

# Traditional denominations and new religious movements

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## Academic credits

4 CP (6 ECTS)

## Prerequisites

None

## Approved by

Methodological Commission (August, 2022)

## Course author and main lecturer

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## Content

The study course gives an insight into the differences between the faiths and practices of the five Christian denominations that historically have been unified in Latvia in the ecumenical dialogue. Students will be presented with orthodox (Orthodox), Roman Catholic, Baptist, Adventist and Pentecostal traditions, their formation, theological differences, the number of believers, supreme authorities in matters of faith, dogmas, administration, internal structure, clergy, canonical texts, mysticism, treatment of other denominations, sacraments, liturgy, theological language, calendar, fasting and thoughts on the afterlife. According to similar criteria, new religious movements are also examined, which, by their very nature, are syncretic (Bahá'í), partly associated with Christian tradition (Mormons, Jehovah witnesses), or present in Latvia unconnected with Christianity (dievturi, Krishna consciousness movement, Sai Baba, etc.).

As part of the course, the lecturer shall first give a theoretical insight into the specific tradition, followed by a presentation and discussion with students by a representative or expert of a particular religion or religious movement.

## Aims

- To promote the understanding of the ecumenical nature of the prayer by Jesus, “let them all be alone” (Jn 17:22), in the context of Lutheran theology;
- to encourage the continuation and development of cooperation in the context of the ecumenical dialogue;
- to discover the fundamental differences between Christian and non-Christian religious movements.

## Learning Outcomes

### **Knowledge**

The students **will know**:

- the main differences between the largest Christian denominations of Latvia;
- the most common new religious movements in Latvia.

### **Versioning**

Attendance  
1. Essay  
2. Essay  
Examination

### **Skills**

The students **will be able to**:

- adequately discuss the special approaches of Latvia's largest Christian denominations to grooming Christian spirituality in catechic and ecumenical parenting of their parishioners;
- differentiate between the various new religious movements and see common and different between them;
- recognize the representatives of different religious trends and explain their differences with Christian tradition in a reasoned way.

1. Essay  
2. Essay  
Examination

### **Competencies**

The students **will be able to**:

- have theological reflections on the confessional diversity of the Christian tradition;
- respect for members of other Christian denominations in the ecumenical community;
- to see the directions and main accents of the mission in the context of the new religious movements.

1. Essay  
2. Essay  
Examination

## **FULL-TIME STUDIES**

### **Lesson Plan**

*Subject*

|   | <i>Academic hours<br/>(45 min)</i> |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Introduction - description of study course.<br>The Orthodox church: development; theological differences – Trinity teaching, ecclesiology, soteriology, Mariology; believers; authority in matters of faith; dogmas; governance; internal structure, clergy; canonical texts; monasticism; attitudes towards other Christians and renegade; sacraments; liturgy; language; venerating; church festivals; calendar; fasting; afterlife. | 4                                  |
| 2. Answers and discussion with the Orthodox priest  | 2                                  |
| 3. Roman Catholic Church: Creation; Theological Differences – Trinity, ecclesiology, soteriology, martyrology; authority in Faith Matters; dogmas; Governance; Councils - The Internal Structure of Trent, Vatican I, Vatican II; clergy; Canonical texts; Monasticism; Treatment of Other Christians and lapses;   | 4                                  |

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|               |  |           |
|---------------|--|-----------|
|               | sacraments; liturgy; language; veneration; church festivals; calendar; fasting; afterlife.   |           |
| 4.            | Roman Catholic priest answers questions and discussion   | 2         |
| 5.            | Baptist Church: development; theological differences; believers; supreme authority in matters of faith; dogma; governance; internal structure; future of denomination.   | 4         |
| 6.            | Baptist pastor answers questions and discussion  | 2         |
| 7.            | The Seventh Day Adventist church: formation; theological differences; believers; supreme authority in matters of faith; dogma: 28 basic teachings of faith; administration; internal structure; Claire; canonical texts; attitudes towards other denominations and lapsed; afterlife           | 4         |
| 8.            | The answers and discussion of the Adventist pastor.  | 2         |
| 9.            | The Pentecost movement: development; theological differences; believers; supreme authority in matters of faith; dogma; governance; internal structure: classical Pentecost, apostolic congregations, East, Independent, Unregistered; clergy; attitudes towards other Christians and renegade. | 4         |
| 10.           | Answers and discussion of the Pentecostal pastor.  | 2         |
| 11.           | Workshop on traditional denominations in Latvia.   | 2         |
| 12.           | New religious movements in Latvia and the world. Definition issues.  | 2         |
| 13.           | Syncretism. Bahá'í teaching and religious practice. Swami Satya Sai Baba.  | 4         |
| 14.           | Latvian <i>dievturība</i> . Roots in folklore, mythology and 19th century Latvian national romanticism.  | 4         |
| 15.           | Meeting with a <i>dievturi</i> representative.   | 2         |
| 16.           | Movements rooted in Hinduism. Krishna's consciousness movement.  | 4         |
| 17.           | Meeting with the representative of the Vaishnavism.  | 2         |
| 18.           | Jehovah's witnesses. What is shared with the Seventh Day Adventists, and what is different.  | 4         |
| 19.           | Scientology and related trends. Commercialization of religious movements.  | 2         |
| 20.           | The Latter Day Saints. Origins of Mormonism, authorities, authoritative writings.  | 4         |
| 21.           | Meeting with a Mormons representative.   | 2         |
| 22.           | Workshop about the new religious movements.  | 2         |
| <b>Total:</b> |  | <b>64</b> |

## Individual studies

| Individual studies |                           | Number of hours |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.                 | Studying basic literature | 24              |
| 2.                 | Preparing essay 1         | 36              |
| 3.                 | Preparing essay 2         | 36              |
| <i>Total</i>       |                           | <i>96</i>       |

## Assessment

|              | Learning Outcomes |        |              | % of the final score |
|--------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|----------------------|
|              | Knowledge         | Skills | Competencies |                      |
| Attendance   | +                 |        |              | 10                   |
| 1. Essay     | +                 | +      | +            | 30                   |
| 2. Essay     | +                 | +      | +            | 30                   |
| Examination  | +                 | +      | +            | 30                   |
| <i>Total</i> |                   |        |              | <i>100</i>           |

## Readings

### *Mandatory Readings*

1. Иларион, Алфеев. *Православие*. Том 1. azbuka.ru/otechnik/Iarion\_Alfeev/pravoslavie-tom-1/
2. Иларион, Алфеев. *Православие*. Том 2. azbuka.ru/otechnik/Iarion\_Alfeev/pravoslavie-tom-2/
3. Коллектив авторов. *Хрестоматия по сравнительному богословию*. Московское Троицкое Подворье Свято-Троицкой Сергиевой Лавры Русской Православной Церкви”, 2005.
4. Florovskis, G. *Austrumu baznīcas tēvi*. Jūrmala: LKA, 2009.
5. Piebalgs, A. *Īss katehisms*. Rīga: Metropolijas kūrīja, 1999.
6. Kērtiss, Jāns. *Luterāņa skatījums uz katoļiem*. Rīga: LMF, 2019.
7. Čerņevskis, E. *Adventes kustība Latvijā*. Rīga: Patmos, 1998.
8. Pešelis, A. *Septītās dienas adventistu Latvijas draudžu vēsture*. Rīga: Patmos, 2013.
9. Tēraudkalns, Valdis. *Jaunā reliģiozitāte 20. gadsimta Latvijā: Vasarsvētku kustība*. Rīga: N.I.M.S., 2003.
10. Hiršs, Ilmārs. *Tajā naktī. Svētā Vakarēdiena vēsturiskie un teoloģiskie aspekti*. Rīga: Kristīgās Vadības koledža, 2012.
11. Hiršs, Ilmārs. *Patiesības gara spēkā. Svētais Gars mācībā un praksē*. Rīga: Kristīgās Vadības koledža, 2013.
12. Hiršs, Ilmārs. *Pārdomu labirintos*. Rīga: Kristīgās Vadības koledža, 2015.
13. Hiršs, Ilmārs. *Baptisti Latvijā. Vakar, šodien, rīt*. Rīga: Kristīgās Vadības koledža, 2016.
14. Trūps, Henriks. *Katoļu Baznīcas vēsture*. Rīga: Avots, 1992.

### *Additional Readings*

1. Melton, J.G. “Charismatic movement”. In *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*. New York: Checkmark Books, 2008.
2. *Pirmie soļi Baznīcā*. Rīga: LPB sinode, 2007.
3. Meņš, A. *Svēti manu lūgšanu*. Rīga: KALA Raksti, 2020.
4. *Lūgšanu grāmata*. 2. izd. Rīga: Rīgas Debesbraukšanas draudze, 2009.
5. *Lūgšanu grāmata*. Rīga: Latvijas Pareizticīgās Baznīcas Sinode, 2019.
6. Энциклопедический словарь Брокгауза и Ефрона: 1890-1907.
7. Hutten, Kurt. *Seher, Grübler, Enthusiasten*. Stuttgart 1997.

### *Internet sources*

1. Albert. *Пятидесятники-единственники – Ереси – нет!* (<http://www.reformed.org.ua/2/234/5/Yannaras>) // Вера церкви: введение в православное богословие.
2. *Seventh-day Adventist World Church Statistics* (<http://www.adventist.org>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120919232321/http://www.adventist.org/world-church/facts-and-figures/index.html>) 2012. gada 19 septembrī, Wayback Machine vietnē. Seventh-day Adventist Church adventist.org Atjaunināts 2012. gada 11. septembrī.
3. *SDA Latvijas draudžu savienība* (<https://adventisti.lv/lv/vesture>).

4. Феномен глоссалии (говорения на языках) у неопятидесятниках (<http://bible-istina-zachalo.ru/glossolalia.html/>)
5. Krēsliņš, A. *Misioloģisks ieskats Latvijas SDA baznīcas statistikā (2000-2020)*.- Jona un Ninive. <http://blogs.adventistiem.lv>.
6. Krēsliņš, A. *Kas ir sabats 1,2,3,4*. <http://blogs.adventistiem.lv>.
7. [http://home.lu.lv/~rbalodis/Publikacijas/Baznicu%20ties%20gramata/Balodis%20R\\_rel\\_org\\_klasifikacija.pdf](http://home.lu.lv/~rbalodis/Publikacijas/Baznicu%20ties%20gramata/Balodis%20R_rel_org_klasifikacija.pdf)