1 credit, 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. The course will look at mission as an encounter of stories. In Christian theology, the defining story is that of God’s self-revelation to the world, culminating in the coming of Jesus. This story is told in the bible, and the course thus looks at how the bible can be read as a story about the mission of God. But the death and resurrection of Jesus are both the culmination of the story and the beginning of the story of Christianity, and so we will also look at how women and men have engaged in the practice of mission. This mission always takes place somewhere, which makes context of fundamental importance, so we also look at how theology can be / is done contextually. The course will also examine why mission is done, what the aims of it are and what is needed to achieve this aim. But it will also insist that the other, the recipient of mission, is not a passive partner, but actively engaged in the journey towards God. We will finally consider some of the particular challenges of Christian mission in the particular context of the Czech Republic.

Theological Interpretations of Culture (Reading Graham Greene, The Power and the Glory) Theologically) – RL0332
2 hours/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.

Church History Seminar, Churches in the Cold War – RET3066
2 hours/week, 4 credits, Teacher: Peter 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?

Introduction to Philosophy – RETA7001
2 hours/week, 3 credits, Teacher: Olga Navrátilová
The aim of the course is to introduce the students to the field of philosophical questioning and to present philosophy as a 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.

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.

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.
The course is taught by distance learning on the moodle learning portal. The aim of the course is to deepen knowledge of biblical exegesis with the help of selected texts from the Old Testament. 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.
The Experience of God - RETA4042A (3 credits) including Introduction to the Study of Protestant Theology - RETA4001 2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Ivana Noble
This course covers two subjects: Experience of God (RET4042A) and 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 of God in this course 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.

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 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 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. This year we will read Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology by Daniel L. Migliore. Note: The course will open with the minimum of two participants.

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 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 knowledge required for the exam. Credits will be appointed based on regular and active participation, e.g. base on some additional work (introduction, presentation, paper on a particular topic).

AI revolution and its challenge for human self understanding - joint online seminar with Uni-Halle – RETN40229
2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teachers: Petr Gallus
In these days, the AI is a much discussed topic, primarily in connection with large language models (LLM) like Chat-GPT. Technologies in general permeate increasingly our lives and bring often very difficult ethical questions and challenges regarding our approach to informations, communication and to life in general. Is the AI a threat, or rather a welcome asset? Are technologies going to overwhelm and dominate us so that we should rather reject it? Can the AI change our humanity? Will we change our perceiving of ourselves? And what has theology to say? All these questions will be a topic in this seminar. The seminar will be held together with our colleagues from the University in Halle, led by Assoc. Prof. Constantin Plaul.

Theological Ethics Seminar 1 – RETA5011
2 hours/week, 6 credits, Teacher: Jan Zámečník
This seminar will introduce students to the basic themes and values of Christian ethics, such as the significance of Scripture for moral reasoning, the question of virtue, love, and justice. The starting point for interpretation and discussion will be the first part of the second, revised edition of Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context by American theologians David P. Gushee and Glenn Stassen. This work introduces the basics of Christian ethics in an accessible way and serves as a textbook for the seminar. The last three sessions of the seminar are devoted to three key moral issues as selected by the seminar participants.

Theological Ethics Seminar (Professionality and virtues in helping professions) – RETN5042 is provided by RETA5011
2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Ondřej Fischer
This Theological Ethics Seminar will focus on the concept of professionality 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 professionality. 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.

Practical Theology Seminar 1: Introduction to Practical Theology – RETA6012
2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Tabita Landová
This seminar introduces into the field of practical theology and its particular disciplines. It also learns the methodology of reading and interpreting theological texts of various character (scholarly texts but also sermons, liturgical texts, songs, catechisms or confessions). The aim of the seminar is to mediate the current practical-theological discussion and strengthen the abilities to read and interpret texts.
Courses recommended for students of Social Work

Social Economy and Social Farming – RPZ05
2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Eliška Hudcová
The course introduces students to social economy, social enterprise, and green care framework in social work and focuses on social farming concepts. It deals with the historical roots of the social economy, bringing examples from abroad and the Czech Republic. Course participants will be guided to think about economic activities in the context of social and environmental issues and will learn about different target groups in social enterprises and on social farms. During the course, they will gain insight into the non-growth movement, the fair trade scheme, alternative economics etc. There will be at least one visit to a social enterprise during the semester.

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.