



# **COURSES IN ENGLISH PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

## **CONTENT OF STUDY**

### **BA STUDY PROGRAMME**

#### **The New Testament II (Introduction to the New Testament)**

Students get acquainted in details with the individual books of the New Testament, their content, historical, geographical and cultural backgrounds. Brief syllabus: The New Testament as a literature. Revelation and history. Prerequisites of the New Testament (Judaism and Hellenism). Prerequisites of the New Testament (confession formulas, hymns, passion story etc.). Synoptic question. Source criticism, form criticism and redaction criticism. The Gospel according to Mark. The Gospel according to Matthew. The Gospel according to Luke. Acts of the Apostles. Johannine literature. Epistles. Paul and his epistles. The General epistles. The Revelation.

#### **The Old Testament III**

Aim of the subject is to introduce the main theological concepts of the Old Testament. Methodologically, the goal is to gain the basic skills for doing the Old Testament theology, namely selecting and assessing the relevant data. Brief syllabus: Definition of the Old Testament Theology, Issues and Approaches. The Old Testament View of God. God's Relationship with Israel. The Holiness of God and Israelite Cult. The Decalogue. The Old Testament View of the Human Condition. Ethics and the Old Testament. Loving God and Loving Neighbour. The Old Testament View of Human Suffering. Land in the Old Testament. Religious Experience in the Old Testament. Judgment and Salvation in the Old Testament.

#### **Overview of the Bible**

Students get acquainted with the content of the Bible, with the literary genres of the Bible and the basic hermeneutical methods. Brief syllabus: God's revelation in the word and in the history. Inspiration of the Scriptures. Idea of the canon, translations of the Bible, study tools. Literary genre of the Bible. Epistles. Old Testament narratives. Acts of the Apostles – revelation and history. The Gospels – one story, several perspectives. The Gospels - parables and their understanding. The Law(s) – the covenant and its significance. The Prophets – implementation of the covenant in Israel. Psalms – prayer as a poetic confession of faith. Wisdom literature. The Revelation – images of hope and judgment.



## **The Old Testament II**

Students become familiar with the form as well as the content of the Old Testament books as literature. The main emphasis is on reading and summarizing their key themes. Brief syllabus: Canon, Hebrew Manuscripts, Versions, Inspiration of the Old Testament. Introduction to the Pentateuch, Genesis. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomium. The Earlier Prophets: Introduction to the Deuteronomistic Literature, Joshua, Judges. First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings. The Later Prophets: Introduction to the Prophetic Literature, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel. Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah. Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. Introduction to the Writings, The Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes Ruth, Ester, Song of Songs, Lamentations. Ezra and Nehemiah, Chronicles, Introduction to the Old Testament Eschatology, Daniel. The Apocrypha

## **History of Christianity I**

To familiarise with the historical background and causes connected with the origins of the Christian Church; to familiarise with the position of the Christian Church in the Roman Empire during the first centuries and with its further development ranging from the late Middle Ages to the reformation period. Brief syllabus: General overview of the development of the Christian Church from the apostolic period to the Luther's reformation; understanding of formation and development of Christian institutions, Christian teaching and sacral forms; relations between the Church and the State in the Antiquity; theological conflicts and general councils; creation of monkhood and papacy; cleavage between the Eastern and Western Christianity; Roman Church at the peak of its power; causes of the reformation movements in the Middle Ages; crisis of the Church in the Middle Ages.

## **Work with Children**

Students will get acquainted with the basic aspects of work with children and youth. The aim of the subject is focused on building of complex practical leader skills used in communities of children and youth. Brief syllabus: Creation of God's image in connection with cognitive development of and individual. Stages of religion experiences and they relation to the stages of human development. Development of social skills. Community and its characteristics. Preparation of youth meetings.

## **The Old Testament IV**

Aim of the subject is to introduce the main principles and methods of the Old Testament exegesis and enable the participants to use the basic exegetical tools. The emphasis is on training the students to ask the right (exegetical) questions about a particular text, respectively its translation. Brief syllabus: The need for and the goal of the Old Testament exegesis; illustrations various translations. Introduction to the main exegetical tools. Some principles of translating the Old Testament. Source Criticism and the Old Testament, Genesis 6-9, Exodus 24. Form Criticism and the Old Testament, Psalm 118 and 51. Redaction Criticism and the Old Testament, 1 Kings 2,



Proverbs 16 and other examples. Rhetorical Criticism and the Old Testament, Exodus 3:12-14, 33:17-23, Jeremiah 20 and 1. Textual Criticism and the Old Testament 1, Genesis 1. Textual Criticism and the Old Testament 2, Genesis 22. Textual Criticism and the Old Testament 3, Isaiah 9:1-7 Textual Criticism and the Old Testament 4, Isaiah 53 Textual Criticism and the Old Testament 5, Leviticus 19:1-18 Discussion of individually selected texts for the final paper.

### **Dogmatics I**

Aim of the subject is to learn elementary knowledge about Christian theology, with greater focus on Lutheran confessional theology. To find touch points between the Christian teaching, life of Christian communities and civil society. To assess covered material, with the purpose of presenting it in classroom setting.

### **Youth work (Internship)**

Students will gain practical skills in youth work (age 14-18). They will practically apply their theoretical knowledge from areas of pedagogy and theology with aim to positively influence and format orientation of young people. In addition they will learn how to lead community, organize youth gatherings, camps etc. Brief syllabus: The internship content is the following: Exploration and meditation over a selected biblical text. Discussion facilitating. Individual counselling, spiritual formation, crisis counselling. Organization of community of young people. Communication with parents and relatives. Evaluation.

### **The New Testament IV**

The aim of this course is to introduce the main principles and methods of the New Testament exegesis and enable the participants to use the basic exegetical tools. The emphasis is on training the students to ask the right (exegetical) questions about a particular New Testament text, respectively its translation. Brief syllabus: Detailed exegesis of selected texts from the synoptic gospels, Johannine literature, Paul's letters, general epistles and Revelation.

### **The Didactics of Religious Education I**

To help students get acquainted with the appropriate forms and methods of religious education at schools by maintaining the proper content of religious instruction. Brief syllabus: Introduction to the discipline of Didactics in general. The history of the discipline. The specifics of the didactics for religious education. The forms of education – history and present development. The methods of education – history and present development. The thematic and content oriented goals of a lesson.

### **Christian Ethics I**

The aim of this course is to introduce the main theological concepts and starting points of Christian Ethics as they derive their meaning and content from a specific understanding of Christian confessional theology. Brief syllabus: Introduction to the discipline and its terminology.



The starting points of Christian ethical thinking in the past and today. Deontology, teleology and the ethic of the character. Lex naturalis (natural law) and its use in Christian ethics. Luther's doctrine on the two kingdoms. The application of the Luther's doctrine of the two kingdoms. Luther on good works. Dietrich Bonhoeffer on discipleship.

### **The Old Testament III (Theology of the Old Testament)**

Aim of the subject is to introduce the main theological concepts of the Old Testament. Methodologically, the goal is to gain the basic skills for doing the Old Testament theology, namely selecting and assessing the relevant data. Brief syllabus: Definition of the Old Testament Theology, Issues and Approaches. The Old Testament View of God. God's Relationship with Israel. The Holiness of God and Israelite Cult. The Decalogue. The Old Testament View of the Human Condition. Ethics and the Old Testament. Loving God and Loving Neighbour. The Old Testament View of Human Suffering. Land in the Old Testament. Religious Experience in the Old Testament. Judgment and Salvation in the Old Testament.

### **History of Christianity II**

German and Swiss reformation; reformation efforts in other countries in Europe; counter-reformation and re-catholisation; religious wars in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century; origins of protestant orthodoxy; pietism; rationalism and romanticism; liberal theology; world mission; Christian Church in the period of scientific and technological revolution; Christian Church in the period of social and societal changes; issues and tasks in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; modernism; fundamentalism; ecumenism; Christianity and post-modern culture

### **The New Testament III (Theology of the New Testament)**

Students will get acquainted with the message and theology of the New Testament. Brief syllabus: The proclamation of Jesus according to the synoptic gospels. The faith of the primitive community. The theology of Paul, the apostle. Theology of the Johannine writings.

### **History of Christianity III (DOMESTIC CHURCH HISTORY)**

To get acquainted with the historical background and causes connected with the origins and the development of the Christian Church in the region of what is today Slovakia. Brief syllabus: General overview of the development of the Christian mission in the Panonia region; The mission of Cyril and Methodius; From the Moravian period to the reformation in Upper Hungary; understanding of formation and development of Christian institutions, Christian teaching and sacral forms after the reformation in Upper Hungary; The counter-reformation and the struggles that ensued from it; The Enlightenment under the rule of Joseph II in Upper Hungary; The situation of the church in the 19 century in Upper Hungary; Development of the autonomous Lutheran church of AC in Slovakia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Youth work – Internship**



Students will gain practical skills in youth work (age 14-18). They will practically apply their theoretical knowledge from areas of pedagogy and theology with aim to positively influence and format orientation of young people. In addition they will learn how to lead community, organize youth gatherings, camps etc. Brief syllabus: The internship content is the following: Exploration and meditation over a selected biblical text. Discussion facilitating. Individual counselling, spiritual formation, crisis counselling. Organization of community of young people. Communication with parents and relative. Evaluation.

### **Children work – Internship**

Students will gain practical skills in children work (age 4-13). They will practically apply their theoretical knowledge from areas of pedagogy and theology with aim to positively influence and format orientation of children. In addition they will learn how to lead community, organize children gatherings, camps etc. Brief syllabus: The internship content is the following: Exploration and meditation over a selected biblical text. Discussion facilitating. Individual counselling, spiritual formation, crisis counselling. Organization of community of young people. Communication with parents and relative. Evaluation.

### **Teen club work – Internship**

Students will gain practical skills in Christian club work, facilitating various discussions, lectures and club activities for young people. Brief syllabus: The internship content is the following: Exploration and meditation over a selected biblical text. Discussion facilitating. Individual counselling, spiritual formation, crisis counselling. Organization of community of young people. Communication with parents and relative. Evaluation.

### **The New Testament I (History of the New Testament Period)**

Students will get acquainted with the historical and cultural background of Jesus' ministry and the primitive Christian community. Brief syllabus: Hellenistic period (323BC-164 BC). Hasmonean period (164 BC - 63 BC). Roman period (63 BC - 143 AD). Hellenism – main characteristics. Judaism – main characteristics. Gnosis.

### **Dogmatics II**

Aim of the subject is to learn elementary knowledge about Christian theology, with greater focus on Lutheran confessional theology. To find touch points between the Christian teaching, life of Christian communities and civil society. To assess covered material, with the purpose of presenting it in classroom setting. Brief syllabus: Man as sinner. Sacraments. Prayer. Eschatology, Ecclesiology.

### **Practical Theology I**



Students get acquainted with the origin and development of Christian Liturgy in various Christian traditions aiming mainly on Lutheran Liturgy; other topics: Liturgical Year, Sacraments – the order and placement within the Worship Service. Brief syllabus: Explanation of the basic terms: liturgy, ordo, worship service, myth, cult, rite, ritual, anabatic structural line, katabatic structural line, horizontal structural line. The basic character of the Christian worship service; the relationship between theology and liturgy; three basic elements of Christian worship service – Word, bath and table. Liturgical year – the origin and historical development. The “complexity” of the worship service – the outward and inward factors playing main role in the form and content of the worship service. The order of the worship service; the placement of sacraments. The order of the rite of baptism. The order of Eucharist (Lord’s Supper); the relationship between the rite of penance and Eucharist. Liturgical order and liturgical texts in the Bible. Historical approach to the relationship between Christian cult and culture in the world (ancient times – the influence of Judaism and pagan influences). Historical approach to the relationship between Christian cult and culture in the world – Middle Ages, Reformation. Historical approach to the relationship between Christian cult and culture in Slovakia – Middle Ages, Reformation, Pietism, Orthodoxy. Historical approach to the relationship between Christian cult and culture in Slovakia – rationalism, romanticism, 20<sup>th</sup> century. Problematic of the worship service and liturgy in postmodern world.

### **Practical Theology II**

The aim of this course is to introduce the main concepts, starting points, history and methodology of Christian mission (missiology studies) as concrete expressions of Christian faith and discipleship. Brief syllabus: Intro to and the development of the discipline. Biblical origins of Missions. Mission models in history. Theological substantiation of missions. The role of language and culture in missions. Mission anthropology. Cross-cultural communication. The Master plan of evangelism I. The Master plan of evangelism II. Inner and Outer Mission. Missiological Challenges today. Domestic and Foreign mission organizations and their work.

### **Practical Theology III**

Students get acquainted with the basic principles of pastoral counselling – the mental development of human being – the development of human conscience, basic principles of communication and connection between psychology and Christian counselling, focusing on the environment of the students, teachers and parents. Brief syllabus: The definition of basic terms: pastoral theology, pastoral care, pastoral counselling, and pastoral psychology. Pastoral care, pastoral counselling, and spiritual leadership. The development of a human being - pre-school age and younger school age. The development of a human being – from puberty to maturity. Differences between men and women. The development of human conscience, the feeling of guilt – true and false feelings. Confession – personal and public, regret, absolution. Mental illnesses: depression, neurotic disorders, addiction. The issue of magic, occultism, spiritualism, esoteric. Communication – non-verbal and verbal; basic rules of communication. Cognitive approach; I statement. Active listening – control questions, the expression of feelings and



emotions. Basic rules by pastoral talk; the phases of pastoral talk; the differences between basic and pastoral talk.

### **History of Christian Thought**

The subject copies the syllabus of CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY I AND II. Its focus is to get acquainted with primary sources from the history of Christian thought. Students present an overview and application of a selected reading from the history of Christian thought. Brief syllabus: Introduction. Syllabus. God the Father. Christ. Trinity. Baptism. Lord's Supper. Church. Last things. Student presentations I- IV. Review, reflection.

### **Christian Ethics II**

The aim of this course is to understand how the main theological concepts of Christian Ethics find their applications in the everyday life of Christians (both in the private sphere and in the society). Brief syllabus: Introduction to the applied Christian ethics. Background information, analysis and the presentation of an ethical issue with a following debate: euthanasia, abortion, homosexuality, discrimination, just war theory, genetic engineering, ecological ethics, ethical aspects of globalization, etc.

### **Dogmatics III (Apologetics)**

The aim of this course is to introduce the main concepts, starting points, history and methodology of Christian Apologetics as a practical and mission-focused discipline of Christian faith. Brief syllabus: Intro to terminology and history of the discipline. Agnosticism. Rationalism. Fideism. Experientialism. Evidentialism. Pragmatism. Combinationism. Striving for an adequate test of truth. Case study: Theodicy. Case study: Atheism. Case study: Christianity and natural science

### **Old Testament II (Introduction to the Old Testament)**

The goal of this course is to become familiar with the form as well as the content of the Old Testament as literature. The main emphasis is on reading and summarizing the key themes of every individual book of the Old Testament. Brief syllabus: Canon, Hebrew Manuscripts, Versions, Inspiration of the Old Testament

Introduction to the Pentateuch, Genesis Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomium, The Earlier Prophets: Introduction to the Deuteronomistic Literature, Joshua, Judges, First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings, The Later Prophets: Introduction to the Prophetic Literature, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Introduction to the Writings, The Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Ruth, Ester, Song of Songs, Lamentations , Ezra and Nehemiah, Chronicles, Introduction to the Old Testament Eschatology, Daniel, The Apocrypha, Overview

### **Christian Art, Literature and Film**



# UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA in ŽILINA

## Faculty of Humanities

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To gain elementary encyclopaedic knowledge of Christian use of all major art forms. The focus is first on the overview of the history of Christian art, second on contemporary Christian art, and third on students' reflection and interpretation on a selected art piece/pieces. Brief syllabus: Christian motifs in visual arts. Christian motifs in music. Christian motifs in literature. Christian motifs in movies. Contemporary art forms. Students' reflections and interpretations