

# Introduction to Theology and Dogmatics

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## Academic credits

3 KP (4.5 ECTS)

## Prerequisites

None

## Approved by

Methodological Commission (August 2022)

## Course Authors and Lecturers

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## Content (Course Annotation)

The course gives an idea of the ecclesial approach to theology, the historical development of this approach and the changes that are taking place in this approach. Students gain insight into a pattern of theology that, as a model of healthy learning, works in the context of Church life, continuing the apostolic tradition of the Church. The course motivates students to develop their theology studies in the context of Church order and mandate, based on landmarks such as *oratio*, *meditatio*, *contemplatio*, *tentatio* (prayer, reflection, contemplation, testing in life).

## Aims

- Enter into biblically justified theology studies in accordance with the ecclesial approach to theology;
- to see the life and service of a Christian's daily faith in the context of the Church;
- building basic theological thinking skills in students;
- train students in the dogmatic methodology, looking at ways in which theological statements are made.

## Learning Outcomes

### **Knowledge**

*The students will know:*

- the ecclesial context of theology;
- the roots of the ecclesial approach to theology in the scripture;
- the effects of ecclesiology on dogmatics in the apostolic tradition;
- how to describe the use of scripture in Lutheran dogmatics.

### **Assessment**

Attendance  
Essay  
Final test

### **Skills**

*The students will be able to:*

- appropriately use of Biblical and theological terminology, such as Church, Revelation, Apostolic, Catholic, Evangelical, God's Word, Creeds, Tradition, etc. Mid-term test  
Final Test
- use Scriptures according to confessional Lutheran theology.

**Competencies**

*The students will be able to:*

- to reflect on their internal and external vocation in accordance with the ecclesial approach to theology; Essay  
Cross-check    Final
- to assess the importance of ecclesial approach to theology; Test
- to assess at the basic level a teaching, based on its apostolic nature.

**FULL-TIME STUDIES**

**Lesson Plan**

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Hours (45 min)</i>
1 The church.	8
2 Holy orders. The priesthood of Christian believers.	6
3 The position of bishop. Apostolic Succession. The position of the bishop and the Reformation.	6
4 The position of the presbyter. Position of deacon. Diaconia.	6
5 <b>Ordination</b>	6
6 Definition of dogmatics and theology. Source of divine revelation.	2
7 Inspiration of the Scripture. Clarity of Scripture.	2
8 The meaning of the human mind and the Spirit of God in understanding the Scripture.	2
9 The adequacy and authority of Scripture. Meta-narratives.	2
10 Unity of Scripture. Articles of faith. The centrality of the gospel.	2
11 Dogmatic analysis of an article from Apology (1531) and Book of Concord (1577).	3
12 J. A dogmatic analysis of a piece by T. Miller's "Christian dogmatics."	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	48

**Individual studies**

Individual studies	Number of hours
1. An Essay <i>How does apostolicism translate into my local Christian faith context?</i>	24
2. Preparation for Mid-term test	24
3. Preparation for the final test of the course	24
<i>TOTAL</i>	72

**Assessment**

	Learning Outcomes			% of the final score
	Knowledge	Skills	Competence	
Attendance	+			20
Essay	+		+	10
Mid-term		+	+	30
Final test	+	+	+	40

## Readings

### *Mandatory Readings*

1. *Liber Concordiae. Luterāņu ticības apliecības.* Rīga: LMF, 2012.
2. Millers, Džons T. *Kristīgā dogmatika.* Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 1999.
3. Ģircs, Bo. *Kristus Baznīca.* Rīga: LMF, 2006.
4. *Teologa profesijas standarts.* Iesniedzējs LELB. BK sēde Nr.17, 29.09.2020

### *Additional Readings*

1. Ģircs, Bo. *Dieva Āmurs.* Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2014.
2. Hemnics, Mārtiņš. *Enbiridions.* Rīga, Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2000.
3. Johansons, Turbjorns. "Svētie Raksti un ticības apliecības." *Latvijas Luterānis* (1998.6.20): 4. (Skatīt Canvas vietnē).
4. Kinnamens Skots un Laura Leina (red.). *Luterisms jautājumos un atbildēs.* Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2014.
5. Mueller, Steven P. *Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess: An Introduction to Doctrinal Theology.* Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2005.
6. Pīpers, Francis. "Baznīcas pamati." *Latvijas Luterānis* (1998.2.21): 5, (1998.3.7): 6, (1998.3.21): 4–5, (1998.4.4): 11, (1998.4.18): 11, (1998.5.2): 5. (Skatīt Canvas vietnē)
7. Proiss, Roberts. "Vēsturiski kritiskā metode." *Latvijas Luterānis* (1998.9.19): 7, (1998.10.3): 4–5. (Skatīt Canvas vietnē)
8. Rumba, Edgars. "Baznīca un garīgais amats oikumeniski-luteriskā uztverē". *Latvijas Universitātes Raksti/Acta Universitatis Latviensis.* Teoloģijas Fakultātes Sērija I 3. Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte, 1938.
9. Slenska, Reinhards. *Baznīcas teoloģiskā atbildība: Pamati, kritēriji, robežas.* Rīga: LMF, 2004.

10. Valters, K.F.V. *Bauslība un Evaņģēlijs*. Rīga: LMF, 2000.