

Church and Ministry

Academic credits

2 (3 ECTS)

Prerequisites

None

Approved by

Methodological Commission (August 2022)

Course author and Lecturer

Dr h.c. Jānis Vanags (arhibiskaps@lelb.lv)

Content

In the course students get to know the Biblical rationale and historical development of the holy orders. Special attention is paid to the understanding of the holy orders in Lutheran confessions and various Lutheran churches. As part of the course, students are shown to understand the concept of universal priesthood highlighted in Scriptures and Lutheran theology, and how the LELB's practice of clergy in the positions of bishop, presbyter and deacon stems from the understanding of Biblical, confessional and ecumenical positions.

Aims

1. Develop students' understanding of the Church and its holy orders.
2. Help to see the life and ministry of a Christian's everyday faith in the context of the Church.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

The students will know:

- theological terms: apostle, deacon, presbyter, bishop, tripartite office, general priest, apostolic succession, the Church, the visible Church, the invisible Church;
- the main places of scripture that speak of holy orders;
- Lutheran evidence of confessions of faith about holy orders;
- The historical development of the Church's understanding of holy orders in its three parts and their importance.

Assessment

Essay
Final test

Skills

The students will be able to:

- use of theological terms learned in the course; Final test
- recognize, judge, reason and debate the holy orders and its manifestations in individual Church situations, accurately linking arguments to the places of scripture, Lutheran confessions of faith, and the Church's historical understanding of holy orders.

Competencies

The students will be able to:

- see their and Church's ministry within the conceptual framework of holy orders and explain it to others. Essay
Final test

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 presbyter. Post of deacon. Diaconia.	6
5 Ordination	6
<i>TOTAL</i>	32

Individual study plan

	Individual studies	Number of hours to run
1.	Essay	16
2.	Preparation for the final test	32
<i>TOTAL</i>		48

Assessment

Individual studies	Learning Outcomes			% of the final score
	Knowledge	Skills	Competencies	
1	+		+	40
Examination	+	+	+	60

Readings

Mandatory Readings

1. Rumba, Edgars. *Vīņpus aizspriedumiem, noliegumiem un ilūzijām*. Rīga: Klints, 1994.
2. Rumba, Edgars. “Baznīca un garīgais amats oikumeniski-luteriskā uztverē”. *Latvijas Universitātes Raksti/Acta Universitatis Latviensis*. Teoloģijas Fakultātes Sērija I 3. Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte, 1938.
3. *Vienprātības grāmata/Liber Concordiae*: Luterāņu ticības apliecības. Rīga: LMF, 2012. (sk. arī www.bookofconcord.org, piekļūts 13.05.2021.).

Additional Readings

1. Gīrcs, Bo. *Kristus Baznīca*. Rīga: LMF, 2006.
2. Slenska, Reinhards. *Baznīcas teoloģiskā atbildība: Pamati, kritēriji, robežas*. Rīga: LMF, 2004.
3. Smoļaks, Oskars. *Diakona amata un draudzes mijiedarbība*. Rīga: Lutera Akadēmijas Bakalaura darbs, 2018.
4. Valters, K.F.V. *Bauslība un Evanģēlijs*. Rīga: LMF, 2000.
5. Cyprian. “Epistle LXXII: To Jubianus, Concerning the Baptism of Heretics”. In Robertson, A. and Donaldson, J. Eds. *Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Vol 5. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.