

Charles University, Protestant Theological Faculty
Courses in English in the academic year 2023-2024
The winter semester 2023-24
(last updated 3 October 2023)

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 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.

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.

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 – Basic Course - RETA9200

100 hours/semester, 8 credits, Teacher: 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.

New Testament Literature and Theology – Gospels - RETA2002

1 hour/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Dávid Cielontko

A one-semester course that seeks to contextualize the texts of the New Testament within an ancient literary environment. The content of the course is an understanding of ancient media culture - the omnipresent orality, the way texts were created, the role of scribes and authors, including the material aspects of the creation of ancient texts. It will also focus on understanding the ancient genres of both Jewish and other Greek literature of which the New Testament texts are a part (emphasis on narrative genres, epistolography, and apocalyptic). Completed course Introduction to the Study of the New Testament is required for admission. The subject matter of this course is examined within the first comprehensive examination of the New Testament. (This doesn't apply to the Erasmus students)

New Testament Seminar 2 - Evil and the Devil: the Origin of Evil and Demonology in Early Judaism and Christianity - RETA2021

2 hours/week, 5 credits, Teacher: Dávid Cielontko

This seminar focuses on a collaborative study of religious ideas about evil and its embodiment in the form of demonic beings and forces in the ancient period, with special attention to the context of the New Testament and early Judaism. We will read and discuss primary texts in English translations along with their interpretation. The goal is to better understand the ancient imagery that has produced images influential in Christianity until this day such as Satan, the Devil, demons, evil spirits, etc.

New Testament Exegesis 1 – RETA2031

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

The course is announced annually, focused on different writings of the New Testament. It offers students to participate in a workshop of biblical exegesis. The choice of the particular writing for exposition is often related to the current or recently completed research project of the teacher and is notified by the subtitle of the course announced for the respective academic year. Basically a lecture, the course may combine that form with a colloquium. The students should gradually become familiar with the methods and techniques of critical exposition of biblical texts in their literary, cultural and historical context, as well as learn to evaluate with discernment the tradition of interpretation and effectual history of those texts.

World Religions1 – RETA8041

2 hours/week, 2 credits, Teacher: Pavel Hošek

In this course the students will learn basic facts about the historical development and contemporary shape of living world religions particularly in relation to the possibilities of their mutual interaction and cooperation.

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.

Biblical Hebrew – RETA9301

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

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 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 - RET4042A (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 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.

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 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).

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 thread, 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 hold 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 (Professionalism 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 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.

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 economies 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.