

Philosophy and ethics for theologians

Academic credits

4 KP (6 ECTS)

Prerequisites

Dogmatics

Approved by

Methodological Commission (August 2022)

Course Author and Lecturer

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Content (Course Annotation)

The course looks at basic philosophy and ethical issues, the settings and solutions of which are essential for the Christian Church and its ministry. The focus of the course is on the issues and challenges that Christian faith must face today. The course provides skills for students to debate theoretically soundly and logically on issues of philosophy and ethics from Christian positions.

Aims:

- 1) to introduce theologically relevant policies of philosophy and ethics;
- 2) teaching to see and analyze the mental/religious/theological aspects of basic philosophy and ethics;
- 3) develop the capacity of students to debate, in a logical and systematic manner on issues of philosophy and ethics from Christian positions.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

The students will know:

- The main trends of philosophy and ethics and the basic tenets
- Key methods of philosophy and ethics and ways of addressing basic challenges

Assessment

Report,
presentation,
examination

Skills

The students will be able to:

- identify philosophical and ethical issues
- building on a Lutheran confessional worldview, develop a reasoned Christian attitude towards philosophy and ethics

Report,
presentation,
examination

Competencies

The students will be able to:

- use the ways to address the basic challenges of philosophy and ethics in their pastoral ministry
 - describe the important points of contact with Christian faith issues in basic philosophy and ethics
- Report,
presentation,
examination

FULL-TIME STUDIES

Lesson Plan

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Academic hours (45 min)</i>
1 Introduction. The role of philosophy in the identity of Western European civilization. Subject matter of philosophy, schools, tasks and mission	2
2 Philosophy as science and lifestyle. Nature and risks of philosophy questions and answers	2
3 Christian attitudes to philosophy. The relationship between philosophy and theology. Philosophical anthropology	2
4 Types, methods, elements of a statement. Understanding. Empiricism, rationalism, positivism. Classical science paradigm <i>Subject - Object</i>	2
5 Everyday and critical thinking. Paul-Elder <i>Critical Thinking Circle</i> Guidelines for Critical Analysis. Universal intellectual standards, their use	2
6 Intuitive statement. Dialogue statement. Phenomenology. Postmodernism. Constructiveness. Deconstruction theory	2
7 Meaning of life, solutions to philosophy and religion. Meaning and identification. Specific features in crisis situations	2
8 Workshop I	2
9 Feminist philosophy, its epistemology, attitudes to gender differences. Feminist approaches to professional equality for women	2
10 Aesthetics, fields, categories. The beautiful. Aesthetic principles in Western civilization. Basic themes of Christian aesthetics. Theological aspects of the artist's responsibility.	2
11 Ideology, definition, term uses. Relationships of ideology and religion, ideology as quasi-religion. The peculiarities of ideology in totalitarianism, the affiliations of ideology	2
12 Similarities, differences in ideology and religion. Marxism-Leninism, spiritual aspects, philosophical sources. Terminology, major philosophical ideas.	2
13 A vision of the future of K. Marx. The concept of Marxist-Leninism communism. Communism as a religion. Reasons for Marxist popularity and influence.	2
14 The philosophical aspects of the social circulation of information.	2

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	Information news, <i>noise</i> and disinformation, potential for manipulation. <i>Overton window.</i>	
15	Special features of hybrid war. Memetic warfare. Subversive factors of Western values. The role of the church in value war.	2
16	Workshop II	2
	Interim examination	
17	Subject matter of ethics. The main ethical directions. Meta-ethics	3
18	The essence of Christian ethics. Different approaches to moral conflicts	3
19	Concept of conscience in ethics	3
20	Workshop III	3
21	Gender identity ethics	3
22	Bioethics – abortion, euthanasia, organ transplantation, assistive reproductive technologies	3
23	Workshop IV	3
24	Ethics of the humanities	3
25	Military ethics and the concept of <i>just warfare</i> today	3
26	Nonviolent Resistance Ethics	3
27	Workshop V	2
Total		64
Final exam		

Individual study plan

No. p. k.	Own-initiative work	Hours
1.	Exploring one philosophy and one ethics issue from a Christian point of vision and developing for presentation	60
2.	Prepare two handouts for presentation	30
3.	Presentation and defence of one philosophy and one ethics issue (with a ppt presentation) in workshops I - V	2
4.	Discussing 2 presentations of another student, evaluating the progress of discussion for 2 presentations, workshops I-V	2
5.	Guided peer assessment in the examination	2
	Total:	96

Assessment

Individual Task No.	Learning Outcomes			% of final test rating
	Knowledge	Skills	Competencies	
1.	+	+		10%
2.	+	+		10%
3.	+	+		10%
4.	+		+	10%
5.	+		+	10%
examination	+	+	+	50%
Total				100%

Readings

Mandatory Readings

1. Šuvajevs, I. *Rūpēs par dvēseli. Vērtību likteņi*. Rīga: Zinātne, 2019.
2. Seneka, L. *Vēstules Lucilijam par ētiku*. Rīga: Zinātne, 2019.
3. Kūle, M. *Jābūtības vārdi*. Rīga: LU Filozofijas un socioloģijas institūts, 2016.
4. Airaksinens, T. *Filozofijas pamati*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2007.
5. Lasmane, S. *20. gadsimta ētikas pavērsieni*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2004.
6. Kuncmanis, P. *Filozofijas atlants*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2000.
7. Celma, J. *Estētika. Estētisko ideju vēsture Eiropā*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2000.
8. Mīlts, A. *Kas ir ētika?* Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1999.
9. Klīve, V. *Rīcības ceļos*. Rīga: Zinātne, 1998.

Additional Readings

- 1) Zelītis, R. *Dr. Pauls Jurevičs un latviešu tautas misija*. Rīga: Domas spēks, 2019.
- 2) Teilers, E. *Prāta labirints: cilvēka esības miklas risinājumi*. Rīga: Lietusdārzs, 2011.
- 3) Stīvensons, Dž. *Ceļvedis filozofijā*. Rīga: Dienas grāmata SIA, 2008.
- 4) Kūle, Maija. *Eiroduzīve: formas, principi, izjūtas*. Rīga: FSI, 2006.
- 5) *Eiropas idejas Latvijā. Populāra Latvijas rakstnieku un domātāju Eiropas antoloģija*. Rīga: Pētergailis, 2003.
- 6) Naidžels, V. *Filozofijas pamati*. Rīga: RaKa 2001.
- 7) Kuncmanis, P. *Filozofijas atlants, attēli un teksti*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2000.
- 8) Kūle M., Kūlis R. *Filozofija*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1998.
- 9) Klīve V. *Gudrības ceļos*. Rīga: Zinātne, 1996.
- 10) Gorders, J. *Sofijas pasaule*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1996.
- 11) Jaspers, K. *Ievads filozofijā*, Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2003.
- 12) Kalme, G. "Svētītā gudrība," *Ceļš*, 1991, Nr. 9, 46. - 51. lpp.

Internet sources:

<https://satori.lv/list/filozofija>

<http://www.fsi.lu.lv/?sadala=58>

<https://www.lsm.lv/temas/filozofija/>

Spolītis, Veiko. *Feminisms - atbrīvojošs, bet nemilēts*. www.politika.lv 04.01.2005. (arī

<https://www.delfi.lv/news/versijas/veiko-spolitis-feminisms-atbrivojoss-bet-nemilets.d?id=10015188>)

Latvijas Republikas Saeima, Sintēzes ziņojums. *Krievijas ietekme Latvijas informatīvajā telpā*, 2018. gada janvāris,

https://www.saeima.lv/petijumi/Krievijas_ietekme_Latvijas_informativaja_telpa_elektroniski.pdf

Kalme, G. Reformācijas mantojuma potenciāls Rietumu civilizācijas atjaunošanai, *LZA Vēstis A daļa*, 2018.g. 3. numurs, <http://www.lasproceedings.lv/publikacija/reformācijas-mantojuma-potencialis-rietumu-civilizācijas-atjaunosanai/>